Wessex

Hang Gliding & Paragliding Club

Constitution

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Document Administration

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History			
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0.1	RE	03/03/2006	First draft.
1.0	RE	12/03/2006	First Release. Amendments made after committee review.
1.1	JB	11/11/2007	Removal of duplicated March 2000 amendments
1.2	RK	28/12/2012	Draft amendments for consideration by Committee
2.0	RK	07/03/2013	New release approved at AGM
2.1	RK	24/01/2014	Draft amendments for consideration by Committee
2.2	RK	31/01/2014	Amendments to draft
2.3	RK	12/02/2014	Final draft for circulation to members
3.0	RK	10/03/2014	New release approved at AGM
4.0	RAD	03/03/2022	New release approved at AGM
5.0	TO	03/03/2026	New release approved at AGM

The Constitution

As of 3rd March 2026, this Constitution supersedes all previous issues.

1	The club is called the Wessex Hang Gliding and Paragliding Club. It is registered with the British Hang Gliding and Paragliding Association (BHPA) as a recreational and coaching club. The aims of the club are to: • Provide for the interests of hang glider and paraglider pilots in Wessex, • Negotiate and administer flying rights and sites in Wessex for the benefit of members, making sites open where possible or negotiating reciprocal arrangements between clubs, • Build a fund to support acquisition of new sites for the benefit of the UK free flying community, • Promote excellence in the sport through coaching and by encouraging development for all members at all levels of achievement.
2	The Constitution forms the rules of the club. All members and Committee members are bound by the Constitution.
3	Membership of the Club is open to anyone on payment of the annual or life subscription, regardless of age, gender, disability, ethnicity, nationality, sexual orientation, religion or other beliefs. Flying members must be qualified to BHPA Club Pilot level (minimum, or equivalent) and be a member of the BHPA.
4	If a member of the club has a commercial interest in Hang Gliding or Paragliding, they must declare that interest to all members.
5	The Committee may refuse, suspend or terminate membership for conduct considered to be against the best interests of the Club. The decision shall require a unanimous vote by the Executive Committee.
6	The membership year runs from March to February. Membership will automatically lapse if annual subscriptions are not paid by 30 April.
7	An Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held in March of each year to set the annual subscription, elect a Committee and receive proposals from members. The date of the AGM will be published on the Club web site at least one month before the date of the meeting and individual members will be notified by email.
8	An Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) may be called by the Committee or by a petition supported by at least 25% of the membership. At least 21 day's notice must be given to the membership of an EGM.
9	The Constitution may only be changed at the AGM or at an EGM. An EGM also has the power to change the membership of the Committee.
10	Proposals for consideration at the AGM must reach the Secretary at least 21 days before the date of the meeting. Proposals to either the AGM or an EGM must carry the names of the members proposing and seconding the motion.
11	Proposals will be voted on at the AGM or an EGM and must achieve a simple majority amongst the members present. The Chairman shall have a casting vote in the event of an equal division of votes.

12	The club shall be managed by a Committee elected from the membership. It shall comprise Executive Officers as required by the BHPA plus the Treasurer, and non-Executive Members that the club votes into office. All Committee members may vote at Committee meetings. (See Appendix A for list of Executive Committee roles.)
13	Committee members shall benefit from free membership of the club during the period of their office.
14	The Committee shall aim to meet at least twice a year. More than 50% of the Committee, including at least two Executive Officers, must be present to constitute a valid meeting.
15	All members of the Committee and all the directors of Bell Hill Dorset Limited shall retire annually at the AGM but may stand for re-election provided that they remain members of the Club
16	The Executive Officers are Trustees of the Club for the term of their office and act on behalf of the Club. They are responsible for the signing of all agreements or contracts made on behalf of the club. They shall acquaint the members of the of the terms of any such agreement or contract.
17	The Treasurer shall provide abbreviated accounts and bank statements to the Committee every six months. The accounts of the club shall be examined annually by a person appointed by the Committee. A full statement of the Club's financial standing for the year to 31st December shall be submitted to and approved by the members present at the AGM
18	Club flying activities are undertaken in accordance with UK Air Law as promulgated by the BHPA and entirely at the member's own risk. Neither the Club nor any of its Officers are liable for material damage or personal injury resulting from member’s decisions.
19	Club activities will otherwise be carried out in accordance with relevant legislation including the Data Protection Act and the Equality Act.

