

PRINCE ALBERT ANGLING SOCIETY CONSTITUTION and RULES Effective 19th October 2024

1. NAME. The name of the Society shall be the PRINCE ALBERT ANGLING SOCIETY.

2. OBJECTS. The objects of the Society are to afford the Members rights of fishing and other sporting rights by purchase or taking on lease or licence of such rights and all things incidental thereto together with social intercourse.

3. DEFINITIONS.

(i) RULES - are those principles to which action should conform in the overall governance of the Society. Rules may only be made, altered, or revoked by a majority vote of the Membership at an Annual or Extraordinary General Meeting.

(ii) BYELAWS - are those regulations that apply generally across the Membership in both the conduct of Members and their fishing of the Society's waters. The General Committee has the sole right to make, alter or revoke Byelaws at their sole discretion as and when circumstances require.

(iii) SPECIFIC WATER REGULATIONS - are those regulations that apply, and which must be observed by Members, when visiting or fishing specific waters of the Society. The General Committee has the sole right to make, alter or revoke Specific Water Regulations at their sole discretion as and when circumstances require.

(iv) GENERAL COMMITTEE - the executive committee of the Society responsible for the overall running of the Society.

(v) OFFICERS - means those 6 General Committee Members listed in Clause 7(i).

(vi) GENDER & PLURALS - In the interpretation of these Rules, unless the contrary intention appears, words in the singular shall include the plural and vice versa, and words in the masculine gender shall include the female and neutral genders and vice versa.

4. Membership.

(i) Any individual shall be eligible to stand for election to Membership of the Society.

(ii) The election of a new Member shall be made by the General Committee and every Member upon his election shall be furnished with a Membership Card with his name and Membership number written there on and a copy of the Constitution current at that time. This Card must be carried at all times when on Society waters or land. Members must upon request of any other Member or authorised person and upon the production by the person making the request of their own Membership Card or other written authority produce for the inspection of such Member or person their Membership Card.

(iii) The classes of Membership of the Society are :-

Senior Member - a person 18 years old on the 31st March and older

Intermediate Member - a junior reaching the age of 16 years before the 31st March and under 18 years old on the 31st March

Junior Member - a person under the age of 16 years at the 31st March

Non-Fishing Member - a person who wishes to accompany a fishing Member but who does not wish to fish themselves.

Honorary Member - a person who the General Committee may from time to time elect for life or for such other period of not less than one year as President or Vice Presidents who shall be Honorary Members of the Society and entitled to all the benefits of Membership and these Rules.

Senior Citizen Member - That Senior Members with 5 or more years continuous full Membership leading up to the UK state retirement age, may on attaining the UK state retirement age, prior to 31st March in the year they reach that age, apply for a Senior Citizen Membership at the reduced rate applicable at the time for that year and future years.

Member Aged 80 or over - Senior Members aged 80 or more years at the 31st March and who have had at least 5 years continuous Membership prior to reaching the age of 80 may be granted free Membership of the Society.

(iv) There will be a Members meeting held at least three times each calendar year and venues will be rotated every other year. Locations of these meetings will be at the discretion of the General Committee. The meetings will normally be held on the first Thursday of a month.

(v) Every Senior and Intermediate Member shall on his election pay a joining fee. There shall be no joining fee charged to a Junior Member transferring to Intermediate Membership, or an Intermediate Member transferring to Senior Membership.

(vi) The **annual subscription** and/or **joining fee** shall be such amount as is fixed by the Society from time to time at an Annual General Meeting.

(vii) The annual subscription shall be payable on the First day of January in each year. Renewals will not be accepted after the 31st day of July in any year and any Member who has not renewed their Membership by the 31st day of July in any year shall forfeit all their rights as a Member and may find themselves unable to re-join the Society.

(viii) With effect from 1st January 2022 Members may only suspend their Membership (i.e., put their Membership on hold) for a maximum period of 2 years in any rolling 10-year period. Failure to renew their Membership in full by 31 July in any Membership year after a period of 2 years suspension or 2 separate 1-year periods of suspension within a 10-year period will result in their Membership being treated as lapsed. To re-join as a full Member after the lapse of their Membership will only be by joining the waiting list and paying the relevant joining fee when offered Membership. That any Members who suspend their Membership (i.e., put their Membership on hold) will pay £25, they will then receive a membership card marked on hold and continue to receive HLS magazines and maps whilst their Membership is on hold for two years.

