



# FAKENHAM ANGLING CLUB

## CONSTITUTION

Revised and adopted May 2008, with subsequent amendments

### 1. Name and address of the club

1.1 The name of club shall be Fakenham Angling Club.

1.2 The address of the club shall be that of the Club Secretary, as amended from time to time.

### 2. Purpose of the club

2.1 The club shall be a non-profit making organisation run for the benefit of its members.

2.2 The purpose of the club shall be:

- to provide freshwater angling waters and facilities for its members, through ownership, leasing or other arrangements on suitable waters, subject to club rules and to any regulations operated by relevant statutory organisations
- to provide for the organisation of club activities for its members, such as angling matches, for both freshwater and sea angling
- to arrange for effective management of club waters and activities, for the benefit of members

### 3. Membership, subscriptions and day tickets

3.1 Membership shall be controlled by the Committee, whose decision shall be final. The Committee shall have the right to refuse membership.

3.2 The following membership categories are available (ages apply on the date the membership subscription is due):

**Adult.** 18 years and over. If age 21 or over, can be accompanied by up to 3 children under the age of 16 if resident at the same address, for who the member is responsible at all times when fishing club waters.

**Senior.** Age 65 and over. May be accompanied by up to 3 children if related to the member, for who the member is responsible at all times when fishing club waters.

**Family.** 2 adults and up to 3 children under 16, all resident at the same address, for who the member is responsible at all times when fishing club waters.

**Partners.** 2 adults living at the same address. Allows either partner to fish on their own or as a couple.

**Junior** (age 16 to under 18). May fish unaccompanied by a responsible adult.

**Child accompanied.** Children under the age of 16, must be accompanied by a responsible adult age 21 or over at all times when fishing. The responsible adult may also fish when accompanying the child but not on their own.

3.3 The number of full members shall be limited to a total of 300, as a total of all categories, including family, partner and junior accompanied memberships considered as one member. Amendments to this limit shall be proposed by the Committee and agreed at an Annual General Meeting.

3.4 One free guest ticket per year, to fish with a member, to be available for any club water to adult, senior, family and partner members.

3.5 Subscriptions from existing paid up members shall be due annually on 1 April each year. Only paid up members for the current year are eligible to fish Club waters or take part in Club events.

3.6 New full membership shall be available from 1 April each year until the annual limit on membership is

reached, regardless of where applicants live.

3.7 A joining fee shall be payable when full members of any category join the club, but not when renewing a subscription.

3.8 Day tickets shall be available for Club waters, at set rates for adults, juniors and senior citizens, and must be purchased in advance of fishing.

3.9 Every member on joining the Club or paying an annual subscription agrees to comply with the Constitution and with the General Rules as they exist or are amended by the Committee. All Club rules shall also apply to day ticket holders.

3.10 The club shall not restrict membership on the basis of sex, age, nationality, race or creed.

3.11 The Club will make all reasonable efforts to enable anglers with disabilities to fish club waters, taking into account expense involved and practicality.

3.12 The cost and conditions of the joining fee, the various categories of annual subscriptions for full members, and that of day tickets, shall be set and amended by proposal from the Committee and approval at an Annual General Meeting.

3.13 The Committee shall have the power to suspend or expel any member who refuses or neglects to observe the Constitution or General Rules of the Club, or who is deemed by the Committee as having engaged in behaviour unworthy of a member or otherwise injurious to the interests of the Club. This may include, amongst other things, behaviour towards other members or bailiffs, activity on social media, and behaviour not occurring at, or relating to, club waters. The decision of the Committee shall be final and binding on the members. The Committee may also decide that day tickets should not be issued to such persons.

Honorary members

3.14 The Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Match Secretary and Bailiffs shall be honorary members during their period of office.

3.15 The Club, on the recommendation of the Committee at an Annual General Meeting, may elect an honorary President and Vice Presidents, and honorary life members, in recognition of services to the Club.

3.16 The Committee may agree honorary membership for any member for a specified period in recognition of services to the Club.

#### **4. Responsibilities and liabilities**

4.1 The Club shall maintain public liability insurance cover for members and day ticket holders fishing Club waters, and third party liability for individual full adult members fishing inland UK waters.

4.2 Each member of the Club shall have a duty of care towards their own safety and that of others, and shall act at all times in a way to minimise risk of accident or injury to themselves, to those in their care, to other Club members and to members of the public.

4.3 The Club shall adopt, implement and review as necessary a Health and Safety Policy for the benefit of its members and others who may be affected.

4.4 The Club shall adopt, implement and review as necessary a Child Protection Policy for the benefit of its junior members and adult members involved with juniors.

4.5 As a result of current insurance cover, all children under 16 years of age must be accompanied by a responsible adult over the age of 21 at all times when fishing club waters.

4.6 Each member of the club shall be responsible for their own conduct, ensuring that they are aware of and observe club rules and any additional, legal requirements.