Amendments

All amendments have been agreed by a vote by the membership at an AGM.

Date	1996 (March) AGM
Amendment	Clause 15: “Members voting eligibility delayed for one year after joining” was removed.

Date	1999 (March) AGM
Amendment	Clause 3: Addition of Safety Officer to Executive Committee.
Amendment	Clause 9: “fees are due” changed to “fees are set”.

Date	2000 (March) AGM
Amendment	Clause 1: “To build a fund to be used primarily to secure Wessex Sites for the benefit of Wessex Members” was added.
Amendment	Clause 3: “No more than one member of the Committee shall have a financial interest in Hang Gliding or Paragliding” was removed

Date	2002 (February) AGM
Amendment	Clause 2: “or March” and “Should the AGM be held in March, then the membership year shall be extended to the close of the AGM” were added.
Addition	Clause 3: was added.
Addition	Clause 5: was added.
Addition	Clause 9: was added.
Amendment	Clause 12: “All club fees are set at the AGM.” was deleted - since it duplicated a similar statement in Para 11.
Amendment	Clause 14: “for the year to 31st January” was added.

Date	2006 (March) AGM

Amendment	Clause 2 *Replace* An Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held in February or March of each year to elect a Committee. Should the AGM be held in March, then the membership year shall be extended to the close of the AGM. *With* An Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held in March of each year to elect a Committee.
Amendment	Clause 4 *Replace* The club shall have a committee of six Executive Members, consisting of: Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Sites Officer, Competitions Secretary, Safety Officer plus any non-Executive Members the club shall see fit to vote into office *With* The club shall have a committee of Executive officers required by the BHPA for clubs plus the treasurer, plus any non-Executive Members the club shall see fit to vote into office. All committee members may vote at committee meetings.
Amendment	Clause 5 *Replace* Proposals for consideration at the AGM must reach the Secretary by 15th January. Such proposals should carry the name of the member proposing, and that seconding, the motion. *With* Proposals for consideration at the AGM must reach the Secretary by 15th February. Such proposals should carry the name of the member proposing, and that seconding, the motion.
Amendment	Clause 6 *Replace* The Executive Members elected shall be deemed Trustees of the Club for the term of their office. They will be responsible for the signing of all Charters and Contracts, and they shall acquaint the members of the rules and regulations contained therein. *With* The Executive Members elected shall be deemed Trustees of the Club for the term of their office and act on behalf of the Club. They will be responsible for the signing of all Charters and Contracts, and they shall acquaint the members of the rules and regulations contained therein.

Amendment	Clause 7 *Replace* The Committee shall meet every three months. More than 50% of the committee, including at least two Executive Members, must be present to constitute a valid meeting. *With* The Committee shall aim to meet at least twice a year. More than 50% of the committee, including at least two Executive Members, must be present to constitute a valid meeting.
Amendment	Clause 8 *Replace* An Executive Member must not serve in the same post for more than three successive years. *With* An Executive Member must not serve in the same post for more than five successive years.
Amendment	Clause 9 *Replace* Any member of the Committee who has not completed three years service will be assumed to continue in office unless they indicate their intention to stand down or a proposal is received to elect another member to the position *With* All members of the Committee shall retire annually at the AGM but may stand and be eligible for re-election provided that they are members or part members of the Club.
Addition	Clause 19 The Committee shall have the power to refuse membership, expel or suspend any member for conduct or other issues that are considered to be against the best interests of the Club. The decision shall require a unanimous vote by the executive committee.
Addition	Add Clause 20 The accounts of the club shall be audited annually by a person appointed by the committee.

