



MEMBERS GUIDE

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OBJECTIVES OF THE YTHAN RIDING CLUB

YRC is well known for its open, inclusive and friendly environment, with a “have-a-go” attitude to horsemanship. The aim of the club is primarily to enjoy your horses whilst learning along the way! We like to bring a relaxed, welcoming and encouraging atmosphere to all our events. We are an unaffiliated club which means we have a little more flexibility around competition rules etc. and can tailor our events to the specific needs and wants of our members. We limit our annual membership to approx. 100 to ensure all of our members have good access to Club Nights and events.

As the name suggests, YRC largely covers the Ythan area, although members from near and far are most welcome. Most of our events are held North of Aberdeen, with Fountain Equestrian and Ladyleys Equestrian Centre’s being favourite venues for our Club Nights and Competitions, although events are held at a number of other venues North of Aberdeen as well.

Throughout the year we hold a variety of training sessions and competitions, suitable for riders of all levels (see below for more details). All of our events are advertised on the YRC Website and Facebook Page and members are encouraged to use these to keep up to date with what’s on.

YRC RULES & CONSTITUTION

1. TITLE

The club shall be known as “**THE YTHAN RIDING CLUB**”.

2. OBJECTS

The object of the Club shall be:

- a) To encourage riding as a sport and recreation, to promote good fellowship amongst riders
- b) To improve and maintain the standard of riding and horsemanship.
- c) To organize instructional meetings, lectures and competitive events and other activities deemed to further the Objects.
- d) To support and co-operate with recognized organizations interested in the breeding and use of all breeds and types of horses and ponies.
- e) To support the development of bridle tracks and rights of way for the rider.
- f) To concern itself with any object which will benefit the horse and horse user in the area..

3. MEMBERSHIP

- a) This shall consist of persons who have attained the age of seventeen years and having been accepted by the committee, have paid the due subscription for the current period. There will also be a junior section for young people between the ages of 13 and 16 years. Honorary membership may be conferred by the committee upon any persons deemed by them to have rendered notable service to the club.
- b) Anyone desirous of becoming a member shall be accepted at the discretion of the committee.

- c) The annual membership subscription shall be payable on the first day of October each year. Any member whose subscription is more than one month in arrears shall have his or her name removed from the membership list after written notice to that effect has been sent to him or her. Any member joining the club on or after the AGM shall be deemed to have paid his or her subscription for the ensuing year.
- d) The committee may expel from membership of the club any member who has willfully disobeyed any of the rules of the club, or who has in the opinion of the committee been guilty of any conduct derogatory to the character or prejudicial to the interest of the club, provided that before any expulsion the committee shall call upon the member for an explanation of his or her conduct and shall hear what he or she may wish to urge in defense of said conduct.

4. ADMINISTRATION

- a) All powers of management shall be vested in the Committee consisting of the Chairman, Vice Chairman, Honorary Secretary, Honorary Treasurer and a minimum of five committee members. Six shall form a quorum. Committee members must be adults of at least seventeen years of age. Junior members may not be elected to the Committee and may not vote at any meeting of the club.
- b) At the annual general meeting each year, three of the members of the committee shall retire.
- c) The chairman and the Honorary Secretary will not retire at the same time, the members who retire being those who have been longest in office. In a situation where all members have been in office for the same length of time, the members to retire shall be determined by lot.
- d) Retiring members shall be eligible for re-election.
- e) The Chairman, Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer shall be elected annually by the committee from their number.
- f) The decision of the Committee shall be final unless over-ruled at a General meeting
- g) The committee shall be the sole authority for the interpretation of the rules or for anything relating to the club not provided therein and the decision shall be final and binding on the members
- h) The committee may formulate bye-laws for the detailed running of the club and elect subcommittees for any special activities of the club which the committee may authorize.
- i) The committee shall have the power to fill any casual vacancy arising among members of the committee, but any person so co-opted shall retain office only until the next following annual general meeting when they must retire. Such members will then be eligible for election.
- j) Retirement of co-opted members will be in addition to that of the longest serving elected members referred to in "b") above.
- k) The financial year of the club shall commence on 1st October each year.
- l) The annual subscription shall be decided at the AGM.
- m) The committee may appoint annually a President and a vice-president. These shall not by virtue only of such appointment become members of the committee.
- n) The annual general meeting shall be held in the month of October in each year to transact the following business:
 - a. To receive and if approved to adopt a statement of the club's accounts to the end of the preceding year.
 - b. To fill vacancies on the committee.
 - c. To appoint or approve an auditor.

