

Constitution of Feltham & Twickenham Piscatorial Society

(February 2019)

1. Name

- 1.1 The name of the association is Feltham & Twickenham Piscatorial Society ('the association')
- 1.2 The association was formed following the merger of the Feltham Piscatorial Society and Twickenham Piscatorial Society.

2. Objects of the Society

The objects of the association are:-

- 2.1 To represent the interests of the members of the association in the provision of angling facilities in the area of Feltham, Twickenham and other nearby areas.
- 2.2 To provide a forum for the exchange and dissemination of information relating to the affairs of the members.
- 2.3 To represent its members in negotiation or consultation with the Environment Agency or other body have statutory or other powers affecting the association's waters.
- 2.4 To negotiate on behalf of its members for the purchase or lease (either in its own right or through any other legal entity agreed by its members) of any rights or property whose acquisition shall be in the interests of the Association.
- 2.5 To manage, let, sell or otherwise dispose of any such rights in whatever manner the Association may from time to time decide.
- 2.6 To receive and administer any sum of money paid to the association whether by its members or otherwise for the improvement and enhancement of the association's waters and its fisheries or for such other purpose acceptable to the Association that the pay or may specify.
- 2.7 To arrange angling competitions for its members and visiting anglers.
- 2.8 To foster and promote angling

3. Membership

- 3.1 Membership of the Association shall be open to any individual.
- 3.2 Any person wishing to join the society must be sponsored by an existing full member. The applicant shall sign a membership application form and pay the relevant fees and annual subscription. Persons unable to obtain a sponsor may apply to the Management Committee, for membership, whereupon the Committee will nominate a sponsor having first vetted the application. The committee has the right to refuse an application for membership and will if requested specify the reason for doing so.
- 3.3 Acceptance of allocations for membership and annual renewal applications shall be at the discretion of the committee of the association. Renewals of membership are by the invitation of the committee; current members do not have an automatic right of membership renewal.
- 3.4 A member shall cease to be a member of the Association if:-
 - 3.4.1 written notice is given to the secretary of the Association of his resignation as a member.
 - 3.4.2 in the event of failure to pay any subscription up to the subscription deadline (currently 30th April).
 - 3.4.3 in the event of expulsion of the member in accordance with clause 5 below.
- 3.5 The Association may determine different categories of membership.

- 3.6 There shall be six classes of membership
- (a) Full Member- Honorary Life Member (Members of 20 years standing that have completed at least one three year term on the committee and have reached their 65th birthday)
 - (b) Full Member-Life Member (15 times adult membership charge)
 - (c) Full Member-Male Adult
 - (d) Full Member-Female Adult
 - (e) Full Member-Senior (Males over 65 years of age that have held continuous membership for ten years or more).
 - (f) That Senior membership shall be calculated to be 50% of the adult rate.
 - (g) Member- Junior (Aged 11- 16 years of age).
- 3.7 The society's membership shall be limited to 750 adult members.
(excluding Juniors, Ladies and Life members)
- 3.8 The annual membership shall run from the 1st May until the 30th April the following year.
- 3.9 Renewals must be paid by the 30th April each year.

4 Resignations

A member may resign his/her membership at any time in writing to the Secretary but a member whose written resignation is received by the Secretary after his/her subscription for the current year has become due shall be liable for his subscription for that year.

5 Expulsion

- 5.1 The Committee may expel from the Association any member for conduct which in their opinion is injurious to the interests of the Association or its objects or its members or angling.
- 5.2 Prior to expelling a member the Committee shall give not less than 28 days notice in writing to the member of their proposal to expel specifying the grounds on which proposed expulsion is based.
- 5.3 Such notice shall give the member the opportunity to respond to the notice in writing or at a meeting held for the purpose.
- 5.4 If a member elects to have a meeting the Committee will notify the member of the time, date and venue of such meeting.
- 5.5 The decision of the Committee shall be reached on a majority basis.
- 5.6 An expelled member shall forfeit all rights and privileges of membership but shall remain liable for any dues or debts to the Association which became payable or were incurred before the date of expulsion.

6 Subscriptions

Members of the Association except life members shall pay the annual subscription in advance for each year of membership at such amount as shall be determined at the Annual General Meeting (AGM).

