

Club Constitution

1. The Club

- 1a. The Club shall be called the Dales Hang Gliding and Paragliding Club (DHPC).
- 1b. The Club shall be affiliated to the British Hang Gliding and Paragliding Association (BHPA) and to such other bodies as the committee may consider appropriate.
- 1c. The object of the Club shall be to promote the interests of the sport of hang gliding and paragliding, and its participants, throughout the Yorkshire Dales and beyond; to acquire, control, administer and maintain flying sites; to educate its members in the conduct of their flying, with due regard for safety, the Rules of the Air, the rights of landowners and with due courtesy to all other users of the countryside.
- 1d. The Club shall maintain a Code of Conduct which all of its members are required to respect. This may be revised at the discretion of the committee.

2. Membership

- 2a. Members must be in possession of current BHPA membership with valid BHPA third party insurance. They must operate according to the limitations of their BHPA Pilot Rating.
- 2b. A roll of all members shall be kept. Anyone whose conduct is considered likely to bring any part of the Club into disrepute, shall, by a majority vote of the committee, be liable to expulsion from the Club.

3. Titles in Recognition of Services to the Club

- 3a. The titles of Honorary or Life Member are awarded at the discretion of the committee. Such titles are suitable for pilots who have done a lot for the club and whom the club wish to recognise or honour.
- 3b. The titles of Honorary Member or Life Member are strictly honorific and do not render the person so honoured as being entitled to the assets or proceeds, or liability for the debts or liabilities, of the club. There is no fee for Honorary Members, who have no voting rights.
- 3c. Honorary and Life Members who wish to fly the Club sites must either be current members of the BHPA, flying in accordance with their rating, or comply with the rules for visiting pilots.

4. Executive Committee

- 4a. The Club shall be managed by a committee which shall comprise, as the minimum, Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Safety Officer and Sites Officer. The committee may be increased to accommodate such other Officers as may be appointed

by vote at General Meetings. All committee posts become vacant immediately prior to voting at the Annual General Meeting (AGM).

- 4b. The committee is responsible for the day-to-day management of the Club. It may also pay accounts, sign documents and incur normal liabilities on behalf of the Club.
- 4c. The Chairman or Acting Chairman has the casting vote at committee meetings. The casting vote shall be in addition to their normal vote, in order to break a deadlock.
- 4d. Committee meetings must be minuted and the minutes shall be made available to Members upon request. The quorum for committee meetings is four.
- 4e. The committee has the power to legislate on any point not provided for in the Constitution.
- 4f. The Club's financial year shall end on 30 September.

5. General Meetings

- 5a. An Annual General Meeting shall be held in or about the month of December each year. At least 14 days notice of the meeting will be given to Members. The agenda shall include:
 - Adoption of Reports from Chairman, Treasurer and other Officers
 - Approval of financial statement/balance sheet
 - Appointment of auditors
 - Approval of subscription rates
 - Revision of the Constitution
 - Other items of which due notice has been given*
 - Election of Officers
 - Any other business (discussion only - no voting allowed)

*Motions from Members which are to be voted upon at the AGM must have been received in writing by the Secretary by 1 November each year and shall be circulated with the Notice of the Meeting.

- 5b. An Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) may be called by the Executive Committee or by any ten Members (or ten percent of the Full-Flying Membership if that figure is greater than 10). The notice of the intended business shall be given to the Secretary in writing.
- 5c. The Secretary shall call the EGM within 28 days of receiving notice, and notify the membership at least 14 days in advance.

6. Voting at General Meetings

- 6a. The committee may seek to provide the opportunity for as many Members as possible to vote on motions submitted for General Meetings. Members may not necessarily have to attend a General Meeting in order to cast their vote. The Secretary shall communicate the voting options along with the General Meeting notification.
- 6b. Whichever means of voting is used, including multiple means such as by online voting and by attending an AGM or EGM, Members will only be allowed one vote each. The result of the vote shall be determined and declared at the General Meeting.
- 6c. Amendments and additions to the Constitution must be carried by a two-thirds majority of all votes cast. Other motions and election of Officers are carried by simple majority.
- 6d. In the event of a tied vote, the Chairman or Acting Chairman shall have the casting vote. The casting vote shall be in addition to their normal vote, in order to break a deadlock.

