

WESSEX CANICROSS CONSTITUTION



1 NAME

The club's name is Wessex Canicross

2 THE PURPOSES OF THE CLUB ARE:-

- To promote fitness and wellbeing through the provision of the canicross sport for public benefit in the North East Somerset and surrounding areas including Frome, Warminster, Westbury, Trowbridge and Salisbury plain.
- To encourage canicross as a sport and recreation.
- To encourage people of all age groups and abilities to engage in the activity of running with their dogs, which provides a positive channel for their dog's energy as well as promoting their own health benefits and their dog's.
- To encourage the development of a person's running ability and provide training for members.
- To promote responsible dog ownership, care and control when canicrossing.
- To arrange regular meets over a variety of terrain.

3 TRUSTEES

The club shall be managed by a committee of trustees who are appointed at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the charity.

4 CARRYING OUT THE PURPOSES

In order to carry out the purposes, the trustees have the power to:

- (1) raise funds, receive grants and donations
- (2) apply funds to carry out the work of the club
- (3) co-operate with and support other clubs with similar purposes
- (4) do anything which is lawful and necessary to achieve the purposes

5 MEMBERSHIP

The club shall have a membership. People who support the work of the club and are aged 7 or over, can apply to the trustees to become a member. Once accepted by the trustees, membership lasts for 1 year (or until the next renewal date - September) and may be renewed. The trustees will keep an up-to-date membership list.

Membership will begin as soon as the membership form and first annual payment has been received.

There will be an annual membership fee which will be agreed at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) each September and will be payable by all members.

A list of all members will be kept by the membership secretary.

Non members can visit the club/ attend club runs as a guest member for a maximum of 3 runs a year.

The trustees may remove a person's membership if they believe it is in the best interests of the club. The member has the right to be heard by the trustees before the decision is made and can be accompanied by a friend.

Members may resign at any time in writing to the secretary.

Any member who has not paid their membership fee due each September will be contacted by the membership secretary, who will then decide whether that member is deemed to have resigned.

6 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - AGM

- (1) The AGM must be held every year, with 14 days notice given to all members telling them the date, time, venue and what is on the agenda. Minutes must be kept of the AGM.
- (2) The quorum for the AGM will be 3 members present in addition to 3 trustees.
- (3) Every member has one vote.
- (4) The trustees shall present the annual report and accounts.
- (5) Any member may stand for election as a trustee subject to being over the age of 18 years.
- (6) Members shall elect between 3 and 10 trustees to serve for the next year. They will retire at the next AGM but may stand for re-election.

7 TRUSTEE MEETINGS

- (1) Trustees must hold at least 3 meetings each year. At their first meeting after the AGM they will elect a chair, treasurer and secretary. Trustees may act by majority decision.
- (2) At least 3 trustees must be present at the meeting to be able to take decisions. Minutes shall be kept for every meeting.
- (3) If trustees have a conflict of interest they must declare it and leave the meeting while this matter is being discussed or decided.
- (4) During the year, the trustees may appoint up to 2 additional trustees. They will stand down at the next AGM.
- (5) The trustees may make reasonable additional rules to help run the charity. These rules must not conflict with this constitution or the law.

8 MONEY AND PROPERTY

- (1) Money and property must only be used for the charity's purposes.
- (2) Trustees must keep accounts. The most recent annual accounts can be seen by anybody on request and presented at each meeting.
- (3) Trustees cannot receive any money or property from the club, except to refund reasonable out of pocket expenses.
- (4) Money must be held in the club's bank account. All cheques must be signed by 2 trustees who must not be related nor members of the same household.

9 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

Wessex Canicross will not discriminate on the grounds of gender, race, colour, ethnic or national origin, sexuality, disability, religious or political belief, marital status or age.

10 GENERAL MEETINGS

If the Trustees consider it is necessary to change the constitution, or wind up the club, they must call a General Meeting so that the membership can make the decision, a majority of 75% will be required to dissolve the club. Trustees must also call a General Meeting if they receive a written request from the majority of members. All members must be given 14 days notice and told the reason for the meeting. All decisions require a two thirds majority. Minutes must be kept.

- (1) **Winding up** - any money or property remaining after payment of debts must be given to a charity with similar purposes to this one.
- (2) **Changes to the Constitution** - can be made at AGMs or General Meetings. No change can be made that would make the organisation no longer a charity.

- (3) **General Meeting** - called on written request from a majority of members.
- (4) Trustees may also call a General Meeting to consult the membership

11 RULES OF PROCEDURE FOR MEETINGS

All questions that arise at any meeting will be discussed openly and the meeting will seek to find general agreement that everyone present can agree to. If a consensus cannot be reached a vote will be taken and a decision will be made by a simple majority of trustees/members present. If the number of votes cast on each side are equal, the chair of the meeting shall have an additional casting vote.