

## **Club Constitution.**

### **Name:**

The name of the club shall be the Big Waters Angling Club, hereafter referred to as the Club

### **Aims:**

1. The aims of the club shall be to enjoy the fishing in the Big Waters and other waters for which it has the right to fish, to improve, manage and promote the fisheries, and wherever possible prevent trespass and vandalism on these waters.
2. The Club shall be known as a coarse fishing club only. This cannot be changed unless there is a postal ballot of all senior members entitled to vote, and an 85% majority of that membership must be achieved before a change can be implemented.

### **Membership:**

1. Anglers may join the club regardless of where they reside
2. There will be no limit to the number of adult members accepted into the club.
3. There will be no limit to the number of junior members accepted into the club.
4. Voters need to be fully paid-up adult members or life members.
5. Junior members are those who are under 18 years of age on the day of application for membership or renewal. Full voting rights will be granted to each junior member on attaining his or her 16th birthday.

### **Management:**

1. The management of the club shall be in the hands of the committee which will consist of the following; Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Match Secretary, junior representative and six other committee members duly elected by the members at the AGM.
2. Each committee member shall serve a period of one year before his or her position will be vacated for election at each AGM. In the interests of good management and continuity, the executive committee positions shall be of three years duration and shall become available for nominations on a rota basis. Any committee member whose term of office is at an end may apply for re-election. There is no limit to how long a committee member may remain in office provided he or she is periodically re-elected in accordance with this constitution.
3. The committee reserved the right to co-opt other persons, as required, on to the committee
4. A quorum of five will constitute a committee meeting
- 5a. The committee shall be empowered to expel from the club or otherwise punish any member whose conduct is, in their opinion, injurious or which may tend to be injurious to the interests of the Club or its members or its objectives. Before expelling or otherwise punishing a member the committee shall investigate the circumstances and the member shall be given reasonable opportunity to defend and justify themselves in writing or by appearance before the committee. Any member so expelled or otherwise punished shall have the right to appeal against the committee's decision to the Club's membership at a general meeting.

5b. Any such appeal must be made in person by the member concerned though they may if they wish, nominate someone to represent them in their presence.

5c. The appellant, having made his or her appeal, must leave the room whilst any discussion prior to voting and voting itself takes place.

5d. The committee decision can only be rescinded at appeal if a majority of not less than 2/3 of the membership present vote against said decision.

5e. Committee members may speak at any appeal but they cannot vote.

5f. An appeal should be heard at the earliest possible date but notice if it must be announced to the membership attending the preceding general meeting.

5g. Appellants should note that an appeal may result in the committee's decision being either a) ratified b) overturned completely c) punishment reduced or d) punishment increased. Where appropriate, proposals along these lines may be invited or forwarded prior to voting.

6. No person may be elected to an executive committee position without previously having served at least one full year as an ordinary committee member.

7. No member may serve on the committee whilst holding a committee position with any other angling club or association, unless agreed by all the other committee members.

#### **Subscriptions:**

1. The annual subscription will be due on the 1st day of January every year and will last for one calendar year, or in the event of a member joining partway through the year, the remainder of that year.

2. The amount of annual subscription will be decided by the members at each annual general meeting.

3. Each new senior member joining the Club will pay an entry fee which will be decided by members at each AGM

4. Members who fail to renew their membership before March 31st will be deemed to have relinquished their membership on that day and will therefore be liable to pay the entry fee upon rejoining. Any member intending to fish Club waters before the deadline of March 31st must be fully paid up before fishing. Because of the impracticality of renewing in January, by way of special dispensation, current members will be allowed to fish during this month provided they renew their membership at the January general meeting.

5. On a turning state pensionable age members become eligible for concessionary subscription, proof of age is initially required to register for concessionary subscriptions.

Those disabled members in possession of a current blue badge or those members in receipt of incapacity benefit are eligible for concessionary subscriptions. Search members will retain concessionary club rights for as long as they remain blue badge holders or are in receipt of incapacity benefit. Therefore every year renewal applications must be completed by a current blue badge in that member zone name or proof that the applicant is in receipt of incapacity benefit.

Please note photocopies of documents will not be accepted and that additional proof of identification may be needed for those applicants in receipt of incapacity benefit.

**Meetings:**

1. An AGM of the club will be held in November of each year and a minimum of two weeks notice advising date time and place of the said meeting must be given to the membership.
2. General meetings are to be held monthly at a time and place decided by the committee. Wherever possible monthly and annual meetings will be held on the last Tuesday of each month but where this is not possible advanced notification will be given to the membership
3. There is not normally a scheduled meeting in December.
4. An extraordinary general meeting of the club may be called by the committee or by the secretary upon receiving the requisition signed by no fewer than 20 paired up eligible to vote members of the Club. As with the AGM at least two weeks notice of this meeting must be given. The signed requisition should also include the reasons for calling said EGM.
5. Members wishing to propose any amendments or introductions to the Club rules or constitution must lodge their proposals in writing with the Club secretary not less than six weeks prior to the scheduled AGM
6. Printed copies of the agenda for the AGM shall be made available to all members attending the October general meeting. Members who are unable to attend this meeting will be able to obtain their copies by writing to the Club Secretary and enclosing a stamped self-addressed envelope for this purpose.
7. The committee are to use whatever methods possible to bring to the attention of the members any forthcoming meetings

**Fishery management:**

1. The fishery management of all Club waters will lie in the hands of the committee, but all major decisions must be agreed by the membership.
2. Absolutely no fish are to be introduced to, or removed from, Club waters without the permission of the committee
3. No Pike are to be introduced to Club waters
4. No game fish are to be introduced to Club waters
5. Members are requested to complete and return a fish return form and hand it to the secretary wherever possible. Such return should be lodged with the Club Secretary in person at monthly meetings or through the post. Members are reminded how important these returns are if correct and beneficial stocking policies are to be adopted and maintained.

**Alterations to the constitution:**

The above constitution may only be altered by resolution passed by a 2/3rds majority at a meeting called in accordance with meeting rules 1 and 4 above.