

Wantage and Grove Angling Club (founded 1961)

Constitution

Issue 9 – 3 February 2025

1 TITLE

- 1.1 The club shall be called 'Wantage and Grove angling club', hereafter to be referred to as "the club"
- 1.2 The club's water is:
Station Road Pond, Grove

2 OBJECTIVE

- 2.1 To foster and promote the sport of angling with rod, line and pole at all levels, providing opportunities for recreation and competition.

3 MEMBERSHIP

- 3.1 The following determines eligibility for membership:
 1. The club limits membership (at the discretion of the committee) to a maximum of 250 adult members (including all officers, adult and honorary members), and unlimited junior members.
 2. Aligned to the restriction outlined in 3.1.1 membership of the club shall be open to any person completing a membership application form and paying the relevant subscription/joining fee as determined by the annual general meeting of the club members and accepting the rules and by-laws of the club.
 3. The club will run a waiting list for applicants (held by the secretary). If a vacancy arises at any point in the year, persons on the waiting list will be contacted on a first come, first served basis with priority given to people living in the OX12 postcode area, and invited to join. Lapsed members may re-apply but will receive no preferential treatment and will be added to the bottom of the list.
 4. Applications will be reviewed and accepted by the committee (to ensure suitability, e.g. no previously expelled members)
 5. Annual membership runs from date of issue of the permit to the following 30 April. Five year membership runs from date of issue of the permit to the 30 April 5 years hence.
- 3.2 The membership shall consist of the classes as below:
 - a.1 Full member
 - a.2 Junior member (Under 16 years of age); at or on 30th April
 - a.3 Honorary member (determined by nomination and concurred by members at AGM).
- 3.3
 - 3.1 Permits will be available at the scheduled meetings (usually March and April), or by post. Renewal and payment methods to be advised as appropriate at the time.
 - 3.2 In the case of lost or damaged permits new ones will be chargeable at 10% of the full membership fees
- 3.4 Guests.
Guest permits are available to all members (with the exception of juniors) and allows the member to bring with them 1 (one) guest at any one time to fish with them on club waters providing that guest abides by all the club rules and by-laws. Failure to do so will render the full member responsible for the appropriate punishment for the breach of rules. No member shall have power to give leave to fish.

4 OFFICERS

- 1 The officers of the club shall be as follows:

President

Non-Executive Officer, usually an Honorary position

Executive Officers

Chairperson

Secretary

Treasurer

Match Secretary

Non-Executive Officers

Deputy Match Secretary

Deputy Chairperson

3 Nominated Full Members

- 1.1 No executive officer of the club shall be, or has been within the past year, an executive officer of any other angling club or similar.

2 Roles and Responsibilities

- 1 **President** – The president will be elected at the AGM from the club membership. The president must be an ex-officer of the club, and will be responsible for the general conduct of the club, and ensuring that it is in line with the club's objectives
- 2 **Chairperson** – will chair the AGM and the monthly committee meetings. In the event of a tied vote at the monthly committee meeting he/she will have a casting (deciding) vote. The vice chairman shall chair meetings in the absence of the chairman. The right of preside shall then pass to the secretary and then to the treasurer. The chairperson shall be responsible to the members for the proper conduct of all committee activities.
- 3 **Secretary** - will keep records of all meetings of the club. He/she will make available at all regular meetings of the club one copy of the immediately previous meeting for the information of all attending members. He/she will keep a record of the members of the club together with their full name and address, (ii) the date they joined or paid their annual fee, (iii) the status of the member (adult, junior or honorary etc.). In addition, he/she will have such powers and duties as pertain generally to his office.
- 4 **Treasurer** - will collect and have custody of all monies due to the club and will pay all bills of the club. He/she will present a full statement of the financial affairs of the club to the members at the AGM. In addition, he/she will have the powers and duties pertaining generally to his office.
- 5 **Match Secretary** - Will propose match dates for the coming season(s). Liaise, where necessary, with other clubs/third parties to arrange matches on other waters. Define and enforce club and match rules at competitions. Collect and have custody of all monies at matches (peg fees, pools etc.). Organise the weigh in, allocate points, and distribute pools money as appropriate. Keep accurate records of attendees' total weights, specimen weights etc. Organize and distribute trophies and prizes. Work with the treasurer to ensure all funds are traceable and accounted for. Aim to ensure that the match process is entirely self-sustaining and brings no cost to the general members of the club.