7 Officers

- 7.1 The officers of the Association shall be Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer who must all be members of the Association.
- 7.2 In the event that there is no candidate for one of the above mentioned positions the committee may distribute the duties of the office amongst the management committee members provided that no one officer may hold more than one office.
- 7.3 The Society may from time to time award the title of vice president to members that have given exceptional service to the club. Those holding this title are not executive officers of the Society nor are they members of the Management Committee.

- 7.4 Any officer of the Association may retire on giving at least 3 month's prior notice in writing to the secretary and all officers shall in any event retire at the end of each AGM but shall be eligible for re-election at the meeting.
- 7.5 In the event that a vacancy falls due prior to the AGM any member may apply for a vacant post by giving at least 14 days' notice in writing to the secretary.
- 7.6 Where there is more than one application for a vacant post, new officers shall be elected on the basis of the highest number of votes cast in their favour at the relevant meeting.
- 7.7 A member wishing to serve as an Executive officer of the society must have served as a member of the committee for a minimum of two years.
- 7.8 In circumstances where there are no applications for an Executive position from a suitably qualified society member the committee may at its discretion co-opt a full member of the society to fill an Executive position. That person shall have been a full member of the Society for a minimum of five years. However until such time as the appointment has been ratified by a General Meeting of the society the co-opted member shall not be a cheque signatory nor have any voting rights at Committee meetings.

8 Duties of the Executive Officers and Management Committee

- 8.1 President
- (i) To provide support to the executive officers in the form of advice.
 - (ii) In the absence of the Chairman or vice-chairman appoint a member of the Committee to chair a General Meeting or monthly Management Meeting.
- 8.2 Chairman
- (i) To conduct all meetings with control.
 - (ii) See that the business on the agenda is carried out and provide fair time for discussion on all points. The Chairman can terminate all discussions when in his opinion a reasonable time has elapsed.
- 8.3 Vice Chairman
- (i) To deputise for the Chairman whenever appropriate.
 - (ii) To provide support to the Chairman in the realisation of the Society's aims and objectives.
- 8.4 Secretary
- (i) To deal with correspondence and all general business.
 - (ii) To call all Management Committee and General Meetings and to provide agendas for the same.
 - (iii) To report at all Management Committee and General Meetings.
 - (iv) To keep minutes of all Management Committee and General Meetings and to distribute the same to whom concerned
 - (v) To manage on behalf of the Society all matters relating to the negotiation of annual rents, leases or agreements for existing and new waters.
 - (vi) To issue all membership cards, keys and car park discs.
 - (vii) To keep a membership record.
- 8.5 Treasurer
- (i) To handle all financial transactions on behalf of the Association.
 - (ii) To keep an accurate and detailed account of such transactions.
 - (iii) To provide a report at all Management Committee meetings and General Meetings on the current state of the accounts.
- 8.6 Match Secretary
- (i) To make all arrangements necessary for the matches as agreed by the Management Committee.
 - (ii) To form and chair a select body of members as a Match Committee.
 - (iii) To report at all Management Meetings.
- 8.7 Head Bailiff
- (i) To form and administer a select body of members as bailiffs.
 - (ii) To report at all Management Committee meetings.
 - (iii) To manage the sales of guest tickets in accordance with society rules.

8.8 Committee Members

To assist the Officers, whenever required, and to serve on sub –committees.

8.9 Honorarium

An annual honorarium is paid to the Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer at a level to be decided by the committee.

9 The Committee

9.1 The committee (the committee') shall consist of the Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer of the Association and not less than 6 and not more than 15 ordinary members of the Association elected at the AGM.

9.2 At the AGM in each year one third of the committee for the time being (or the nearest number to one third, being those longest elected shall retire from office), but shall be eligible for re-election, where every member shall be entitled to vote for as many candidates as there are vacancies to fill and in the event of votes the Chairman shall have a casting vote.

9.3 The committee shall have the power to fill any casual vacancy on the committee and any member so elected shall retire at the AGM and be eligible for re-election.

9.4 The Committee shall meet at least 9 times (and on such occasions as the committee shall consider appropriate) in each year to examine the accounts and to arrange affairs of the Club and carry out such business as it shall consider necessary.

