

# HODNET ANGLING CLUB CONSTITUTION 2020

Clause

## **A INCORPORATION AND OBJECTS**

### **A1 The Club**

The Club formed under these rules shall be known as Hodnet Angling Club (HAC)

### **A2 Objectives and Aims**

The objective of HAC shall be to: by purchase, lease, rent or other suitable agreement with owners of fishing waters/rights; acquire, retain, maintain, improve and provide access to a variety of freshwater venues, hereafter termed Club Waters, to suit the fishing needs of Members of HAC, as periodically determined by The Committee and ratified at an AGM or EGM.

HAC shall aim to:

i/ Provide facilities for, and promote participation by, all sections of the community who seek Membership.

ii/ Offer angling coaching and competitive opportunities.

iii/ Manage our facilities to ensure they are practical and safe to use.

iv/ Provide all our services in a way that is fair to all.

### **A3 Constitution and HAC Rules**

The Club shall be operated in accordance with the provisions of this Constitution, which becomes effective from the 2020 AGM - 12<sup>th</sup> February.

All members of HAC shall abide by its rules, which shall consist of those outlined in this Constitution, plus the related Schedules of HAC Fees and HAC Angling Rules, both of which are made in accordance with its provisions.

Changes to the HAC Constitution can only be made in accordance with Clause D5 at an AGM or EGM.

Changes to the HAC Schedule of Fees can only be made in accordance with Clause B4 at an AGM or EGM.

Changes to HAC Angling Rules can only be made in accordance with Clause H at an AGM or EGM, and otherwise in accordance with HAC Angling Rule 2.3 - subject to a suitable Resolution for its continuation/adoption being voted upon at the next AGM.

## **B MEMBERSHIP**

### **B1 Eligibility**

Membership of HAC is available to all persons, irrespective of ethnicity, nationality, sexual orientation, religion or beliefs; or age, sex or ability/disability and will be granted to anyone who:

i/ completes a satisfactory Membership application form

ii/ pays the appropriate Membership Fee.

iii/ agrees to abide by HAC Rules.

or is otherwise granted Honorary or Temporary Membership under the terms of Clause B3.

However, Membership is subject to a discretionary veto by The Committee in the light of known or admitted past breaches of HAC or Environment Agency Rules

### **B2 Duration**

The Membership Year of HAC shall run from the 1<sup>st</sup> April each year through to the 31<sup>st</sup> March of the following year.

### **B3 Members and Membership Categories**

Members of HAC shall belong to one of four Membership Categories:

**Junior Member(s)** - Those aged 16 years old or below on April 1<sup>st</sup> in the year that they join or renew their Membership. *Junior Members* have no voting rights at The Club AGM or EGM and are not permitted to attend or take part in any working parties.

# HODNET ANGLING CLUB CONSTITUTION 2020

**Full Member(s)** - Those aged 17 years old or over on April 1<sup>st</sup> in the year that they join or renew their Membership. *Full Members* have voting rights at The Club AGM or EGM.

**Honorary Member(s)** - Those persons provided with free Membership by The Committee in recognition of current or past services to The Club. *Honorary Members* have no voting rights at The Club AGM or EGM.

**Temporary Members(s)** - Those persons provided with Membership in accordance with an organised coaching event or HAC Angling Rules 1.4, 1.9 or 3.4. *Temporary Members* have no voting rights at The Club AGM or EGM.

## B4 Membership Fees and Fee Categories

Other than in respect of *Honorary Members*, a Schedule of Membership Fee Charges for the following Categories shall be maintained by The Committee, with any changes proposed and voted upon at the AGM – any revised charges to apply during the following Membership Year:

### Category 1 - **Junior Members**

Those aged below 12 years old (as at April 1<sup>st</sup>)

### Category 2 - **Junior Members**

Those aged 12 to 16 years old, inclusive, (as at April 1<sup>st</sup>)

### Category 3 - **Full Members- Concessionary** (as at April 1<sup>st</sup>)

Those aged 65 years old, or over, as at (April 1<sup>st</sup>), Disabled ('Blue Badge' holders or other evidence of restricted mobility) and Students aged 17 to 21 years old inclusive (as at April 1<sup>st</sup>) and in full time education: - all issued at the Membership Secretary's discretion.

### Category 4 - **Full Members**

Those aged 17 years old or over who are not eligible for any other Membership Category fee.

### Category 5 - **Full Members** (Joining Fee)

Those who have not held Membership within the last five years.