4.7 Notwithstanding the role of the Club Bailiffs, each member shall also be responsible for ensuring that other anglers using club waters are also entitled to do so as members or day ticket holders, and that they are aware of and observe the rules relating to that fishery.

4.8 Club members must carry their current membership card with them when fishing any Club water. Should

a card be lost, a replacement may be obtained from the subscription collector for a small fee, as determined by the Committee.

## **5. Trustees**

5.1 The Committee may appoint Trustees as necessary, with the agreement of the proposed Trustee and that of the other Trustees. There shall be three Trustees at any time, except when a place becomes available unexpectedly through death, incapacity or resignation, when the place shall be filled as soon as practicable. In appointing Trustees, the Committee and other Trustees shall be mindful of the need to avoid potential clashes of interest.

5.2 All Trustees shall be honorary Club members.

5.3 Trustees shall serve for a term of three years, after which they are eligible for reappointment.

5.4 The responsibilities of the Trustees shall be:

- To hold land in their names on behalf of the Club
- To ensure that the Club is run in accordance with the Constitution, in the best interests of the Club and its members as a whole
- To ensure that the Club is run legally and honestly
- To ensure that they do not benefit from their position as a Trustee
- To ensure that their personal interests do not conflict with those of the Club, and that the interests of the Club always come before their personal interests in any relevant matters

5.5 In order to be able to fulfil their role and discharge their responsibilities, Trustees may be Committee members. If they do not attend meetings of the Committee, Trustees must otherwise ensure that they are kept informed on the management of the Club.

5.6 A majority of the Trustees shall have the power to veto any decision of the Committee or a General Meeting if they think it may not be in the best interests of the Club, and to require further consideration of the issue involved by the Committee.

5.7 No Trustee shall be liable for any loss or damage which may happen to the Club assets or any part thereof or the income thereof, or for any liability to individual members, at any time or from any cause whatsoever unless such loss or damage shall be caused by his own actual fraud or reckless indifference.

## **6. Management of the Club**

6.1 A Management Committee ('the Committee') shall be responsible for the running of the Club and its assets, including management of waters that the Club owns or leases, Club activities and expenditure of Club funds, and ensuring that relevant information is communicated to members.

6.2 The Committee shall have the power to make or amend General Rules on the management of fisheries controlled by the Club and on the management of the Club and its activities, provided these are not in conflict with the Constitution. An up to date record of General Rules shall be maintained by the Committee, including amendments made by them from time to time.

6.3 In fulfilling its functions, the Committee shall endeavour at all times to act in the best interests of the Club and its members. Committee members must declare any conflicts of interest and withdraw from discussion on relevant items, and may not vote on such items.

6.4 The Officers of the club shall be the Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and Match Secretary.

The Officers and Bailiffs shall be elected annually at the AGM. The Chairman shall hold office for a maximum of 3 years consecutively.

6.5 The Committee shall consist of the officers of the Club and no less than 6 additional members. All appointed bailiffs are members of the Committee, eligible to attend, speak and vote at Committee meetings. The Committee shall have the power to co-opt additional members, if it deems fit.

6.6 The Committee is expected to meet monthly, normally on the first Tuesday of each month.

6.7 Any member may attend a meeting of the Committee but may only speak on a particular issue with prior agreement or invitation from the Chairman, and shall not be eligible to vote on any issue.

6.8 Where required at Committee meetings, voting will be on the basis of a simple majority by show of hands, with the Chairman having the casting vote in the event of a tied vote.

6.9 Any member(s) dispute arising from the interpretation of the Constitution or General Rules shall be referred to the Committee who shall act as arbiter. The decision of the Committee shall be final and binding on the member(s).

## **7. General Meetings**

7.1 The Annual General Meeting (AGM) shall be held normally in May each year, but in any event not more than 15 months shall pass between two successive AGMs.

7.2 The AGM shall determine and approve the election of Officers and Committee of the Club, the annual accounts of the Club, any proposals for changes or additions to the Constitution, and any other proposals from Club members duly made.

7.3 In order to be valid, a member's proposal for consideration at the AGM shall be given by notice in writing to the Secretary, not later than 14 days prior to the AGM, signed by the proposing member and seconded by signature from one additional current member.

7.4 An Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) may be called either at the discretion of the Committee or by members, based in the latter case on a formal request in writing to the Secretary, which shall be supported by not less than 10% of the total of current paid-up and honorary members signing the formal request.

7.5 The date of the AGM or EGM shall be made known to members by giving notice in writing a minimum of 28 days in advance for the AGM and 7 days in advance for the EGM, including the reason for the meeting in the case of an EGM. The notice shall be properly given if sent to a member's last known address.

7.6 Any paid-up member of the Club shall be entitled to see a copy of any resolutions submitted in advance of the AGM, by contacting the Secretary.

7.7 Changes or additions to this Constitution can be made only at an Annual or Extraordinary General Meeting of the Club. At least two thirds of members at the General Meeting must be in favour of the proposed change or addition.