(ix) With effect from 1st January 2022 any full Member who elects to change to a Non-Fishing Membership from full Membership may continue as a Non-Fishing Member so long as they continue to pay the relevant annual subscription. To re-join as a full Member after loss of their rights as a full Member will only be by joining the waiting list and paying the relevant joining fee.

New Non-Angling Membership will only be available to relatives, friends or Carers of Full Members or parents and relatives of Juniors Members. Non-Anglers may only visit waters when accompanied by a Fishing Member.

(x) Deleted - Oct 2021

(xi) The General Committee shall at all times and without being obliged to give any reason be empowered to refuse permission to any person to fish Society waters, take part in any activity organised by the Society, or to become a Member of the Society.

(xii) That if any Member dies during the calendar year, their estate shall be entitled to a refund of subscriptions of 50% of the subscription paid if the date of death is in the first 6 months of the calendar year and nothing if the date of death is in the second half of the calendar year.

5. GENERAL COMMITTEE.

(i) Election of General Committee. The management of the Society shall be entrusted to a General Committee consisting of not more than eighteen Members, such Members to be elected by ballot at the Annual General Meeting. The term of office for a duly elected General Committee Member shall be three years, and one third of the General Committee will be up for re-election in each year of the 3-year cycle.

To be eligible for election to the General Committee a Member must have a minimum of five years as a Senior Member of the Society. This period may be varied at the discretion of the General Committee or where circumstances demand.

Any General Committee Member failing to attend three consecutive meetings without good reason may lose office.

(ii) **Nomination.** The name of any prospective candidate for Membership of the General Committee shall be proposed and seconded by two Senior Members of the Society and their election shall be decided by ballot at the Annual General Meeting. Such proposals shall be sent to the General Secretary in writing not less than sixty days before the Annual General Meeting. The proposer and seconder must state their Membership Number.

6. EXPULSION:

(i) The General Committee may expel from Membership any Member or Official wilfully disobeying any of the Society's Rules, Byelaws, or Specific Water Regulations or who is guilty of any conduct rendering him unfit in their opinion to be a Member of the Society provided that before his expulsion the General Committee shall call upon him for an explanation of his conduct and shall hear what he may wish to say in his defence, with the exception of Members expelled under Rule 6(ii).

(ii) Any Member convicted by any competent court or tribunal of any angling related offence may be expelled from the Society.

(iii) The General Committee may also as an alternative to expulsion, deal with any Member brought before them for disciplinary action by imposing fines and expenses or suspension of Membership or any other action considered appropriate.

(iv) A Member who resigns his Membership or is expelled in accordance with this Rule shall have no claim on the property of the Society and shall only be eligible for re-election as a Member of the Society at the discretion of the General Committee.

7. ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

(i) The Members of the Society shall appoint annually at their Annual General Meeting a Chairman, a Vice-Chairman, a General Secretary, an Assistant Secretary, a Membership Secretary, and a Treasurer.

(ii) The term of office for duly elected Officials shall be three years, and in each year of the 3 year cycle only two of those Officials will be up for re-election.

8. GENERAL COMMITTEE PROCEDURE.

(i) The General Committee shall meet regularly for general business and six Members shall form a quorum. The General Committee shall hold such extra meetings as it feels necessary to deal with urgent or confidential business, and all General Committee Members and Officials shall be notified by the General Secretary of such meetings. In the event of any Official refusing or failing to attend such extra meetings without good reason then the General Committee are empowered to impose a fine by way of deduction from that Official's honorarium.

(ii) The chair shall be taken by the Chairman of the General Committee or in his absence by the Vice-Chairman or another Member of the General Committee nominated to take the chair. The Chairman of the General Committee, or other Member in the chair, shall be entitled to vote on any question and in the event of an equal division of votes shall be entitled to make an extra or casting vote.

(iii) The General Committee and Officials shall subject to Rules 5 and 7 hold office from their election until the result of voting is known at the Annual General Meeting at which they seek re-election, provided that any Member of the General Committee may at any time retire there from by giving to the General Secretary notice in writing of his wish to do so.

