

# **SANDWELL CYCLE SPEEDWAY CLUB**

## **ANTIQUUM-DECUS-FLOREAT**

### **CLUB AIMS, CONSTITUTION AND RULES**

**1.Title:** The title of the club shall be: Sandwell Amateur Cycle Speedway Club, hereinafter referred to as "The Club." All positions within the club shall be voluntary and unpaid.

**2.Objectives:** The objectives of the club shall be to organise and promote the sport of cycle speedway racing to the highest attainable standard for the benefit and enjoyment of members, visitors and spectators, to encourage and foster the practice of competitive racing and sporting attitudes, and to seek recognition for the sport and the club through all the media possible and by seeking to obtain the maximum possible sponsorship and/or grant aid from all available sources.

**3.Membership:** Membership of the club shall be open to all persons irrespective of race, sex, creed, colour or sexual orientation, on completion of an "Application for Membership" form and the payment of any appropriate registration fee. Membership will be confirmed by the issue of a copy of the club rules by the committee which shall retain the power to refuse or withdraw membership of any persons considered undesirable, but this power shall not be used unreasonably and shall be subject to an appeal to the whole of the membership by the prospective member concerned.

Members of other cycle speedway clubs wishing to join the club must complete all the necessary documentation required by the Cycle Speedway Commission of the British Cycling Federation or their successors as the National Controlling Body of the sport, and of the League(s) to which the club may be affiliated, and must then submit to a secret ballot by the whole of the membership with a simple majority deciding on either acceptance or rejection of the applicant. Where such a ballot has taken place in either of the instances outlined in the preceding paragraphs, the result shall be final and binding and the committee shall have no power to over-rule the result in any circumstances.

All persons under the age of 18 must obtain the written consent of a parent or legal guardian before being accepted as members, and members joining the club after 31<sup>st</sup> October of each year will not be permitted to take part in any ballot prior to the date of the following Annual General Meeting. A condition of membership shall be the payment of an annual fee to be decided by the committee each year at the first committee meeting following an AGM. Membership shall be for a period of one year from the date of acceptance. Members in arrears with club subscriptions will not be considered for team selection and may also be subject to further disciplinary action at the discretion of the committee unless prior and acceptable reasons for such arrears have been made known. The committee will consider genuine cases of an inability to pay on their individual merits and shall have the power to either waive or reduce payments dependent on the circumstances, and where such a situation may arise, the matter shall remain confidential between the committee and the member concerned.

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**4. Insurance:** A limited insurance cover is provided by British Cycling when taking out membership. This would only cover any legal fees which may be required in the event of accidents sustained whilst cycling on the road, but it DOES NOT cover injuries received whilst racing on the track. Members who consider that they need insurance cover for the possibility of financial loss incurred from losing time from their employment due to a racing injury, are advised to take out a private insurance policy to cover this eventuality.

**5. Administration:** The club shall be administered by a committee comprising a chairman, secretary and treasurer who shall be known as principal officers and who will be elected by the membership for cycles of three years, plus additional committee members who will be elected annually at an Annual General Meeting. All Committee members must be bona-fide members of the club.

The committee shall appoint suitable persons for the regular match day duties of pits marshall, starter, flag marshall, announcer etc, and shall be empowered to cancel, amend or rotate these appointments without reference.

Committee members and senior officials shall be provided with keys to the track compound and storerooms as deemed necessary, conditional on these being used in a responsible manner. These keys must be immediately returned to the chairman should such key holders leave the club.

The committee is required to call an Annual General Meeting prior to the start of each racing season to which all members shall be invited to attend and be given the maximum possible notice, and will also call regular committee meetings to be attended by committee members only plus other invited club members where this is considered necessary. No decision reached at a committee meeting shall be valid unless a quorum of at least four committee members including at least one principal officer, has been in attendance.

A committee member failing to attend three consecutive committee meetings without making known the reasons in advance, shall be deemed to have resigned his position, and in the event of a vacancy or vacancies arising on the committee between the dates of Annual General Meetings, the committee shall be empowered to co-opt suitable members to fill these vacancies as it sees fit.

Where a situation occurs which is not covered by the existing rules of the club, the committee shall have the power to act as it thinks fit in relation to such a situation.

**6. General discipline:** All members will be expected to assist in the preparation of the track and equipment prior to the starting time of home matches, and to assist in the clearing away of all such equipment after matches have been concluded. Riding members are recommended to present themselves at the track at least an hour prior to the start time of home fixtures in order that such assistance can be given in addition to allowing themselves sufficient time for their own preparations. Members persistently arriving late may be subject to disciplinary action including non-selection for the team, and members taking part in, or attending cycle speedway meetings at other tracks, will be expected to conduct themselves in a manner which will uphold and further the good name of the club, before, during and after such meetings.

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Racing shirts will be provided by the club and must be returned to the team manager or his nominated representative immediately after the completion of the matches in which they are used. All other equipment will be the responsibility of individual members.

The club will endeavour to arrange communal transport for away matches but cannot always guarantee to do so, and members accepting invitations to compete in individual events at other tracks must do so on the understanding that they must make their own travelling arrangements.

Racing members must report their arrival to the team manager, and ensure that the team manager or a senior official is made aware of their impending departure after the conclusion of matches, and should ensure that they are aware of the date and time of the next fixture.

**7-Race day rules:** All members must adhere to the rules of the Cycle Speedway Commission of British Cycling and to those of any other league or association to which the club is affiliated, plus any additional rules formulated by the club.

Maximum effort is expected in all races, but reckless or foul riding will not be acceptable and persistent, deliberate infringement of the racing rules may lead to non-selection or in extreme cases, withdrawal or suspension of club membership. Riders excluded from races must immediately return to the pits and report the circumstances to the team manager and must on no account attempt to dispute the decision or argue with the referee.

Members should attend practice on the agreed training nights each week during the racing season and are expected to maintain their machines in the best possible condition, and any member failing to make an appearance for matches without having made known the reason in advance, will incur a standard club fine of £5 (£1 for junior members) unless they are able to provide an acceptable reason for their absence, and will not be considered for selection for future matches whilst such fines remain unpaid.

**8-Appeals:** Members subject to disciplinary action shall have the right of appeal against either the decision or the severity of the action taken against them, provided that they adhere to the following procedure:

- a. An appeal fees of £5 is lodged with the committee together with a full written account of the reasons for the appeal within 7 days of receiving notification of the action being taken against them. (This appeal fee will be refunded unless the appeal committee regard the appeal to be frivolous or unfounded.)
- b. An appeal committee of 3 persons will then be established. The members of this appeal committee need not necessarily be members of the club but will be individuals acceptable to all party's (ie the appellant and the committee.)
- c. The appeal committee will consider the circumstances with either the appellant or his nominated representative and will then meet privately and give a final ruling which will be binding on all party's and not subject to any further appeal.

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**9-Amendments to the Aims, Constitution and rules:** Amendments to the constitution and rules may only be made after a ballot at an Annual General Meeting. The outcome of all ballots shall be decided by a simple majority and only fully paid up bone-fide club members may take part in such a ballot.

**10-Extraordinary General Meeting:** An Extraordinary General Meeting may be called at any time providing that this has been requested in writing by more than 50% of the membership, but members must be aware that at such a meeting, members in arrears with their club funds or members who have joined the club after 31<sup>st</sup> October in the same year, are entitled to attend, but not vote.

When an Extraordinary General Meeting is called, the committee shall be responsible for ensuring that all members are given the maximum notice possible of the date and starting time, and the venue at which it will be held.

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