7.8 Voting at General Meetings (AGM or EGM) shall be by show of hands. Only currently paid up and honorary full members shall be eligible to vote. Paid up family members shall be entitled to one vote each.

7.9 A record of any amendment to the Constitution shall be signed and dated by the Chairman and held by the Secretary with an amended copy of the Constitution.

## **8. Accounts and audit**

8.1 The Treasurer shall be responsible for the preparation of the accounts of the club and for the preparation of an annual report on the Club's finances, which shall be presented to the Annual General Meeting of the Club, for which purpose the accounts will be closed for the year at the end of March.

8.2 Prior to presentation at the AGM, the annual accounts shall be independently audited by a qualified accountant.

8.3 The Committee shall ensure that in conjunction with the normal current bank account the Club's main capital will be held in a suitable investment account.

## **9. Dissolution of the club**

The Club may be dissolved by resolution of nine tenths or more of the total membership voting at an Extraordinary General Meeting. Upon dissolution of the Club, the assets of the Club plus any property shall be disposed of by public auction. The proceeds of the sale shall be utilised firstly in satisfaction of the debts and liabilities of the Club. Thereafter any surplus which may remain shall be given or transferred to a suitable charity decided by the Trustees.

## **10. Availability of the Constitution and General Rules**

10.1 A copy of the current Constitution and General Rules shall be provided to all new Club members and

shall be available to any Club member on request to the Secretary.

10.2 A summary of the relevant General Rules shall be posted at each fishery.

## APPENDIX – Amendments

2 November 2011 – paragraph 3.6 amended:

~~3.6 New full membership shall be available to persons having their sole or main residence within a ten-mile radius of Fakenham from 1 May each year until the end of August each year, until the annual limit on membership is reached. From 1 September, any remaining membership places shall be available to new members, regardless of where they applicants live.~~

2 May 2014 - verbally advised by I Balls that sea section now disbanded.

Paragraph 3.8 deleted

~~3.8 Associate membership of a sea angling section shall also be available. The subscription rate, any restrictions on membership and other such details of the running of the sea angling section shall be determined by the members of that section.~~

Subsequent paragraphs 3.9 to 3.17 renumbered 3.8 to 3.16

4 February 2015 (AGM) - paragraph 3.6 amended:

~~3.6 New full membership shall be available from 1 May April each year until the end of August each year, until the annual limit on membership is reached, regardless of where applicants live.~~

4 February 2016 (AGM) – paragraph 4.5 amended:

~~4.5 All children under 12 years of age must be accompanied by a responsible adult at all times whilst fishing Club waters. The Club disclaims any responsibility in any circumstances for any accident arising from breach of these conditions relating to young members.~~

4.5 As a result of current insurance cover, all children under 16 years of age must be accompanied by a responsible adult over the age of 21 at all times when fishing club waters.

7 February 2017 (AGM) – membership categories amended

~~3.2 Full membership shall be available for fishing waters owned or leased by the Club to adult members, junior members (minimum age 8 up to age 16 when the membership subscription is due), senior citizens (65 or over when the membership subscription is due) and families.~~

3.2 The following membership categories are available (ages apply on the date the membership subscription is due):

**Adult.** 18 years and over. If age 21 or over, can be accompanied by up to 3 children under the age of 16 if resident at the same address, for who the member is responsible at all times when fishing club waters.

**Senior.** Age 65 and over. May be accompanied by up to 3 children if related to the member, for who the member is responsible at all times when fishing club waters.

**Family.** 2 adults and up to 3 children under 16, all resident at the same address, for who the member is responsible at all times when fishing club waters.

**Partners.** 2 adults living at the same address. Allows either partner to fish on their own or as a couple.

**Junior** (age 16 to under 18). May fish unaccompanied by a responsible adult.

**Child accompanied.** Children under the age of 16, must be accompanied by a responsible adult age 21 or over at all times when fishing. The responsible adult may also fish when accompanying the child but not on their own.

3.3 The number of full members shall be limited to a total of 300, as a total of all categories, including family, partner and junior accompanied memberships considered as one member. Amendments to this limit shall be proposed by the Committee and agreed at an Annual General Meeting.

~~3.4 Family membership shall be available to one or both parents plus their children up to the age of 16 when the membership subscription is due. Children under the age of 12 may fish Club waters when accompanied by an adult from their immediate family who is a Club member, even if the junior angler is not registered as a family member.~~

3.4 One free guest ticket per year, to fish with a member, to be available for any club water to adult, senior, family and partner members.

5 February 2019 (AGM) – paragraph 3.13 amended

3.13 The Committee shall have the power to suspend or expel any member who refuses or neglects to

observe the Constitution or General Rules of the Club, or who is deemed by the Committee as having engaged in behaviour unworthy of a member or otherwise injurious to the interests of the Club. This may include, amongst other things, behaviour towards other members or bailiffs, activity on social media, and behaviour not occurring at, or relating to, club waters. The decision of the Committee shall be final and binding on the members. The Committee may also decide that day tickets should not be issued to such persons.