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WELCOME TO THE SOLENT AND DISTRICT LAND ROVER CLUB

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Last Updated: May 2023

DISCLAIMER: We must respectfully point out that each person, even if they are following club rules and guidelines, is ultimately responsible for their own safety and that of others around them including the passengers or guests signed into the site as passengers in their vehicle. Whilst meticulous care is taken in the compilation of this publication the editor and authors cannot be held responsible for errors or omissions

SECTION 1

INTRODUCTION

The Solent & District Land Rover Club was formed in 1999 as a non competitive and friendly family leisure club, with the intention of furthering interest in Land Rovers and other makes of four wheel drive vehicles off road driving and associated activities. Over the years the club has gained in popularity and the membership stands to date at approximately 140. The club is renowned for its friendly atmosphere and well organised events and is managed by a committee of volunteers who endeavour to run the club in a professional, yet friendly manner.

The Solent & District Land Rover Club welcomes new members who share the same enthusiasm and commitment to 4x4s, off road driving and other associated aspects of club involvement as the existing members. All brands of 4x4s are welcome.

The club holds a monthly social meeting at a mutually convenient location for all members to attend and holds an Annual General Meeting whereby the business of the club can be debated by all members. The AGM also gives an opportunity for the election of new committee members if this is required.

AIMS OF THE CLUB

It is the intention of the Solent & District Land Rover Club to provide its members, and others on occasions, with information, advice and assistance on matters related to Land Rovers plus other 4x4s and the off-road driving pursuits of the club. Wherever possible, the club will afford its members such benefits and privileges as it may be possible to organise.

Whenever possible, the club will arrange non-competitive off-road activities, tours, lectures, demonstrations and other social meetings. When organising all its activities the club places heavy emphasis on the safety of its members and others who may be affected. The club also aims to keep any environmental impact to a minimum.

This mission statement, along with its associated documentation, will be reviewed at regular intervals and revised where necessary or as a result of major changes within the club.

SECTION 2

PLAY DAYS CODE OF CONDUCT

Organised events can be varied in their description. These events range from boggy landscapes with deep ruts and ponds to hill climbs in sand dune type conditions as well as organised exhibitions such as 4 x 4 and country themed shows. To aid club members with whatever type of event is organised, we have developed guidelines, the “Events Code of Conduct”. The theme should remain the same for events as for green lane outings and a lot of these guidelines will indeed apply to both types of events.

This information should be exhibited on the club web site whenever possible and discussed at the start of the event. Due to the varying conditions and locations of the events, more specific rules may be required at some locations and these should be brought to the attention of participants at the earliest opportunity or at the beginning of the event. As with all of the club’s events, you must ensure your vehicle is adequately insured.

Code of Conduct

Members of the Solent & District Land Rover Club are requested to ensure that they abide by the following code:

Always BOOK in as soon as you arrive at the event, DO NOT TRAVERSE any part of the course until this has been done. When you book in with the person organising the event, ensure that you complete the booking in form / disclaimer and pay any relevant fee(s). Just as important as booking in, please ensure that you book out when you leave, this will help ensure no “stragglers” are left on site, possibly in distress.

You must ensure your vehicle is fit for off road use, particularly as event play-days are usually more demanding than green lane outings. There must be seating with seatbelts or safety harnesses for all people within the vehicle and the vehicle must be of sound structure with recovery points, functioning steering and operating brakes. The vehicle must have adequate protection or coverage for the head, either in the form of a roof or a roll cage.

For those who have any doubt about whether their vehicle is “suitably equipped” there is a lot of safety information available on the club’s web site, the club’s Facebook group and of course from experienced club members. If you’re still not sure, just ASK! Our Chief Marshall will be pleased to help.

We must INSIST that ALL PASSENGERS are seated IN SEATS, with proper seat restraints. Children in particular are at risk due to inadequately fitted seat restraints.

The owner / driver of the vehicle is entirely responsible for the safety of their passengers.

ALWAYS adhere to instructions from Marshals and any signs which have been erected in the interests of safety. The number of Marshals and any safety signs erected will always depend on site specifics.

When recovering any stuck vehicle, only those immediately concerned with the recovery should be near the operation. The number of people involved should be kept to an absolute minimum. If a Marshal is present, or can be called to the scene quickly, they should supervise the recovery. Spectators in all cases should be least twice the length of the recovery rope away from the scene. Any vehicle recovery requiring the use of trees or fence posts and the like, must be carried out with the minimum damage by the use of tree strops etc. Any damage caused should be reported to a Marshall or the event organiser as soon as possible. As mentioned previously, there is plenty of safety information available from the club Facebook, web site and experienced members.

