

HARROGATE RAMBLING CLUB CONSTITUTION

1. NAME

The name of the club shall be the "Harrogate Rambling Club".

2. OBJECTS

To organise Rambles, Social events etc. of interest to Members. To support the activities of The Ramblers' Association, the National Trust and similar bodies concerned with the enjoyment and preservation of the countryside.

3. AFFILIATIONS AND ASSOCIATIONS

The Club shall be affiliated to the Ramblers' Association by payment of the required fee.

The Club, having made the minimum financial investment of £100, shall be an associate member of HF Holidays.

4. MEMBERSHIP

Membership of the Club shall be open to all who are in sympathy with its objects, and agree to abide by this Constitution. Membership will commence upon payment of the appropriate subscription.

The Committee shall have the power to terminate the membership of any Member without giving any reason for doing so. Such decision must be Minuted, and Written Notice of such decision shall be sent to the Member.

Persons attending programmed walks either prior to taking out full Membership or during a visit to the area shall automatically become Temporary Members. Temporary Membership shall apply for a period covering the first two walks for intending Members and four weeks for Visitors.

Invited non-members are welcome at any of the Club's other activities, e.g. social functions, during which time they shall automatically become Temporary Members.

5. SUBSCRIPTION

The amount shall be determined by the Committee and shall be payable on 1 March in each financial year, or in the case of new Members at the date of joining. In the case of Members joining in November, December, January or February in any year, the first subscription shall be deemed to cover the period from the date of joining to the end of February of the following financial year.

Applications from new Members shall be subject to a joining fee, the amount of which shall be determined by the Committee.

6. MANAGEMENT

The affairs of the Club, including finance, shall be conducted by a Committee of ten

Members, consisting of President, General Secretary, Treasurer, Programme Secretary, Membership Secretary, Administrator (all of whom are hereafter referred to as the Officers) and four other Members.

The President shall act as Chair of all meetings of the Club or Committee, or in their absence, a Member selected by those present. Four Members of the Committee shall form a quorum, of which no less than two shall be Officers.

Committee Meetings shall be held on dates fixed by the Committee and all resolutions shall be decided by a majority vote of Members present. In the event of a tie, the Chair shall have the casting vote.

The Committee shall have the power to co-opt other Club Members as deemed necessary, also to appoint Club members to non-committee posts whenever required. Co-opted Committee Members have the same rights as elected Members.

All Members of the Committee, including the Officers, shall retire at the Annual General Meeting, but may stand for re-election. Members may serve for more than three years if they wish, but the President's term of office shall be limited to three years.

7. ELECTION OF COMMITTEE

Any Member of the Club shall be entitled to nominate a Member, with the nomination being seconded, to serve as an Officer or Other Committee Member.

The name of any Member so nominated shall be sent in writing to the General Secretary at least 14 days before the date of the Annual General Meeting, accompanied by an assurance that the candidate will consent to act if elected.

If more than one nomination is received for any Office or more than four nominations are received for Other Committee Members, an election shall be held by secret ballot at the Annual General Meeting.

In the event that insufficient nominations are received in writing before the Annual General Meeting, the Chair may accept verbal nominations from Members present at the Annual General Meeting.

8. NON-COMMITTEE POSTS

The Committee shall have the power to appoint a Club Member to a non-committee post to carry out specific duties. Anyone appointed is not a Committee Member, but may be asked to report to the Committee and/or the Annual General Meeting.

9. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Club shall be held in October each year on a date fixed by the Committee and printed in the August-November Programme booklet.

The business to be transacted at such meeting shall include:

- Receiving the reports of the President, General Secretary, Treasurer, Programme Secretary, Membership Secretary and Administrator on the year's activities.

- Receiving the audited or examined accounts of the Club for the financial year ended 31st August and to determine the subscriptions payable by Members for the following year.
- Electing an Auditor or Examiner for the following year.
- Electing the Officers of the Club and four other Committee Members for the coming year.
- Items for inclusion in the Agenda must be received by the General Secretary in writing at least 14 days before the date of the Annual General Meeting.

10.EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING

An Extraordinary General Meeting of the Club shall be called by a Resolution of the Committee, or on the requisition of any ten Members in writing to the General Secretary. In either case the business to be discussed shall be specified.

Notice of such meeting shall be sent to every Member within 28 days of the receipt of such requisition, giving at least 14 days' notice of the date of the Meeting. Only the business specified in such Notice shall be considered.

11.COMMITTEE DIRECTIVES AND GUIDELINES

The Club's Committee Directives and Guidelines, including the respective duties of the Officers, shall be set out and published on the Club's website. These may be amended by the Committee at any time.

12.AMENDMENT

This Constitution may be amended by majority vote at an Annual General Meeting or Extraordinary General Meeting.

13.DISSOLUTION OF THE CLUB

In the event of the dissolution of the Club, all remaining funds and/or assets shall pass to the Ramblers' Association.

14.AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

This revised version incorporates amendments to Clause 4 (paragraph 3) and clause 5 (paragraph 1) that were adopted at the Annual General Meeting held on 17th October 2024.