Category 6 (a or b) - **Day Tickets** – Available to those aged 12 years old or over, as follows:

a) Public Day Ticket – For Shropshire Union Canal Goldstone (Bridges 51-55) only. Obtainable from the Membership Secretary or, as authorised by The Committee, other members of The Committee or any other person/outlet.

b) Full Member's Accompanied Guest Ticket – For any Club Water except the Shropshire Union Canal. Obtainable from the Membership Secretary, and limited to a maximum of two tickets per named guest, per Membership Year. If such a guest joins The Club in the same Membership Year, the Day Ticket fees already paid will be credited against the normally applicable fee category.

Category 7 (a, b or c) - **Special** – Available at the discretion of:

a) The Committee or the Secretary - for those hiring/using Club Waters for special day/period events/matches, etc.

b) The Membership Secretary - for new membership commencing between 1<sup>st</sup> January and 31<sup>st</sup> March each year where payment for the next Membership Year is made at the same time.

c) The Committee - for owners of Club Waters (max 3 Membership Cards per Membership Year; and for members of The Committee after they have completed 3 continuous years service: subject to remaining in continuous service and having attended at least 3 committee meetings during the preceding Membership Year.

## B5 Joining Fees

A joining fee, set in accordance with Clause B4, shall apply to *Full Members* wishing to join, or to re-join where their previous Membership has lapsed more than five Membership Years previously.

# HODNET ANGLING CLUB CONSTITUTION 2020

- B6 Membership Cards  
Other than in respect of *Temporary Members*, the issue of a HAC Membership Card shall confirm Membership.

The Membership Card shall list Club Waters, the Club Officers, The Committee; plus the date of the next AGM, any gate codes and HAC Angling Rules. Information may also be provided on the Membership Card, or separately, on the dates of Club Matches, working parties and any other information deemed appropriate by The Committee.

Membership Cards remain the property of The Club and must be surrendered on demand to a Club Bailiff or member of The Committee.

- B7 Refunds  
Membership Fees will only be refunded in the event that a Member has died or other exceptional circumstances warrant consideration of a refund by The Committee. Refunds will only be considered upon receipt of a suitable written request and will be calculated on a pro rata basis. No refund will be made if the amount due is less than £10.00.

- B8 Disciplinary Action  
Members found, after a suitable hearing, by The Committee to be in breach of HAC Rules shall be subject to disciplinary action.

If as a result of disciplinary action it is decided to terminate Membership, the Member shall surrender their Membership Card on request. In the event of a failure to do so, Membership shall be deemed to have formally ceased upon delivery by recorded mail of written notification to this effect, sent to the Members last recorded address.

Where Membership is terminated as a result of disciplinary action, no refund of Membership Fees shall be made.

## C **THE COMMITTEE, CLUB OFFICERS, CLUB BAILIFFS and CLUB AUDITOR**

- C1 Operation  
The overall management and control of HAC shall be vested in The Committee.

- C2 The Committee  
Shall comprise a minimum of 9 and a maximum of 15 *Full Members* nominated and elected, in accordance with Clauses C3 and C9 respectively, at The Club AGM: or otherwise co-opted in accordance with Clause C4.

- C3 Nominations for election to The Committee  
*Full Members* wishing to stand for election to The Committee must give suitable notice to the Secretary of The Club, seconded by another *Full Member*, 14 days prior to the AGM and have been a *Full Member* of HAC for at least 2 continuous years.

If the nominated Member has held Membership for less than 2 continuous years, their nomination can proceed only if it is first notified to and accepted by The Committee.

- C4 Co-option  
The Committee shall have powers to fill by co-option any vacancy arising on The Committee or of a Club Officer position, at or after the AGM - those persons assuming the normal rights and responsibilities of the position they fill.

The Committee shall also be able to co-opt onto The Committee at any time up to four Additional *Full Members* for specific purposes. Co-opted Additional *Full Members* shall have no voting rights at committee meetings, nor automatically become a Club Bailiff.

- C5 Club Officers  
The day to day running of HAC shall be vested in the Club Officers who, after election to The Committee, shall be nominated by The Committee to fulfil the following roles :-

# HODNET ANGLING CLUB CONSTITUTION 2020

Chairman – To represent The Club and chair its meetings.

Vice Chairman – To deputise for and assist the Chairman

Secretary – To organise meetings of The Club, and maintain written records of its proceedings and transactions

Treasurer – To handle and record financial transactions of The Club

Membership Secretary – To handle the collection of Membership Fees and Day Tickets.

In addition to the above, The Committee may appoint, at or after the AGM, a *Full Member* to act as the Match Secretary, i.e. to organise Club Member/open matches.