The use of kinetic recovery ropes and snatch type recovery is banned on safety grounds.

Additional safety rules may be added as required by the Chief Marshall. The use of a vehicle towball as a recovery point has now been ruled out by the Chief Marshall on safety grounds. They are not designed to take the loads involved when a vehicle is stuck and can snap resulting in large flying lumps on metal. As additional such rules are made, they will be communicated to the members via the club Facebook and club text messages.

It is the duty of all club members to ensure that their acts or omissions, and those of their passengers / guests / animals, do not put at risk the safety of others taking part in the event, whatever capacity they may be there in. You must keep children under control and dogs on leads at all times.

Always bear in mind the risk of FIRE, particularly from discarded cigarette butts, matches, barbeque's and the like.

If rubbish bins are available on-site please use them, alternatively take your litter home.

Four things to bear in mind

Safety: ALWAYS – safety first!

Speed: Drive as slowly as possible and only as fast as necessary

Winches: Use only when unavoidable. Wear gloves and winch sail are mandatory with steel winch ropes and strongly advised with synthetic winch ropes. The club strongly recommends synthetic winch ropes on safety grounds. If in doubt refer to the club safety advice.

Weather: Weather may have an effect on the proceedings. If an event has to be cancelled due to extreme weather conditions, the organiser will endeavour to give as much notice as possible.

Organising Events

The person organising the event will make known their contact details when advertising the event. Booking may be available by pre-payment through the club web site or by contacting the event organiser to book your place if this is deemed to be necessary.

The rating of the severity of conditions for the event will be made known to all members via the club Facebook group and web site.

Always contact the organiser to confirm the Event is being carried out just prior to the start time, preferably before you leave home. It is sometimes necessary to cancel an Event due to severe bad weather etc: at the "eleventh hour".

If you would like to organise an event, contact any of the committee members for details of how to proceed.

SECTION 3

GREEN LANE CODE OF CONDUCT

The use of 4 wheel drive vehicles on green lanes can be a very emotive subject. The Solent & District Land Rover Club, (hereinafter referred to as “the club”), believes that all users of the countryside can enjoy their respective leisure pursuits without unduly upsetting others, so long as we all exercise a little due care and consideration. To aid the club members with this, we have devised guidelines, the “Green Lane Code of Conduct” which will hopefully allow us to enjoy our pastime without up-setting other users. This code of conduct is intended to help members gain the most from club recreational activities and to help ensure future access to the countryside. Please be courteous at all times.

Code of Conduct

Members of the Solent & District Land Rover club are requested to comply with the following code -

Only use vehicular rights of way with known, proven or provable vehicular rights. Check the status of the green lane(s) you intend to use with the definitive map(s) or with the club’s Rights of Way Officer or Green Lanes Officer before you set off. If challenged, discuss the problem calmly, if unresolved, leave as requested until the lane status can be verified.

Keep to the defined track; detour only to pass immovable objects. Report any obstructions (including low branches) to the highway authority and the club’s Rights of Way Officer or the Green Lane Officer. Be critical of your own abilities and equipment when assessing an obstruction; it is your right to abate a non-lawful obstruction, but do not commit yourself to a greater task than you are equipped for.

If the route is not obvious on the ground, ask locally or check on the definitive maps held at the highway authority offices or consult the club’s Rights of Way officer. Access to OS maps on a GPS enabled smart device is strongly recommended.

Proceed at a quiet and unobtrusive speed, as slowly as practicable; we recommend a maximum speed of 12 mph when in a 4 x 4 and on an Unsurfaced Rights of Way (URoW). Ensure your vehicle is fully road - legal, URoW’s are subject to the same laws as surfaced roads.

When travelling in groups, keep to a small number - ideally five or less. Split larger parties up and either use a different route or allow a good interval to elapse before following.

Do not travel on URoW’s, particularly during severe weather conditions, when they risk being damaged beyond a point of natural recovery once the weather has improved. If necessary, walk some of the route first to establish its condition. Do not use a URoW that may be damaged by the wheel pressure applied by your vehicle.

Avoid damaging trees, hedgerows and boundaries. Some roads carry vehicular rights of way but are physically too narrow for 4 x 4 vehicles. If in doubt, don't drive it.

The place to practice recovery techniques is on playsites not URoW's and only use a winch when absolutely necessary, ensuring the correct safety procedures are in place and followed.

Be courteous to other road users - pull over and stop your vehicle for walkers. Pull over, stop and switch off your engine for horse riders. Be courteous to those who move over for you.