- d. To deal with any special matter which the committee may desire to bring before the members and to receive suggestions from the members for consideration by the committee. Notice convening the general meeting shall be sent to the members not less than 14 days before the meeting and shall specify the matters to be dealt with.
- o) A special general meeting may be called by the committee or by a request signed by not less than 15% of members specifying the business to be discussed. The Secretary shall give all members ten days' notice of the date of such a meeting and shall specify in such a notice matters to be dealt with at such a meeting.
- p) The accounts of the club shall be audited each year by the person appointed or approved at the previous Annual General Meeting.
- q) Notice may be given to any member by sending it by post to him or her at his or her private address in the United Kingdom registered in the records of the club. If any member has no address in the United Kingdom such member shall not be entitled to receive any notice. The accidental omission to give notice of a meeting to or the non-receipt of a notice of a meeting by any member shall not invalidate the proceedings of that meeting
- r) These rules may be added to, repealed or amended by resolution at any Annual or Special General Meeting, provided that no such resolution shall be deemed to have been passed unless carried by a majority of at least two-thirds of the members present and voting thereon, and provided that prior notice has been sent to all members restating the proposed amendment.
- s) The club, its committee or persons acting on their behalf shall not be held responsible for any accident or injury to any person or property howsoever caused.
- t) Members should be correctly turned out at all club events. Hard hats of current BSI standard are compulsory when mounted on a horse at any time. In addition to this, for cross country competitions or on other occasions at the discretion of the committee, suitable BSI approved back protectors must be worn. Notwithstanding these regulations, the Committee reserves the right to require members to comply with such other safety measures, including the wearing of equipment as is deemed appropriate by the Committee, without resorting to a General meeting provided that suitable notice is given to all members involved.

MEMBER CONDUCT AT YRC & EXTERNAL EVENTS

When any person attends an event as a YRC member, please remember that your conduct reflects on the Club. We have worked really hard to build a strong reputation as a welcoming, fun and encouraging Club. We want to be respected and well thought of by all. You can do your bit by following these simple rules and tips:

1. Please ensure that when attending a venue for any event (be that a Club Night, Clinic, Competition, demo etc) that you leave the place exactly how you found it (if not cleaner!). **YOU are responsible for clearing up any mess you or your horse makes.** Committee Members and Helpers are there to steward (make sure you are in the right place at the right time), to answer any questions and give a helping hand to you/your instructor as required. We ARE NOT there to clean up your mess. All horse droppings must be picked up and deposited on an available muck heap or taken home. Likewise, all rubbish must be disposed of in bins where available or taken home with you.
2. On arrival to any Club Night or Event, please make yourself know to the relevant Committee Member, Steward or Helper. This helps us keep track of who is where and keep things running on time. We

have a large membership with new members joining us all the time so please do not assume we know who you are!

3. Before leaving an event, it is good form to thank the Judge/Steward/Committee Member/Helper/Event Organiser as well as your Instructor. This sounds obvious but you would be surprised how little thanks these wonderful people actually receive! Remember, almost all are volunteers who have given up significant chunks of their free time (and quite likely their chance to compete/take part) so that you can have a good time. We do not expect medals but a thank you goes a long way



CLUB NIGHTS

Thursday Lessons

We organize lessons with a wide variety of instructors for all levels of ability covering a full range of disciplines including flatwork, dressage, poles, grids and show jumping, even dedicated spooky filler classes! These are held every Thursday night during the months March-December and are very popular so book early to avoid disappointment. Club Night schedules are shown on our webpage and bookings can be made during the 2 weeks prior to the Club Night date with the appropriate Committee member (see the YRC website). Please phone/text between 9am and 9pm only. Note: bookings will not be taken via email.

Lessons are 1 hour and generally run between 6.00-9.00pm (subject to variation depending on instructor and Committee member availability). Earlier times are sometimes available depending on numbers and instructor availability (please ask). Committee members will endeavor to ensure that times are given to suit although this may not always be possible depending on the number of bookings and/or skill mix.