5 ELECTION OF OFFICERS

- 1 All officers shall be elected at the annual general meeting of the club, from, and by, the members of the club.
- 2 All officers are elected for a period of one year but may be re-elected to the same office or another office the following year.
- 3 Officers of the club will be entitled to a free permit in recognition of the services they offer to the club

6 GENERAL COMMITTEE

- 1 The affairs of the club shall be controlled by a general committee comprising of the executive officers of the club and 6 (six) other members elected from, and by, the full members of the club. The general committee shall meet at agreed intervals (monthly) and not less than four times per year. A minimum of two thirds of the committee shall have permanent residence with an OX12 postal code
- 2 The duties of the general committee shall be:
 - 1 To control the affairs of the club on behalf of the members.
 - 2 To keep accurate accounts of the finances of the club through the treasurer. These should be available for reasonable inspection by members and should be audited at each committee meeting and before every annual general meeting. The club shall maintain a bank current account and the following officers shall be authorised to sign club cheques: chairperson and treasurer.
 - 3 To co-opt additional members of the committee as the committee feels this is necessary. Co-opted members shall not be entitled to a vote on the committee.
 - 4 To make any by-laws of the club to govern the control of the fishing and waters held by the club.
 - 5 To make decisions on the basis of a simple majority vote. In the case of equal votes, the chairperson shall be entitled to an additional casting vote.

7 GENERAL MEETINGS INCLUDING AGM

- 1 The annual general meeting of the club shall be held not later than the end of February each year. 21 clear days written notice shall be given to members of the annual general meeting by circulating a copy of the notice to every member, by any of the following methods:
The club notice board, the club website, social media presence (Facebook), telephone SMS.

Members must advise the secretary in writing of any business to be moved at the annual general meeting at least 14 (fourteen) days before a meeting. The secretary shall circulate or give notice of the agenda for the meeting to members not less than 7 (seven) days before the meeting.

General meetings welcome the participation of all members.

- 7.2 The business of the annual general meeting shall be to:
 - 1 Confirm the minutes of the previous annual general meeting and any general meetings held since the last annual general meeting.
 - 2 Receive and approve the accounts for the year from the treasurer.
 - 3 Receive the annual report of the committee from the secretary.
 - 4 Agree auditing process for accounts.
 - 5 Receive the match report from the match secretary.
 - 6 Elect the officers of the club (i.e. president; chairperson; secretary; treasurer and other general committee members).
 - 7 Review club subscription rates and agree them for the forthcoming year.
 - 8 Transact such other business received in writing by the secretary from members 14 days prior to the meeting and included on the agenda.
 - 9 Hand out of season's match trophies.

The agenda may provide for "any other business", but members are encouraged to refer other items to the general committee and give the required notice for important annual general meeting business.

- 3 Nomination of candidates for election of officers shall be made in writing to the secretary at least 14 days in advance of the annual general meeting date. Nominations can only be made by full members and must be seconded by another full member.
 - 1 In the event that no nominations are forthcoming the existing committee members will, with their permission, be automatically put forward for re-election.
- 4 Special General Meetings may be convened by the General Committee, or on receipt by the Secretary of a request in writing, from not less than 50 Full Members of the Club. At least 21 days notice of the meeting shall be given.
- 5 At all General Meetings, the chair will be taken by the Chairperson or, in their absence, by a deputy appointed by the Club or by Full Members attending the meeting.
- 6 Decisions made at a General Meeting shall be by a simple majority of votes from those Full Members attending the meeting. In the event of equal votes, the Chairperson shall be entitled to an additional casting vote.
- 7 A quorum for a General Meeting shall be minimum 6 persons and must include: 2 (two) Executive Officers of the Club.
- 8 Each full member of the club shall be entitled to one vote at general meetings, except relating to match rules where only those members who have fished any match in the preceding year can vote.