Date	2013 (March) AGM

Amendment	Clause 14 A full statement of the Club's financial standing for the year to 31st January shall be submitted to and approved by the members present at the AGM. moved to the end. Clauses 15-20 renumbered accordingly.
Addition	Add Clause 21 The Treasurer will provide abbreviated accounts and bank statements to the Committee every quarter.
Note	The amendment strengthens financial controls and groups relevant clauses together.

Date	2014 (March) AGM
Amendment	Clause 1 *Replace* The club shall be called the Wessex Hang Gliding and Paragliding Club. The aims of the club are: • To organise and promote the sport of Hang Gliding and Paragliding in the Wessex area. • To ensure equal access to all irrespective of race, creed or sex • The promotion of open sites within the area controlled by the BHPA and, where this is not possible, the promotion of reciprocal arrangements between clubs. • To build a fund to be used primarily to secure Wessex Sites for the benefit of Wessex Members. *With* The club is called the Wessex Hang Gliding and Paragliding Club. It is registered with the British Hang Gliding and Paragliding Association (BHPA) as a recreational and coaching club. The aims of the club are to: • Provide for the interests of hang glider and paraglider pilots in Wessex, • Negotiate and administer flying rights and sites in Wessex for the benefit of members, making sites open where possible or negotiating reciprocal arrangements between clubs, • Build a fund to support acquisition of new sites for the benefit of the UK free-flying community, • Promote excellence in the sport through coaching and by encouraging development for all members at all levels of achievement.

Amendment	Clauses 2 and 3 *Replace* Clause 2: An Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held in March of each year to elect a Committee. *and* Clause 3: Notice of the date of the AGM will be considered given by its inclusion in the February issue of the club Magazine, whether delivered electronically or in printed form. W*ith* New Clause 7: An Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held in March of each year to set the annual subscription, elect a Committee and receive proposals from members. The date of the AGM will be published on the Club web site at least one month before the date of the meeting and individual members will be notified by email.
Amendment	Clause 4 *Replace* The club shall have a committee of Executive officers required by the BHPA for clubs plus the Treasurer, plus any non-Executive Members the club shall see fit to vote into office. *With* New Clause 12: The club shall be managed by a Committee elected from the membership. It shall comprise Executive Officers as required by the BHPA plus the Treasurer, and non-Executive Members that the club votes into office.
Amendment	Clause 5 *Replace* Proposals for consideration at the AGM must reach the Secretary by 15 February. Such proposals should carry the name of the member proposing, and that seconding, the motion. *With* New Clause 10: Proposals for consideration at the AGM must reach the Secretary at least 21 days before the date of the meeting. Proposals to either the AGM or an EGM must carry the names of the members proposing and seconding the motion.

Amendment	Clause 6 *Replace* The Executive Members elected shall be deemed Trustees of the Club for the term of their office and act on behalf of the Club. They will be responsible for the signing of all Charters and Contracts, and they shall acquaint the members of the rules and regulations contained therein. *With* New Clause 16: The Executive Officers are Trustees of the Club for the term of their office and act on behalf of the Club. They are responsible for the signing of all agreements or contracts made on behalf of the club. They shall acquaint the members of the of the terms of any such agreement or contract.
Amendment	Clause 7 renumbered as new Clause 14
Amendment	Clauses 8 and 9 *Replace* Clause 8: An Executive Member must not serve in the same post for more than five successive years. *and* Clause 9: All members of the Committee shall retire annually at the AGM but may stand and be eligible for re-election provided that they are members or part members of the Club. *With* New Clause 15: All members of the Committee shall retire annually at the AGM but may stand for re-election provided that they remain members of the Club. An Executive Officer may not serve in the same post for more than five successive years.
Amendment	Clause 10 renumbered as Clause 4
Amendment	Clause 11 *Delete* Additional fees other than membership fees can be levied at any Committee meeting. Remainder of Clause incorporated with new Clause 7