7. Liability

- 7a. The liability of the Club and all its Officers shall be limited to the provision of advice based on experience and judgement, and specifically excludes responsibility for any accident, howsoever caused, following the provision of such advice.

8. Dissolution

- 8a. The Club may only be dissolved by a resolution passed by a majority of three-quarters of the Members who cast a valid vote, whichever voting methods are used, at a constitutionally convened General Meeting of the Club. Due notice shall have been given and the resolution circulated as prescribed in Item 4, above.
- 8b. After all the liabilities of the Club have been satisfied, any remaining funds and assets may be donated to organisation(s) with similar aims and objectives as the Club, and/or to one or more Yorkshire charities. The assets shall not be distributed among the membership. The recipients and manner of distribution shall be established by vote at the General Meeting.

9. Flying Fund

- 9a. The Club will maintain a Flying Fund primarily designed to assist in the purchase of a site to secure our right to fly there, but also to deal with unforeseen eventualities. Monies will be allocated to the fund on an annual basis, as agreed at each AGM. However once allocated the money is 'ring-fenced' and can only be released as a result of an AGM/EGM resolution passed with the agreement of two thirds of the votes cast.
- 8b. Each year the Treasurer will calculate how much interest the money in the Flying Fund has generated and allocate it back into said fund. This will help to protect the fund against the effects of inflation.

General Rules & Code of Conduct

1. DHPC Membership is mandatory for access to Club sites and events, except where access is granted to visiting pilots (see below). Each member is responsible for renewing this membership on the due date.
2. Membership of the Club automatically expires if the annual subscription is not paid within two months of the due date.
3. All members are responsible for ensuring that their aircraft conform to the requirements of the BHPA insurance policy.
4. The wearing of a suitable helmet when flying is mandatory.
5. Remove all litter, even if it is not yours.
6. Dogs belonging to members, friends and visitors must be kept on a lead and under control at all times. Many of our sites are grazed by livestock or have ground nesting birds. Please clear up after your dog.
7. Members are responsible for knowing the relevant site rules.
8. Cars must not be driven across fields or moors unless specific permission is given in the site rules, and they must be parked with due care and consideration for others.
9. Use recognised gates and paths. Do not climb walls or fences, or climb through hedges.
10. Any damage is to be reported to the Sites Officer immediately so that the landowner can be informed.
11. Always try to fly with a buddy. Flying alone adds an additional degree of risk.
12. Carry out a pre-flight check before every flight.
13. Remove your glider as quickly as possible from the landing area.
14. When not in use gliders are to be grouped together to leave a good clear area for take-off and landing.
15. When flying, keep clear of the landing and take-off areas and avoid flying low over spectators.
16. Learn and obey the 'Rules of the Air'.
17. If landing some distance from other pilots, walk clear of your glider to indicate that you do not require assistance.
18. New sites must be cleared with the land owner prior to flying, and then advised to the Sites Officer as soon as possible.
19. Any conflict with land owners, tenants, graziers, or local inhabitants should be avoided at all costs. Any difficulties or arguments must be reported to the Sites Officer at the earliest opportunity. Remember that it is easy to win an argument but lose a site.
- 20 Any flying incident resulting in serious injury or reflecting unusual equipment failure is to be reported to the BHPA as soon as is possible (under 48 hours) using the Incident Report Form (IRF). Fatalities are to be reported immediately. The DHPC Safety Officer has overall responsibility for the co-ordination of the submission so it is vital that he is also informed of the incident at the earliest opportunity.

Reciprocal Arrangements

21. The DHPC has reciprocal flying arrangements with the Cumbria Soaring Club, Pennine Soaring Club, Northumbria Hang Gliding and Paragliding Club, North Yorkshire Sailwings Club and Sir George Cayley Club; and may fly their sites under the same arrangements as we apply to visiting pilots.

Revised following Dec 1st 2022 AGM