The committee may also appoint, at or after the AGM, any suitable person or company to act as the 'Webmaster', i.e. to operate/maintain the HAC Website.

## C6 Club President

The Committee shall nominate at the AGM a *Full Member* or *Honorary Member*, who need not be a member of The Committee, to act as The Club President. The role of Club President shall be agreed between The Committee and the nominee.

## C7 Club Bailiffs

All members of The Committee, excluding any co-opted *Additional Full Members*, shall automatically become Club Bailiffs. In addition The Committee may appoint, at or after the AGM any other *Full Member* or *Honorary Member* to act as a Club Bailiff.

The role of Club Bailiffs shall be to enforce the HAC Angling Rules and to ask for, inspect and if felt necessary retain Membership Cards or Day Tickets, or to ask for and inspect other documents or licenses relevant to Membership of The Club.

## C8 Club Auditor

The Committee shall appoint, at or after the AGM, a person to act as the Club Auditor.

The role of the Club Auditor is to check and countersign the annual Club Accounts prepared by The Treasurer

## C9 Process for electing The Committee

Where the number of nominations for election is equal to or less than the number of places available, those standing for election can be voted for en bloc. If there are more nominations than places, those standing for election are to be voted for individually, those with the most votes being deemed elected.

## C10 Process for electing Club Officers

After election of The Committee, its nominations for the Club President and Club Officer positions shall be made. The nomination for Club President and Chairman will then each be separately put to the vote. Unless contested, the remaining Club Officer positions will be voted for en bloc.

## C11 Term of Office

The Term of Office for The Committee, Club Officers and Club President shall commence at the AGM, and cease at the next AGM, or at the date of resignation or cessation of Membership - whichever is the sooner.

Members of The Committee and those holding positions as Club Officers or the Club President are eligible to stand for re-election at each AGM.

The Term of Office for any appointed Match Secretary, Bailiff(s), Webmaster and Club Auditor shall commence at the AGM or the date of appointment, and cease at the next AGM or at the date of resignation or cessation of Membership - whichever is the sooner.

# HODNET ANGLING CLUB CONSTITUTION 2020

## D MEETINGS

### D1 Annual General Meeting (AGM)

The AGM shall be held during February each year, at a time and place determined by The Committee and advised to Members on the Membership Card.

In the event of a need to change the published AGM date, notice of the revised date shall be provided to Members in any form deemed suitable by The Committee, at least 14 days in advance of the revised AGM.

### D2 Business of the AGM

The purpose of the AGM shall be to:

- 1/ Receive and approve the minutes of last years AGM, and deal with any matters arising.
- 2/ Receive the outgoing Chairman's report
- 3/ Receive and approve the outgoing Treasurers report and Club Accounts
- 4/ To agree any changes to the Schedule of Club Waters for the forthcoming Membership Year
- 5/ To agree any changes to the Schedule of Fees for the forthcoming Membership Year
- 6/ To agree any changes to the Schedule of HAC Angling Rules for the forthcoming Membership Year
- 7/ To agree any changes to this constitution.
- 8/ To conduct any other business of The Club
- 9/ Conduct the election/re-election of The Committee
- 10/ Conduct the election/re-election of the Club President and Club Officers.

### D3 Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM)

An EGM may be called by The Committee, or following the request of a *Full Member* sent to The Committee in writing and seconded by at least 10 other *Full Members*.

Notice of the EGM shall be provided to Members in any form deemed suitable by The Committee, at least 14 days in advance of the EGM, and clearly stating the proposals to be considered at that meeting.

### D4 Committee Meetings

At least 4 meetings of The Committee shall be held each Membership Year to discuss and resolve the routine business of The Club.

### D5 Resolutions

Any changes to HAC Rules can only be made after a suitable Resolution is proposed and voted for at an AGM or EGM.

The tabled Resolution must outline the proposals for change in a form that can be voted upon by those present. Resolutions may be proposed by:

a/ The Committee

or

b/ A *Full Member* who has provided a written copy of a proposed Resolution to The Committee, seconded by two other *Full Members*, at least 14 days prior to the meeting.

Verbal proposals to amend Resolutions already tabled for consideration at an AGM or EGM, may only be made by a *Full Member* who is present, and where their proposal to do so is verbally seconded by another *Full Member*.

### D6 Voting

Except as outlined in Clause G3, all business being conducted during any meeting of The Club shall, subject to the meeting being quorate, be agreed on the basis of a simple majority vote of those *Full Members* present and voting, excluding any recorded abstentions.