After consultation by GLASS with the Country Landowners Association and the National Farmers Union, "best practice" dictates that gates, if found left secured in an open position should be left open. Those gates which are found to be shut or left swinging should be left closed behind you. The landowner might appreciate being told about any defective gates or fencing.

Keep dogs on a lead and children under supervision. Watch out for injured or trapped animals; if possible report all suspicious events to the landowner.

Guard against the risk of fires. Do not eject cigarette ends etc from the vehicle. The use of barbecues and gas cooking stoves should be restricted to permitted areas only. Ensure all your litter is taken home with you for proper disposal. If possible, remove any litter you find during the green lane outing in the same way if its safe to do so. Ensure that you do not pollute any water courses.

Remember that wildlife faces many threats and URoW's are a valuable habitat for flora and fauna, take particular care during spring and early summer.

Do not bring the club into disrepute by your acts or omissions, this will not be tolerated. Offender's names may be publicised on the club Facebook group and on the club's web site. Repeat offenders will have their membership revoked.

Four things to bear in mind

Weight : Avoid using green lanes which may be damaged by the pressure applied by your vehicle.

Weather : Avoid using green lanes in times of severe bad weather, this may affect the lane's natural recovery rate.

Width : Do not use green lanes that are too narrow for your vehicle, note the location for possible future action, e.g. green lane repair days.

Winches : Use only when unavoidable. (Refer to club safety advice).

Organising Green Lane Outings

It may well be the case that those organising green lane outings for and on behalf of the club, may not necessarily be committee members. The rating of the severity of conditions for the green lanes will be made known to all members via the club Facebook group and the web site.

Payment for green lanes is made in advance via PayPal and by making such a payment you agree to abide club rules for the event. If you are unable to attend the event for any reason and contact the organiser prior to the event you will be refunded.

Always contact the organiser to confirm the Green Lane Outing is being carried out just prior to the start time, preferably before you leave home. It is sometimes necessary to cancel an event due to severe bad weather etc; at the "eleventh hour".

If you would like to organise a Green Lane Outing, contact any of the committee members for details of how to proceed.

SECTION 4

MINIMUM SAFETY EQUIPMENT RECOMMENDED FOR MEMBERS AT EVENTS

The club is keen to ensure that the correct type of equipment is carried by members while attending club green lane days and organised play day events. For your safety we recommend everybody meets the minimum standard of equipment set out below:-

MUST HAVE

Seats and seat belts for ALL passengers

Secure recovery points – Front and Rear

SHOULD HAVE

Good quality tow rope

Protective Gloves

First Aid Kit

Container of clean water (for cleaning lights etc)

Fire extinguisher

Jack

Wheel Brace

Spare Wheel

Torch

OPTIONAL EXTRAS

Mobile phone

Ordnance Survey maps (paper or electronic)

CB Radio

Hand saw

Emergency tool kit

Fitted winch

Winch Sail

Strong protective gloves

Rated shackles

Tree strop

We must point out that each person, even if they are following club rules and guidelines, is ultimately responsible for their own safety and that of the others around them including the passengers or guests in their vehicle.

SECTION 5

EVENT CODE OF CONDUCT – ON SITE HANDOUT

Always ensure that you have adequate insurance cover for any events or activities organised by the club. Any off-road foray is potentially hazardous to drivers, passengers and vehicles as well as other participants. Always drive with due care and attention.

Your vehicle should have secure recovery points at the front and also the rear. You will be advised at the sign in whether your recovery points are adequate and you may be refused access to certain parts of the site should the recovery points be considered inadequate.

If you are using a winch for recovery then you are expected to do so safely and a marshal should be present to ensure safe recovery and control any spectators. All passengers should be out of the vehicle.

Children must be under adult supervision and dogs kept on a lead at all times. All vehicle occupants must be seated in proper seats and wearing seat belts at all times.

If marshals are not happy with the safety of a vehicle or in the manner it is being driven you will not be allowed to continue to drive and you may be asked to leave the site.

WINCHING

A marshall should be present

Ensure the safety of onlookers by keeping them at a safe distance

Wear gloves when handling steel cable, recommended also with synthetic ropes

Use strops around trees

Where possible attach cable to vehicle using a bridle between two points

Ensure recovery points are adequate for the weight and type of vehicle.

Use a sail on the winch cable

ROPE RECOVERY

When recovering a vehicle by using a rope do use a snatch method, the club considers this to be very dangerous and is not permitted. Attach a suitable rope securely to recovery points and then pull with a steady pressure at low speed with the stuck vehicle driving wheels where possible to assist the recovery.

SECTION 6

The Constitution of the Solent & District Land Rover Club

Name

The name of the Club shall be "The Solent & District Land Rover Club" hereafter known as the SADLRC.