Lessons will consist of a maximum of 4 horses per class (unless otherwise stated).

Lessons cost **£10** per horse (unless otherwise stated) and are strictly for **members only**.

Members must wear YRC Club sweatshirts when attending Club Nights – these can be ordered via the Merchandise section on website. Please get your order in as soon as possible as we run a **no top no ride policy**.

The duty Committee member will nominate a best turned out on the evening of each Club Night. Nominations are kept throughout the year and the Best Turned Out trophy is awarded at the AGM!

We operate the following Club Night **cancellation policy**: if you have booked in to a Club Night and are unable to attend please let the duty Committee member know ASAP. We will do our very best to try to fill your space, however, if we do not manage this you will be required to pay the full price of the lesson. This is to ensure our costs for instructor fees and venue hire can be met. Members will be unable to book into any further club nights or events until payment is received.

Instructors are selected throughout the year using member's feedback primarily from the AGM. However, if there is someone that you would like to see teaching at the Club or a different topic covered in your lessons (e.g. a TREK or a dressage to music taster session for example), please let us know ASAP via the Club Secretary (ythanrc@gmail.com), you do not need to wait until the next AGM! We are always open to suggestions!

Thursday Dressage Competitions

These are run between 2 and 4 times per year dependent on demand, committee member availability and the level of help offered by our members. As with Club Nights, bookings can be made up to 2 weeks prior to the competition date with the appropriate Committee member (details will be posted on the YRC website and Facebook page). Please phone/text between 9am and 9pm only.

Points are awarded as follows: 1st = 6 points.....6th = 1 point

Prelim & Novice are split into 3 groups - B, A & P

To decide which section to put members into the Committee will take the 1st percentage score that you receive at the Club during either an Open or Closed competition.

- B Group - 60% & below
- A Group – between 60.1 & 65%
- P Group – 65.1% and above

You will remain in your assigned group until 1st October, where after the committee may decide to move you up or down a group depending on your other %'s received throughout the year.

Members are able to compete in a maximum of 2 dressage leagues:

- Intro & Prelim
- Prelim & Novice
- Novice & Elementary
- Elementary & Medium

Rosettes will be awarded on the night for all those placed 1st to 6th in each class.

Results will be published on the YRC website under 'Club News' and will only show placing's – no %'s
Members must wear either an Ythan Club top or full show dress for all Dressage Competitions.

Thursday Jumping Competitions

These are run between 2 and 4 times per year dependent on demand, committee member availability and the level of help offered by our members. As with Club Nights, bookings can be made up to 2 weeks prior to the competition date with the appropriate Committee member (details will be posted on the YRC website and Facebook page). Please phone/text between 9am and 9pm only.

Points will be awarded for each league class 1st = 6 points, 6th = 1 point

Programme of classes:

Up to 60cm (2')	Mini Minimus league
Up to 70cm (2' 3")	Minimus league
Up to 75cm (2' 6")	Novice league
Up to 80cm (2' 9")	Intermediate league
Up to 90cm (3')	Small Open league

Up to 100cm (3' 3")

Open league

You may only gain points in one league class (this should be the same class that you enter at monthly Show Jumping competitions). You may compete in as many height classes as you wish, however if you enter more than one points class you will only be awarded points for the highest league.

Rosettes will be awarded 1st – 6th for all league and height classes

Results will be published on the YRC website under 'Club News'

Again, members must wear either an Ythan sweatshirt or full show dress for all Dressage Competitions.

CLUB COMPETITIONS & EVENTS

The YRC hold a number of additional events throughout the year. We always do our best to organize events that our Club members have requested or which were well attended in previous years. If there is something that you would like to do as part of the Club then please do let us know. Remember however, we cannot organize and run additional events without your help so please consider this when making requests (see the 'Helping Out' section for more details).

We aim to hold a number of **training clinics** with both local and visiting instructors which are open to members and non-members. These cover all disciplines, from flat work, poles, show jumping, x-country and also include non-ridden instruction such as horse & rider fitness clinics. Our annual **Jump Derby** (combining SJ and XC into one competition) has also proven very popular.