8 ALTERATIONS TO THE CONSTITUTION

- 1 Any proposed alterations to the Club Constitution may only be considered at an Annual or Special General Meeting, convened with the required written notice of the proposal. Any alteration or amendment must be proposed by a Full Member of the Club and seconded by another Full Member. Such alterations shall be passed if supported by not less than two-thirds of committee present at the meeting, assuming that a quorum has been achieved.

9 RULES AND BYLAWS OF THE CLUB

- 1 The club shall retain, separate to the constitution, a list of rules and bylaws for pleasure and match fishing. These rules will be maintained, monitored and where necessary amended through general Committee. A copy of the rules and bylaws will be distributed to all new and existing members at the time of permit renewal and made available on the club website, social media presence and notice board. If it becomes necessary to amend rules at a point not appropriate to the issuing of permits, notice will be provided on the website, club notice board, Facebook page and by email (with appropriate permission). It is the members responsibility to stay up to date with rule changes so notified.

10 EXPULSION OF MEMBERS

Members of the Club whose conduct is inappropriate or who decline to abide by any of the Rules or by-laws may be expelled or suspended by a resolution passed at a meeting of the disciplinary subcommittee where their entrance fee and subscriptions may be forfeited. Members shall have the right to appeal in person to the management committee with regard to any decision affecting themselves, provided that notice of such appeal be submitted to the Administrator, in writing, within seven days of notification of the decision. Expelled members who wish to re-join may only re-apply after the period of expulsion has passed. Their re-application will be treated in the same way as any other person wishing to join with their name will go onto the bottom of the waiting list.

11 CHILD PROTECTION

It is the club's policy that unaccompanied minors are not allowed on club waters unsupervised. At all times they must be in the presence of their parent, guardian or other previously nominated (and known to the club) adult.

12 GDPR (General Data Protection Regulations)

The club treats all members personal information with the highest regard. We will never sell on or disclose any information to third parties unless required to do so by law. The club will only keep the minimum information required to be able to contact members with important updates about the club and its functions.

13 DISSOLUTION

- 1 If at any General Meeting of the Club, a resolution be passed calling for the dissolution of the Club, the Secretary shall immediately convene a Special General Meeting of the Club to be held not less than one month thereafter to discuss and vote on the resolution.
- 2 If at that Special General Meeting, the resolution is carried by at least two-thirds of the Full Members present at the meeting, the General Committee shall thereupon, or at such date as shall have been specified in the resolution, proceed to realise the assets of the Club and discharge all debts and liabilities of the Club.

- 3 After discharging all debts and liabilities of the Club, the remaining assets shall not be paid or distributed amongst the Full Members of the Club, but shall be given or transferred to some other voluntary organisation having objects similar to those of the Club

14 GRIEVANCE

In the event that any member wishes to raise any complaint or grievance concerning any matter relating to the club this must be raised by the complainant in person at a monthly meeting or in writing to any committee member.

Issues raised by proxy and/or anonymously will not be considered.

Revision and change history

ISSUE	REASON	DATE
1	Consolidation of constitution and rules into single document, addition of GDPR and child protection status. Additions to communication media	03 Jul 2018
2	Split constitution from rules. Make changes to constitution as agreed at the AGM 4 Feb 2019	13 Feb 2019
3	Make changes to constitution as agreed at the AGM 3 Feb 2020 3.1.3, changed, 3.1.5 New, 3.3 changes and addition.	04 Feb 2020
4	As agreed at EGM April 2021, change 3.1.1.to allow a maximum of 200 adult and 25 junior members (from max 200 members overall)	6 Apr 2021
5	Change to membership types, change to include 5 year memberships	7 Feb 2022
6	Add 4.1.1 to limit executive officers participation in other clubs	6 Feb 2023
7	Remove Swift Ditch from the list of club fisheries (para 1.2)	9 Mar 2023
8	Change 7.8 to allow match anglers only to vote on issues concerning them alone	5 Feb 2024
9	Change 3.1.1 to allow 250 adult members and unlimited junior members (from 200 and 25 respectively)	3 Feb 2025