9.5 The Committee shall be permitted to amend the existing rules and make new rules where they consider it reasonably necessary provided that such rule changes are temporary in nature and must be confirmed at the next AGM if they are to be retained.

9.6 Duties of the Committee and Eligibility to stand for Election.
The duties of the committee shall be:-

9.6.1 To control the affairs of the society for the benefits of its members.

9.6.2 To keep accurate accounts of the finances of the society. A monthly statement of the clubs financial position shall be presented to the Committee by the treasurer. The club shall maintain an approved bank account and the following persons only shall be authorised to sign cheques on the Society's behalf:

Two from: the Chairman, the Secretary, the Treasurer.

If a cheque is in excess of £5,000 all three must counter sign.

9.6.3 To co-opt additional members to the committee as the committee feel necessary. Co-opted members to the committee may not be cheque signatories nor have voting rights until such time as their position has been confirmed by election at a general meeting of the Society. Invitations to join the committee as a co-opted member must be approved by a majority vote of the committee.

9.6.4 To make a decision on the basis of a simple majority vote. In the case of equal votes the chairman shall have a casting vote.

9.6.5 Members of the committee must attend a minimum of eight committee meetings per calendar year. Failure to achieve the minimum attendance will require the member to resign and such members shall automatically be disqualified from holding office for a period of two years. In absence of a resignation letter the committee shall vote to expel the member from the committee. In the event that a committee member experiences a prolonged period of sickness, Rule 9.6.5 will be waived provided that the committee has been advised of the members inability to attend meetings.

9.6.6 Monthly meetings of the committee are open for all members to attend. They may only participate in discussion at the invitation of the chairman and shall have no voting rights. If in the view of the chairman a matter to be discussed should be held in a 'closed' meeting this will be held after the regular monthly meeting.

9.6.7 Members standing for election to the Committee shall have held membership of the society for a minimum of three years .

10 Limitations on Expenditure Voting in Management Committee Meetings

10.1 Proposed expenditure of less than £1000 is to be agreed by simple majority voting.

- 10.2 With the exception of fees due for the renewal of leases on the Society waters proposed expenditure of more than £1000 shall require a proposition to be agreed by a minimum of ten members of the Management Committee. The Executive officers collectively are authorised to renew leases on waters without referral to the Committee.
- 10.3 In circumstances where expenditure is need urgently to manage the society's affairs a committee member may commit the society to costs no greater than £250 provided that two of the executive officers approve the expenditure. For sums between £250 and £1000, agreement to the expenditure must be sought from two executive officers and four other committee members. All instances of urgent expenditure must be reported at the next available management meeting.

11 Meetings

- 11.1 There shall be ordinary meetings of the Association on the third Friday in each month one of which shall be the AGM.
- 11.2 Particulars of the dates of such dates of such meetings will be posted on the Associations website.
- 11.3 All decisions shall be by simple majority with the chairman of the meeting (in addition to his ordinary vote) exercising a casting vote in the event of an equality of votes.
- 11.4 Voting at general meetings shall be on the basis of one vote by or on behalf of each member present.
- 11.5 Monthly meetings of the committee are open for all members to attend. They may only participate in discussion at the invitation of the Chairman and shall have no voting rights.

12 The Annual General Meeting

- 12.1 The Association year shall end on 31st October in each year.
The AGM shall be held in the month of February each year and the secretary of the Association shall give notice to each member of the time and the venue of the meeting (or a notice advising members of the AGM will be sent members via e-mail or postal addresses giving a minimum of 21 days notice of the meeting) and supply an agenda.
N.B. The Agenda will usually allow for "Any Other Business" but members are encouraged to refer other items to the Committee monthly meetings thus reserving the AGM for important business.
- 12.2 Voting at General Meetings shall be by the showing of membership cards. Each Full Member shall be entitled to one vote.
- 12.3 At General Meetings of the Society the Chair will be taken by the Chairman, Vice-Chairman or in their absence by a deputy appointed by the President.
- 12.4 The business of the AGM shall include:
- 12.4.1 Receiving a report from the secretary of the activities of the Association in the previous year;
- 12.4.2 Receiving and considering from the treasurer audited accounts for the Association for the previous year and appointing and auditor;
- 12.4.3 Re-election and/or election of the officers of the Association;
- 12.4.4 Fixing the subscriptions for the ensuing year.
- 12.4.5 Any of the business that can be carried out at an EGM.
- 12.5 Propositions for consideration at the A.G.M must be proposed and seconded by Full Members of the Society and be received in writing by the Secretary by the third Friday of December preceding the A.G.M