Ythan Riding Club is also famous for its **Annual Camp!** This is usually a 2.5 day event for members only and has been held at a number of different venues over the last few years. Participants get the opportunity to have up to 3 lessons over the weekend with a range of talented local instructors, with a choice of flat work, poles, show jumping and XC lessons on offer. After a hard days riding, there is the wonderful BBQ to look forward to, usually accompanied with lots drinking and merriment!! Be warned however, due to its success, our Annual Camp is almost always oversubscribed and places will always be offered first to those who have offered the Club the most support in the preceding months.

For all events, please look out for dates and details of how to book on our website and Facebook page.



YRC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Ythan Riding Club AGM is held in October every year, usually in the Newmacher Hotel. As well as summarizing the previous year's activities this is a great opportunity for our club members to have their say on what they want from the club and bring up any issues. It's also a good opportunity to socialize with other club members.

AGM Trophies

We also present the following awards at the AGM:

Best Turned Out – Awarded for receiving the most Best Turned Out nominations at club nights throughout the year. Duty members at club nights will choose the best turned out.

Most Achieving Youngster – Horse less than 7 years that committee feels has achieved the most throughout the year.

Most Improved Rider – Person that the committee feels has improved the most throughout the year or over the past 2-3 years.

Veteran Dressage – Horse over 17 years that has gained the most dressage points.

Veteran Jumping – Horse over 17 years that has gained the most jumping points.

Trophies are awarded to the horse/ rider combination with the most points in each **Dressage league** - Intro, Prelim B, Prelim, A, Prelim P, Novice B, Novice A, Novice P, Elementary, Medium

Trophies are awarded to the horse/ rider combination with the most points in each **Show Jumping league** - Mini Minimus, Minimus, Novice, Intermediate, Small Open, and Open

Overall Points – If you are competing in two dressage leagues, only one league (the league with the most points) is added to your show jumping league points. The horse & rider combination with the highest score is the overall point's winner, horse/ rider combinations must compete in both disciplines to be put forward for the overall points.

Overall Points Junior – As above, however the rider must be 17 years old or under.

HELPING OUT

All competitions and club events require helpers. Helping out at at least one event per year is a condition of membership to the Club.

The Committee put a lot of time and energy into organizing and running events for your enjoyment throughout the year but we are also very busy people with full time jobs as well so we **NEED YOU**. Being a club member means you can take full advantage of all the Club Nights, Competitions and Events that we organize but we would like to see all members help out at least once per year wherever possible. This can be anything from, stewarding at a competition, writing dressage sheets, XC jump judging, or even as little as helping to put our show jumps away at the end of the season. An added benefit from helping at any of our events is that you will often learn something. Spending a morning sat next to a dressage judge writing his/her comments down on a score sheet for example can be an invaluable opportunity to learn what a judge is looking for and why. Helping out at a Club Night means you get to watch the lesson and listen to the commentary given by the instructor which will almost always lead to tips that you can take home. Helping out is also good fun, a great way to get to know your fellow club members a little better and an opportunity to make new friends, which after all, is a huge part of being a Club member.

If competitions/ club nights/ camp etc are oversubscribed we will always offer places to those members who have helped at events in the preceding months first.



CLUB MERCHANDISE

YRC members can purchase Club tops in a full range of sizes and at very reasonable prices via our webpage. If you have any questions relating to Merchandise please contact the **'Merchandise'** committee member (contact details also on our website).

Please remember, all Club members are expected to wear an YRC top when attending Club Nights and shows when full show gear is not worn.

CONTACTING THE COMMITTEE

The best way to keep up to date with YRC news, details of Club Nights and Events etc is via our website and our Facebook page:

Website: www.ythanrc.co.uk

Facebook: Ythan Riding Club

Our website contains links to our online booking system for all of our events and details on whom to contact for Club Nights. Please note we do accept email bookings.

Please respect that Committee Members have a life too! We would ask that all phone calls/text messages are made between the hours of 9am and 9pm.

The Ythan Riding Club email account (ythanrc@gmail.com) is for general enquiries to the Club Secretary only. The account will only be checked once per week. Emails related to Club Nights, Events or Camp will not be responded to. Queries related to these items should be made directly with the duty member as advised on our website.

UPDATES TO THIS GUIDE

If there is any information not covered by this guide that you think would be useful to our members, please feed this back to the Club Secretary by email (ythanrc@gmail.com) who will happily oblige!