

The Hovercraft Club UK Constitution

1. Name and objects

- 1.1 The name of the Club shall be “The Hovercraft Club of the United Kingdom” hereinafter referred to in these rules as the “club”.
- 1.2 The objects for which the club is formed are to represent, promote, develop, provide training and encourage participation in, the sport of hovercraft cruising (hovering). Such objects may include the provision of goods or services as may be required from time to time for the benefit of members.
- 1.3 The club aims to be non-profit making – any surplus income or profits shall be reinvested in the club or used to provide services or facilities to members. No surpluses or assets will be distributed to members or third parties.

2. Officers

- 2.1 The Officers of the club shall be adult **ordinary members** or the adult members of a **Family Member** group who are not engaged directly or indirectly in commercial activities relating to the supply of, or part thereof hovercraft and shall consist of a **Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary**. Officers shall hold office for one year and shall be eligible for re-election. Officers shall be elected by Committee members – officer elections shall be held as soon as possible after the Committee elections (see below) and shall be carried out using a show of hands or by an online poll on the club website.
- 2.1 Duties of the Secretary:
 - 2.1.1. Conduct the correspondence of the club
 - 2.1.2. Maintain all club documents
 - 2.1.3. Administer such insurance policy or policies as may be needed to fully protect the interests of the club, its Officers and its members.
 - 2.1.4. Maintain any such certificates or registrations, and complete any non-financial returns, as may be required by law.
- 2.2 Duties of the Treasurer:
 - 2.2.1. Cause such books of accounts to be kept as are necessary to give a true and fair view of the state of the finances of the club. Such books shall be made available to all club members.
 - 2.2.2. Cause all returns as may be required by law in relation to such accounts to be rendered at the due time.

3. Membership

- 3.1 There shall be the following categories of membership with power to vote at all meetings or polls of the club as indicated hereunder.
- 3.1.1. An ORDINARY MEMBER shall have one vote.
- 3.1.2. A FAMILY MEMBER – which expression shall include one or two co-habiting adults and all children within their guardianship under eighteen years of age all of whom reside at the same address. Every member of the family shall have one vote.
- 3.2 The rate of subscription for each category shall be proposed by the Committee to the members on the date of the anniversary of the formation of the club and shall be agreed by a majority vote or poll and shall become operative on the first day of the month following the date of the anniversary of the formation of the club.
- 3.3 Membership of the club shall be open to anyone interested in the sport of Hovercrafting on application regardless of sex, disability, ethnicity, nationality, sexual orientation, age, religion or other beliefs. Membership may however be limited according to available facilities on a non-discriminatory basis.
- 3.4 The club Committee may refuse membership or, subject to Rule 3.6 below, remove it, only for good cause such as conduct or character likely to bring the club or sport into disrepute. Appeal against refusal of membership may be made to the members.
- 3.5 All members shall pay the required subscription fee upon joining the club and thereafter annually on the anniversary of that date. Members shall provide accurate and up-to-date contact and address information as required – any notice sent to the provided contact or email address shall be deemed to have been duly delivered.
- 3.6 Every member is deemed to have notice of, and impliedly undertakes to comply with the Club Rules, Constitution and any current Byelaws and Regulations of the club as published on the club web site. Any refusal or neglect to do so, or any conduct, which, in the opinion of the Committee, is either unworthy of a member or otherwise injurious to the interests of the club, shall render a member liable to expulsion by the Committee.

Provided that, before expelling a member, the committee shall call upon such member for a written explanation of the member's conduct and shall give the member full opportunity of making explanation to the committee, or of resigning

A Resolution or poll to expel a member shall be carried by a simple majority vote by members of the Committee.

Expelled members shall not be eligible for a pro-rate refund of their subscription fee.

4. Management Committee

- 4.1 The Management Committee (herein referred to as “the Committee” shall consist of the Officers, ex officio, and not more than four adult **Ordinary Members** or the adult members of a **Family Member** group who are not engaged directly or indirectly in commercial activities relating to the supply of, or part thereof hovercraft.
- 4.2 On the date of each anniversary of the formation of the club all Committee members

shall retire and may seek immediate re-election.

- 4.3 Any club member who wishes to stand for election (or re-election) to the Committee shall indicate such to the Committee at last two weeks prior to the anniversary of the formation of the club, .
- 4.4 If, two weeks prior to the date of the anniversary of the formation of the club, the number of candidates for election is greater than the number of vacancies to be filled then a poll or ballot shall be carried out – the poll or ballot shall close on the anniversary date.
- 4.5 In the event of the ballot or poll failing to determine the members of the Committee because of an equality of votes the candidate or candidates to be elected shall be determined by lot between those who have equal votes.
- 4.6 If, for any reason, a casual vacancy shall occur, the committee may co-opt an Ordinary or Family club member to fill such a vacancy until the next anniversary of the formation of the Club.
- 4.7 Committee voting shall be by majority show of hands during a meeting or by majority vote in an on-line poll.
- 4.8 Three Committee members present or voting in a poll shall form a quorum.

Powers of the Committee

- 4.9 The committee shall manage the affairs of the club according to the Rules and shall cause the funds of the club to be applied solely to the objects of the club or for a benevolent or charitable purpose nominated by a majority of members.
- 4.10 The Committee shall make such Byelaws and Regulations as it shall from time to time think fit and shall cause the same to be exhibited on the club web site for at least fourteen days before implementation. Such Byelaws and Regulations shall remain in force until approved or set aside by the club members at the following anniversary of the formation of the club.
- 4.11 A member of the Committee, or any Officer of the club, in transacting business for the club, shall disclose to third parties that he is so acting.
- 4.12 The committee, or any person delegated by the Committee to act as an agent for the club or its members, shall enter into contract only as expressly authorised, or authorised by implication, by the members. No one shall, without the express authority of the membership, pledge the credit of the membership.
- 4.13 In pursuance of the authority vested in them by the members of the club, members of the Committee are entitled to be indemnified by the members of the club against any liabilities properly incurred by them or any one of them on behalf of the club wherever the contract is of a duly authorised nature and entered into on behalf of the club.

The limit of any individual members indemnity in this respect shall be a sum equal to one year's subscription at the current rate of that category of membership unless the Committee has been authorised to exceed such limit by the membership of the club.

5. Club Voting System

- 5.1 Voting in elections and on all other club matters shall be by poll or ballot created by the Committee on the club web site. These polls and ballots shall be open for voting for no less than four days for general business and fourteen days for committee elections.
- 5.2 The committee shall generate a poll or ballot on any special subject upon the written request of ten members.
- 5.3 Fifteen members entitled to vote shall form a quorum in any poll or ballot.
- 5.4 In the case of an equality of votes, the Chairman shall have a second or casting vote, on any matter other than the election of members of the Committee.
- 5.5 In the creation, repeal or amendment of any Rule, Byelaw or Regulation of the club such Rule, Byelaw or Regulation shall not be created, repealed or amended except by a majority of at least two-thirds of the membership.

6. Dissolution of the Club

- 6.1 If, upon the winding up or dissolution of the club, there remains, after the satisfaction of all its debts and liabilities any property whatsoever, the same shall not be paid to or distributed amongst the members of the club. The Committee shall dispose of the net assets remaining to one or more of the following:
 - 6.1.1. to another club with similar sports purposes which is a charity and/or
 - 6.1.2. to another club with similar sports purposes which is a registered CASC and/or
 - 6.1.3. to the RNLI and/or
 - 6.1.4. to an other water-related charitable rescue organisation.

Signed:



_____ Ian Brooks - Secretary _____

Date: 25th September 2011

Club Formation Date: 10th July 2010