The Chairman shall not vote except in the event of a tied vote, in which case the Chairman shall, wherever practical, exercise a casting vote for the status quo.

# HODNET ANGLING CLUB CONSTITUTION 2020

- D7 Quorum  
Other than at meetings held in accordance with Clause G1, at all meetings of HAC a quorum shall exist when there are at least five members of The Committee present, including the Chairman or Vice Chairman, but excluding any co-opted Additional *Full Members*.

## **E CLUB FINANCES**

### The Club Financial Year

The Club Financial Year shall run from 1<sup>st</sup> January to 31<sup>st</sup> December.

### The Club Accounts

The Club Accounts for the preceding Club Financial Year shall be prepared annually by the Treasurer and presented to Members at each AGM.

The Club Accounts shall take the form of a summary balance sheet, showing income received and expenditure incurred for the Club Financial Year. The Club Accounts shall be signed by the Treasurer, and countersigned by the Club Auditor, to indicate that, to the best of their knowledge and belief, they are a true representation of the financial affairs of The Club.

### Bank Accounts

The Club shall maintain a suitable UK bank account. Two signatures of members of The Committee (but excluding any co-opted Members or Additional *Full Members*) shall be required for the issue of cheques, one of the signatories being the Treasurer or Chairman.

### Insurances

The Committee shall effect and maintain suitable insurance(s) to protect the legal liabilities of The Club and its Members. The Committee may also arrange any other insurance(s) deemed necessary to protect the further interests of The Club or its Members.

## **F CLUB WATERS**

- F1 A Schedule of Club Waters shall be maintained by The Committee, with any changes made in accordance with clauses F3 and F4.

- F2 Details of Club Waters – A list of Club Waters shall be included on Membership Cards, with further details shown on the HAC website.

- F3 Addition of Club Waters – New Club Water(s) may be obtained at The Committee's discretion.

- F4 Removal of Club Waters - Other than in exceptional circumstances, e.g. termination of fishing rights, non-renewal of a lease, unreasonable rent increases, etc, by the owner of a Club Water; or the effective destruction of a fishery, e.g. through fish kills, environmental degradation or changes to access arrangements, Club Waters shall not be relinquished/disposed of by The Committee without a suitable Resolution being proposed and voted for at an AGM or EGM.

## **G TERMINATION AND MERGER**

### Dissolution

Unless The Club ceases to exist by virtue of an agreed merger/transfer under the terms of Clause G2, HAC will continue to exist unless there are insufficient *Full Members* prepared to act as The Committee following the AGM or an EGM.

In such circumstances the outgoing members of The Committee shall have their terms of office extended for 60 days, during which time they must arrange and notify in writing all Members of the date of an EGM, at which meeting they will either attempt to form a new Committee or propose a suitable resolution for dissolution of The Club.

Should it be resolved at the EGM that HAC be dissolved, an emergency Dissolution Committee of at least 3 *Full Members* shall be voted into temporary office by those *Full Members* present. From within their number the Dissolution Committee shall elect a

# HODNET ANGLING CLUB CONSTITUTION 2020

Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer whose tasks shall be to trace, realise and account for all the due or held monies, assets and effects of The Club and, after settlement of any debts and charges, donate any balance to a charity that exists to protect or promote freshwater angling.

The intended recipient charity shall be voted for at the EGM at which the Dissolution Committee is formed, after nominations made by those Members present are proposed and voted upon.

## G2 Merger/Transfer of The Club or Club Waters

Any proposal to merge The Club with another angling organisation/club, or transfer any of the Club Waters, assets or effects to another angling organisation/club shall only proceed if agreed by The Committee and a suitable Resolution being proposed and voted for at an AGM or EGM.

## G3 Voting

Resolutions on dissolution, merger or transfer will only be valid if proposed and then voted for by at least 75% of those *Full Members* present and voting at an AGM or EGM, including any recorded abstentions.

## **H HAC ANGLING RULES**

H1 A Schedule of HAC Angling Rules shall be maintained by The Committee in accordance with this section.

H2 At each AGM The Committee shall propose, and *Full Members* be ask to approve, any changes to the Schedule of HAC Angling Rules for the forthcoming Membership Year.

H3 The HAC Angling Rules shall be included on Membership Cards and shown on the HAC website.

H4 All Members must abide by the adopted HAC Angling Rules when attending or fishing Club Waters, plus any related notices or additional rules displayed.

H5 Members found by The Committee to be in breach of HAC Angling Rules shall be liable to disciplinary action by The Club, which for breach of rules 2.4 (Rule 24) and 2.6 (Rule 26) may result in a life ban on Membership of HAC.