**MARS Mid Argyll Radio Sailing**

**CONSTITUTION**

**1 NAME**

The club will be called MARS Mid Argyll Radio Sailing.

**2 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

The aims and objectives of the club will be:

To offer casual and competitive opportunities in radio controlled model sailing and radio controlled power boating.

To promote the club within the local community and beyond.

To manage the club’s sailing facility.

To ensure a duty of care to all members of the club.

To provide all its activities in a way that is fair to everyone.

**3 AFFILIATION AND MEMBERSHIP**

(a) Membership of the club is open to those interested in promoting, training, volunteering or participating in radio sailing and radio power boating, without regard to age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage or civil partnership, pregnancy or maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, and sexual orientation. There shall be two classes of membership, 18 and over, and under 18. All members of 18 and over shall have equal voting rights and rights to attend meetings. Membership is open on application to the committee and no request for membership will be unreasonably denied.

(b) The club is affiliated to the Model Yachting Association (MYA). A member is affiliated as a member of the MYA as part of their club subscription. Among other things the subscription includes insurance. A member should look at the MYA website for information about insurance. Each member is requested to look at their personal details on the MYA website and update these as necessary.

(c) An individual remains a member during the currency of their membership subscription for the year ended 31 December or until a member resigns by written notice to the secretary

(d) The Club is committed to everyone having the right to enjoy their sport in an environment free from threat of intimidation, harassment and abuse. The Club respects the rights, dignity and worth of every person and will treat everyone equally within the context of their sport.

(e) All club members have a responsibility to oppose discriminatory behaviour and promote equality of opportunity and to undertake good practice in child protection and protection of vulnerable adults. Safeguarding is everyone’s business and responsibility.

(f) Any complaint about a member should be made to the committee, generally in writing. The committee will decide the best way of settling the matter, including by way of terminating membership.

(g) Members shall be jointly and severally liable for the affairs of the club, including its financial affairs.

**4 COMMITTEE**

(a) The affairs of the Club shall be conducted by a Committee, elected from the members of the club at the Annual General Meeting (AGM). The committee shall consist of encompass the roles of the Chair Commodore, Treasurer, Secretary, Technical Officer, Publicity Officer, Race Officer, Power Craft Officer, Welfare Officer (to include Equal Opportunities and Inclusion and Protection of Children and Vulnerable Adults Officer), plus other members elected at the AGM or co-opted by the committee between AGMs. An individual may take on more than one post at the same time.

(b) Committee members will be elected to serve for a year at each AGM and may be re-elected. The Committee will be responsible for managing the club. Committee meetings will be convened by the Secretary of the Club and be held, generally, no less than 4 times a year. The quorum required for business to be agreed at Committee meetings will be 40% or more of the numbers of committee members in post at the date of the meeting.

**5 FINANCES**

(a) The club treasurer is to be responsible for the finances of the club.

(b) The financial year of the club will run from 1 April until the following 31 March.

(c) All club moneys will be banked in an account held in the name of the club.

(d) An independently reviewed statement of annual accounts will be presented by the treasurer at the Annual General Meeting.

(e) All members of the Club shall be jointly and severally responsible for the financial liabilities of the Club.

**6 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS AND EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETINGS**

(a) General Meetings are the means whereby the members of the Club exercise their democratic rights in conducting the Club’s affairs.

(b) The Club shall hold the Annual General Meeting (AGM) in October or November to:

Approve the minutes of the previous year’s AGM.

Receive reports from the officers.

Receive a report from the Treasurer and approve the Annual Accounts. Receive a report from the independent reviewer of the Club’s accounts.

Elect the officers for the committee.

Agree the membership fees for the following year.

Consider any proposed changes to the Constitution.

Deal with other relevant business under “Any other business”.

(c) Notice of the AGM will be given by the club secretary, with at least 21 days’ notice, to be given to all members.

(d) Nominations for officers of the committee will be sent to the secretary prior to the AGM. Each Committee member will be voted for individually with all members having a vote separately for each candidate.

(e) Proposed changes to the constitution shall be sent to the secretary prior to the AGM, who shall circulate them to members at least 7 days before an AGM.

(f) A member may ask the Secretary to put an item on the agenda for the AGM, preferably not less than seven days before the date of the AGM.

(f) All members have the right to vote at the AGM.

(g) The quorum for AGMs will be 20% of the membership as at the date of the AGM.

(h) The Chairman Commodore of the Club shall hold a deliberative as well as a casting vote at general and committee meetings.

(i) An Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) shall be called by an application in writing to the Secretary supported by at least 10% of the members of the Club. The committee shall also have the power to call an EGM by decision of a simple majority of the Committee members present at a Committee meeting held for, or including the purpose of, calling for an EGM.

(j) Procedures for an EGM shall follow those outlined above for AGMs.

**7 AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION**

The way of changing the constitution will be agreement by majority vote at an AGM or EGM.

**8 PROTECTION OF CHILDREN AND VULNERABLE ADULTS**

(a) Children and vulnerable adults must be accompanied when engaged in club activities by a suitable adult who is fully responsible for their welfare.

(b) Concerns, allegations or reports of poor practice/abuse relating to the welfare of children and young people and vulnerable adults will be recorded and responded to swiftly and appropriately in accordance with the club’s child protection policy and vulnerable adults’ policy and procedures. The Club Welfare Officer is the lead contact for all members in the event of any child or vulnerable adult protection concerns. (BUT SEE (c) BELOW)

(c) The Committee will meet promptly to hear complaints. The club recognises that information and/or allegations it (or any individual member or officer) holds may immediately need to shared by the club, or by an individual member, with other agencies, including the Police.

(d) Club policy is in line with the current MYA policies Guidance for both Equality and Child protection as detailed on the MYA website.

**9 DATA PROTECTION**

The club has a separate data protection policy. Briefly, the club collects email and telephone numbers from members for the purpose of club administration. It holds addresses so that the MYA can send information to members. Members’ personal data is held on a secure private computer with hard copy in a locked filing cabinet. Members’ data is normally retained up to the end of the year following that to which it relates.

**10 DISSOLUTION**

(a) A resolution to dissolve the club can only be passed at an AGM or EGM through a majority vote of the members attending such a meeting.

(b) In the event of dissolution, all debts should be settled with any clubs funds. Any assets of the club that remain will be passed to the chair of the Lochgilphead Community Council, or another community representative, as appropriate to use as she/he they see fit to promote community activities.

**11 DECLARATION**

MARS Mid Argyll Radio Sailing hereby adopts this constitution.

Name Position

Signature Date

Reviewed and amended November 2022