Objects of the Club

To further interest in Land Rovers and other 4x4s, off road driving and related activities.

To provide members with information, advice and assistance on matters connected with Land Rovers, other 4x4s and off road driving.

To arrange non-competitive off road activities, tours, lectures, demonstrations, social and other meetings.

To afford members such benefits and privileges, as it may be possible to arrange.

Constitution

Persons that are holders of a current driving licence shall be eligible for membership. The membership shall consist: (a) Life Members, (b) Honorary Members, (c) Ordinary Members, (d) Family Members, (e) Junior Members.

Management

The authority and responsibility for the transaction of the business of the Club for its management shall be vested in a Committee, who, in addition to the powers vested herein shall act in furtherance of the objects for which the Club is established.

Committee

Election of Committee Members

The Members of the Committee shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting. Members of the Committee may replace members who have resigned, to serve until the next AGM, provided this is done with the unanimous agreement of the Committee. However, if the Treasurer or Secretary resign, nominations for the post shall be sought, and an SGM called at the earliest opportunity to re-elect the post. At an AGM any members of the Committee shall be eligible for re-election.

Constitution of Committee.

The Committee shall consist of not less than 8 and not more than 16 members. The posts of Treasurer and Secretary shall be elected at the AGM or by SGM. The Vice-Chairman will be appointed from amongst the Committee members by the Committee. Other posts shall be fixed by the Committee as required and elected at the AGM. Where a post remains unfulfilled after the AGM the Committee may fill that post by co-option.

Sub Committee.

The Committee shall have the power to appoint a Sub-Committee to assist the Committee whose members can be drawn from the Ordinary Members or Family Members of the Club.

Expulsion.

The Committee may expel a Committee member by means of a vote at a Committee Meeting. A two thirds majority is required for an expulsion and at least seven days written notice must be given to each Committee member that a motion of expulsion is to be discussed at the meeting.

Meeting of Committee.

The Secretary either of their own accord or by the direction of the Chairman shall, unless otherwise agreed by all the Committee, give at least seven days written notice of a meeting. The Committee shall meet monthly or more frequently as is deemed necessary.

Absence from the Committee.

Any member of the Committee who shall, without good cause, absent themselves from three consecutive meetings may be called upon to resign their position on the Committee.

Duties of Committee Members.

Any Committee Member shall be expected to conscientiously accomplish all of their allotted assignments within the Committee and do all in their power to further the interests of the Club at all times.

Duties of Chairman.

It shall be the duty of the Chairman to attend in person or by deputy, all meetings of the Club and all meetings of the Committee and to preside over them.

Duties of the Secretary.

It shall be the duty of the Secretary to take minutes of the proceedings. Minutes shall be in an unbiased form and shall be distributed to all Committee Members within seven days of the meeting and presented for confirmation at the following meetings. The Secretary shall maintain a record of all minutes, correspondence and similar matters and make them available at each Committee meeting. When required under the Constitution, the Secretary shall call a Special General Meeting.

Duties of Treasurer.

The Treasurer, in the name of the club, shall bank all monies of the Club, and no disbursements shall be made therefrom except in accordance with the form or forms authorised by the Committee. The Treasurer shall maintain accurate and up to date records of all income and disbursements and make the records available for each Committee Meeting and will present the accounts in accordance with the records supplied in time for the AGM.

Voting of Committee Members.

One half of the members of the Committee shall form a quorum. Each member present at a meeting of the Committee shall be entitled to exercise one vote. The Committee shall vote by ballot if any member present so demands. The Chair of the meeting may not vote excepting where there is a tie, in which case they have the casting vote.

Members

Election of Members.

The Membership Secretary shall submit applications for membership to the Committee, and the election of such candidates shall be at the discretion of the Committee. A vote of one third against any application for membership shall exclude from membership. Membership of the club shall continue only for the period covered by the current subscription and members shall be subject to re-election annually by the Committee. All applications must be made by an individual in their own name and be signed by the applicant personally.

Provisional Members.

Any candidate for membership of the Club whose subscription has been accepted by the Membership Secretary shall become a provisional member of the Club. Provisional membership of any candidate shall only hold well until the next meeting of the committee after payment of the subscription of such candidate.

Subscription.

Changes to the annual rate for membership may be proposed by the Committee and shall be decided by a simple majority vote at the AGM or SGM. Membership will commence from acceptance date for a period of 12 calendar months, a membership card will be issued and as the time for renewal approaches the member will be notified by post with renewal details.

Payment of Subscriptions.

Payment of new members subscriptions to be paid at time of Membership application, a receipt will be given for monies obtained this will be refunded if application is refused.