Amendment	Clause 12 and 13 *Replace* The annual subscription/membership year runs from March to February. *and* If fees are not paid within two calendar months of the AGM, membership will automatically lapse. *with* New Clause 6: The membership year runs from March to February. Membership will automatically lapse if annual subscriptions are not paid by 30 April.
Amendment	Clauses 14 and 15 *Replace* An Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) has the power to change the Constitution of the Club and/or change the membership of the Committee. *and* An EGM may be called by the Committee or by a petition of at least 25% of the membership. Each proposal must be submitted in writing to the Secretary. At least 21 days notice must be given to the membership for any EGM. EGM proposals must be endorsed by a majority of the members present. *With* New Clause 8: An Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) may be called by the Committee or by a petition supported by at least 25% of the membership. At least 21 days notice must be given to the membership of an EGM. *and* New Clause 9: The Constitution may only be changed at the AGM or at an EGM. An EGM also has the power to change the membership of the Committee. See also new Clause 10.
Amendment	Clause 16 *Replace* All club activities are undertaken entirely at the member's own risk, and neither the Club nor any of its Officers are liable for damages or injury resulting from their decisions. *With* New Clause 18: Club flying activities are undertaken in accordance with UK Air Law as promulgated by the BHPA and entirely at the member's own risk. Neither the Club nor any of its Officers are liable for damages or injury resulting from member’s decisions.

Amendment	Clause 17 Incorporated into new Clause 3 (see below)
Amendment	Clause 18 *Replace* The Committee shall have the power to refuse membership, expel or suspend any member for conduct or other issues that are considered to be against the best interests of the Club. The decision shall require a unanimous vote by the executive committee. *with* New Clause 5: The Committee may refuse or suspend or terminate membership for conduct considered to be against the best interests of the Club. The decision shall require a unanimous vote by the Executive Committee.
Amendment	Clauses 19, 20, 21 Amalgamated as new Clause 17.
Addition	Clause 3 Membership of the Club is open to anyone on application regardless of gender, age, disability, ethnicity, nationality, sexual orientation, religion or other beliefs. Flying members must be qualified to BHPA Club Pilot level and be a member of the BHPA.
Addition	Clause 13 Committee members shall benefit from free membership of the club during the period of their office.
Addition	Clause 19 Club activities will otherwise be carried out in accordance with relevant legislation including the Data Protection Act and the Equality Act.

Date	2022 (March) AGM
Amendment	Clause 15: “An Executive Officer may not serve in the same post for more than five successive years.” was removed.

Date	2026 (March) AGM
Amendment	Clause 15 “to include the directors of the Bell Hill Dorset Ltd” *Replace*

	All members of the Committee shall retire annually at the AGM but may stand for re-election provided that they remain members of the Club. *With* All members of the Committee and all the directors of Bell Hill Dorset Limited shall retire annually at the AGM but may stand for re-election provided that they remain members of the Club
Amendment	Clause 17 (1) Abbreviated accounts to be reduced to every six months from every quarter. (2) Accounts to be examined annually changed from audited annually. (3) Year-end date changed to 31st December from 31st January *Replace* The Treasurer shall provide abbreviated accounts and bank statements to the Committee every quarter. The accounts of the club shall be audited annually by a person appointed by the Committee. A full statement of the Club's financial standing for the year to 31st January shall be submitted to and approved by the members present at the AGM. *With* The Treasurer shall provide abbreviated accounts and bank statements to the Committee every six months. The accounts of the club shall be examined annually by a person appointed by the Committee. A full statement of the Club's financial standing for the year to 31st December shall be submitted to and approved by the members present at the AGM

Appendices

A. Definition of Executive Committee Members

In February 2006 the BHPA requested details of club officials. As per clause 12 of the constitution these officials, with the addition of the Treasurer, will be considered the Executive Committee. Therefore, the Executive Committee will comprise:

- Chairman
- Secretary (General)
- Chief Coach
- Safety Officer – Paragliding
- Sites Officer
- Treasurer

This was derived from the BHPA requests thus:

BHPA Request	Wessex Committee Member
CFI	Chairman
Contact	Secretary (General)
Club Coach	Chief Coach
Safety Officer	Safety Officer – Paragliding
Sites Officer	Sites Officer
Not requested	Treasurer