12.6 Twenty members present shall be sufficient to form a quorum.

13 Extraordinary General Meetings

- 13.1 An Extraordinary General Meeting ('EGM') may be called at any time by the secretary at the request in writing of ten or more members on giving to all members at least 28 days prior notice in writing (except in the case of an emergency).
- 13.2 The business which may be included at the EGM is:
- 13.2.1 changes in the rules of the Association;

- 13.2.2 the dissolution of the Association;
- 13.2.3 the removal of any officer.
- 13.3 Twenty members shall form a quorum at an EGM save in the case of a dissolution when a quorum shall be not less than 50 members.
- 13.4 All decisions at an EGM shall be by two-thirds majority with the chairman of the meeting (in addition to his ordinary vote) exercising a casting vote in the case of a deadlock.

14 Management

- 14.1 The management of the society shall be vested in the management committee (the committee) which shall have full power to arrange and transact all business of the society and to deal with any matters which may arise that are not provided herein. The committee shall be members elected from and by the full members of the society.
- 14.2 The committee will meet on a minimum of nine occasions each calendar year usually on the third Friday of the month.

15 Indemnity

Neither the officers of the Association nor any trustees appointed by the Association to hold property on its behalf shall be liable (otherwise than as members) for any loss suffered by the Association as a result of the discharge of their respective duties on its behalf (except where such loss results from their wilful neglect or default) and they shall be entitled to an indemnity out of the assets of the Association for all expenses and other liabilities incurred by them in the discharge of their respective duties.

16 Property of the Association

- 16.1 The property of the Association shall be vested in not less than three nor more than four trustees who shall be appointed by the Association at an ordinary meeting. The property of the Association shall be vested in the trustees to be dealt with by them as the Association may from time to time direct by resolution (of which an entry in the minute book shall be conclusive evidence). The trustees shall be indemnified against the risk and expense arising from the proper discharge of their duties as trustees out of the assets of the Association.
- 16.2 The trustees shall hold office until death or resignation or until removed from office at a meeting of the Association. Where by reason of such death, resignation or removal it is necessary that new trustees be appointed, the Association shall nominate those persons who are to be appointed as the new trustees. For the purpose of giving effect To such provision the chairman for the time being is hereby nominated as the person to appoint new trustees of the Association within the meaning of Section 36 of the Trustees Act 1925 and shall by deed duly appoint the person or persons so nominated by the Association.
- 16.3 A Trustee may resign by giving not less than 21 days notice but if required to do shall remain in office until such time as a replacement trustee has been appointed.

17 Administration of compensation

In the event that any sum of money shall be received by the Association from its members or otherwise whether by compensation or some other cause, the Association shall apply that money in accordance with clause 2.6.

18 Rule Changes

- 18.1 Rules of the Association may only be changed at an Extraordinary General Meeting or an Annual General Meeting of the Association and provide that at least two-thirds of members present at the EGM or AGM have voted in favour of the changes.
- 18.2 A proposed rule change must be notified in writing to an officer of the Association not less than 31 days before the EGM/AGM.

19 Dissolution

- 19.1 If at any General Meeting a resolution be passed calling for the dissolution of the Society the secretary shall immediately convene an Extraordinary General Meeting to be held not less than one month thereafter to discuss and vote the resolution.
- 19.2 If at an Extraordinary General Meeting the resolution is carried by at least two-thirds of the Full Members present (assuming a quorum has been achieved) the Management Committee shall thereupon, or at such date as specified in the resolution, proceed to realise the assets of the Association and discharge all debts and liabilities of the Association
- 19.3 After discharging all debts and liabilities of the Association the remaining assets shall not be paid or distributed amongst members of the Association but shall be given or transferred to some other voluntary organisation having objects similar to those of the Association.

End