Non Payment.

Any member of the Club who has not paid their renewal subscription within 30 days after the renewal date will incur a penalty and will have to pay the same subscription as all new members. Any member who does not renew their subscription will be taken off the Membership Register. No member who is in arrears with their membership subscription will be eligible to vote at the AGM.

Use of Club Name and Address.

The name, address and Logo of the Club shall not be given by a member as his address for trade, advertising or business purposes or in connection with any legal proceedings.

Conflict of Interest.

No member shall act in any way that is not in the best interests of the Club and shall declare any activity, which may constitute a conflict of interest to the Committee.

Types of Membership.**Life Membership.**

Can be given as and when proposed by the Committee and agreed upon at the following AGM. Life membership will normally carry voting rights.

Honorary Members.

The Committee may elect as Honorary Members any persons to whom they feel have contributed to the Club in any form or with promoting the Club and its activities. Honorary membership does not carry voting rights.

Ordinary Members.

Ordinary members shall constitute the primary name that was submitted on the application to join of that household which includes family members.

Family Members.

Members of a single family, living at the same address as an Ordinary Member, shall be known as Family Members and may partake in all the Club's activities. Family Members below the aged of 17 will be known as Junior Members.

Expulsion of Members.

It shall be the duty of the Committee if at any time they shall be of the opinion that the interests of the Club so require, by letter, to invite any member to withdraw from the club within a time specified in such letter, and in default of withdrawal to submit the question of their expulsion to a meeting of the Committee to be held within six weeks of the date of such letter. Members of the Committee shall be given at least seven days notice that a question of withdrawal or expulsion is to be discussed at a meeting of the Committee. The member whose expulsion is under consideration shall be given at least seven days notice of such a meeting and shall be allowed to offer an explanation of their conduct verbally or in writing and if two thirds of the members present shall then vote for their expulsion, they shall thereupon cease to be a member of the Club.

Annual General Meeting.

The Annual General Meeting of the SADLRC will be held in the month of September in each year upon a date and at a time to be fixed by the Committee. This can only be postponed if mandated by the UK Government, such as medical pandemic or declaration of war making holding the AGM impossible.

The Annual General Meeting shall:

Receive from the Committee a full statement of accounts presented in accordance with the records supplied in time for the AGM showing receipts and expenditure for the year end.

Receive from the Committee a report of the activities of the Club during the said year.

Elect the Committee.

Decide on any resolution that may be duly submitted to the meeting as herein provided.

Special General Meetings.

A Special General Meeting may be convened by the direction of the Committee or any (12) members can demand a SGM by writing to the Secretary and stating the motion that they wish to have discussed. The Secretary shall within 14 days of a demand for a SGM write to every member informing them of the time, place and date of the meeting, which shall not be less than 14 days hence, and the text of the motion.

Agenda.

When members wish a matter to be discussed at an AGM, the text of the matters to be raised shall be sent to the Secretary 14 days before the date of the AGM, so that it may be included on the Agenda. Copies of the Agenda shall be sent to every member seven days before the meeting, but the fact that any member does not receive such document does not invalidate the proceedings.

Voting.

Every fully paid up Ordinary Member may exercise one vote. The Chairman shall not vote except in the exercising of a casting vote. At all meetings a majority of votes decides a resolution.

Proxies.

Those unable to be present at a meeting may elect a deputy by proxy.

Right to be Present.

No one can take an active part in General Meetings unless they have been duly elected as a Member of the Club, and have paid their subscription according to the rules.

Observance and Interpretation of the Rules.

Every Member binds themselves to abide by the Constitution of the Club, and also by any modifications thereof made in conformity with such Constitution, and also to accept as final and binding the decision of the Committee in all cases of dispute or disagreement as to the interpretation of this Constitution.

Alteration of the Constitution.

Any alterations may be made in this Constitution at the AGM or SGM provided (a) that details of the proposed alteration or alterations are included in the notice of the Meeting and (b) that the resolution proposing such alteration is carried out by two thirds of those present and voting at such General Meeting.

Events.

All events organised by the Club shall be held under the rules and requirements of The SADLRC. Any member found breaking the Club rules should thereupon be liable to expulsion from the Club.

Copies of the Constitution.

Every member shall be furnished with a copy of the Club Constitution on acceptance.

Dissolution.

The Club may be dissolved by a Special General Meeting convened by direction of the Committee, or on the requisition of the majority of the members. If the resolution of dissolution be duly passed, the Committee shall forthwith liquidate the affairs of the Club, and if there be any surplus assets on realisation, these shall be disposed to a local charity by the resolution of the Club.