

Social Media Policy



1. Introduction

Social networking sites such as, but not exclusively, Facebook, YouTube, and Twitter etc. are a useful way for keeping in touch with friends, family and club members. They are also a great way for members to exchange useful information. However, members must not forget that what they post on social networking sites may be seen across these networks and are reminded that they must not bring Tiptree Road Runners (TRR) into disrepute or cause any distress to another member.

2. Policy Statement

TRR recognises that some members will make use of social networking in their own time, using their own personal equipment. Whilst there is no intention to restrict an individual's rights and freedoms to use social media appropriately, it is expected that all members will conduct themselves, whilst online, in such a way as to avoid bringing TRR into disrepute or compromising its effectiveness.

This policy is intended to protect the privacy, confidentiality and interests of TRR and only applies to club related issues. The policy is not meant to infringe upon an individual's personal interaction or commentary online; however all members are asked to respect the privacy, confidentiality and propriety of TRR and those working on their behalf and not post anything which might be considered in breach of this.

Members should take care when discussing information relating to TRR affairs as discussions can sometimes be misinterpreted and could potentially put other Club members or the public at risk.

Members are also requested that they do not blog anonymously, use pseudonyms or false screen names. TRR believes in transparency and honesty and therefore members are asked to use their real name.

All members should be aware that, in extreme cases, any inappropriate posts made to social media sites could lead to civil and criminal liability.

All members must take account of the following before posting to the internet, including engaging in blogging or the use of forums, video sharing or social networking sites:

- Whilst it is a personal decision, it is suggested that members do not disclose their position as a member of TRR. Members should be aware that the committee takes the posting, at any time, of offensive material and/or the harassment, bullying or victimisation of members via the internet and/or social networking sites very seriously.

Whilst it is hoped that all members will post responsibly, they should be aware that any breach of the following may lead to temporary or permanent suspension from the Club:

- Members must not divulge any confidential information or information belonging to TRR which is not in the public domain or expand upon such information already available in the public domain.

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- If any member discloses that they are attached to TRR, then it must be made absolutely clear that any views expressed do not represent the official position of the Club but are the views of the individual.
- Members cannot write a blog in an official capacity unless sanctioned and minuted by the committee i.e. representing the views of TRR. If, however, they give a personal opinion as a professional person in a particular field, they must state that this is solely their view and not the view of TRR.
- Members must not use any Club logo or other copyright material that infers official endorsement of the photograph, document or opinion. Any photographs of Club members, in official club kit, must not be used to harass, intimidate or bring the Club into disrepute.
- Members must not display offensive images or make offensive comments or in any way harass, intimidate, bully, victimise or discriminate against another member.
- Members should show proper respect for the laws governing copyright and fair use or fair dealing of copyrighted material owned by others; including the Club's own copyrights and brands. Members should not quote more than short excerpts of someone else's work and always ensure that they attribute such work to the original author/source. Members should be advised that it is good practice to link to others' work rather than reproduce it.
- If members see misrepresentations made about the Club in the media, they may point it out. Members are advised to do so with respect and with the facts. If a member speaks about others, he/she should ensure that what is said is factual and that it does not disparage that party. Members are advised to avoid arguments or goad competitors into inflammatory debates, as whilst brawls may earn traffic, nobody wins in the end!

3. Committee Members Responsibilities

All committee members have a duty to implement this policy and take action if they become aware of any breach of this policy and should explain the Club's policy on the use of social media and networking sites and take steps to promote awareness of this policy.

TRR reserves the right to remove any posts or comments by members or non-members on their social media sites.

4. What to do if you believe that you are being bullied, harassed or victimised via a social networking site by another TRR member

If you are a member who believes that you are being bullied, harassed or victimised as a result of another member's post to an internet site, it is open to you to take the necessary action. Members can contact the Chairman of the Club or another committee member for support and guidance.