(iv) The General Committee shall be empowered to co-opt any Senior Member of the Society to fill any vacancy occurring by death or resignation or by reason of any Member of the General Committee ceasing during his term of office to be a Member of the Society.

(v) The General Committee shall have power to :-

(a) Generally to manage the affairs of the Society in accordance with the Constitution and Rules.

(b) to appoint sub-committees for special purposes and to delegate to them any of the powers of the General Committee except those of electing, expelling, or disciplining Members, and the making, altering, or revoking of any Rules, Byelaws and Specific Water Regulations.

(c) to fix annually fees and/or honoraria as considered appropriate.

9. BYLAWS and SPECIFIC WATER REGULATIONS.

The General Committee are empowered from time to time to make, alter, or revoke Byelaws and Specific Water Regulations regulating the management of the Society, the use by Members of the Society's fisheries and other facilities and generally for the good conduct of the affairs of the Society, and provided that they are not inconsistent with the Constitution and Rules or any statutory enactment, such Byelaws and Specific Water Regulations shall be binding on all Members as if they were part of these Rules unless and until revoked or altered by decision of the General Committee or of the Members at an Annual or Extraordinary General Meeting.

10. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

(i) The Annual General Meeting of the Society shall be held in the Third or Fourth week of October for the following purposes :-

- (a) To receive a Report and Statement of Accounts for the preceding year
- (b) Subject to Rules 5 & 7 to elect the General Committee and Officials for the ensuing year.
- (c) To appoint Chartered Accountants as Reporting Accountants to the Society.
- (d) To decide upon any Proposal duly submitted to the meeting.

(ii) Notice of the Annual General Meeting and of the business to be transacted there at shall be posted to the address of Members of the Society, one per household, at least one month before the meeting date.

(iii) At the Annual General Meeting any Senior or Intermediate Member may propose an amendment to the Constitution and Rules, or bring before the meeting any subject or proposal which relates to the affairs of the Society provided that not less than sixty days before the Meeting he shall have given to the General Secretary notice thereof in writing and have had a Member second his motion. The proposer and seconder must also state their Membership number and both be present at the Meeting to formally propose and second their motion. In the event that either the proposer or seconder is not present then the motion cannot be heard at that Meeting.

(iv) At the Annual General Meeting the President shall take the chair or in his absence the Chairman of the General Committee or some other Official. The Chairman shall ascertain the decision of the meeting by a show of hands or, at his discretion, a paper ballot. All Members, other than Junior and Non-Fishing Members, if present can vote upon any Resolution or question put to the meeting and in the event of an equality of votes the Chairman shall be entitled to a second or casting vote.

11. EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING.

An Extraordinary General Meeting shall be called by the General Secretary on a requisition to be signed by 10 Members of the General Committee or 100 voting Members (stating their Membership number) such requisition to specify the object of the EGM provided that a quorum of 75% of the Members named on the Requisition shall be present before the meeting can take place. Notice of such Extraordinary General Meeting and the purpose for which it is summoned shall either be sent by pre-paid post to all Members of the Society at least Fourteen days before the meeting date, or be published for Two consecutive weeks in the Angling Press. The procedure at such meetings and the rights of Members to be present and vote there at shall be the same in all respects as those provided at an Annual General Meeting. The business to be transacted at such meetings shall be confined to the purposes named in the notice of the meeting. Any such requisition for an Extraordinary General Meeting under this Rule must be sent to the General Secretary accompanied by a sum of 25% of the Annual Subscription, payable in that year by a Senior fishing Member, from each of the 100 voting Members signing the Requisition. Should the purpose for which the meeting was called be passed at the EGM the monies deposited by the requisitioning Members will be refunded. Both the proposer and seconder of any motion at an EGM must be present at the EGM to formally propose and second their motion. In the event that either the proposer or seconder are not present then the motion cannot be heard at that EGM.

12. TRUSTEES.

(i) The number of Trustees of the Society shall be in line with current UK legislation. The Trustees shall be appointed by the General Committee and the Property of the Society (other than cash which will be under the control of the Treasurer) shall be vested in them upon trust for the Members of the Society to be dealt with by the Trustees as the General Committee shall from time to time direct by resolution (of which entry in the minute book shall be conclusive evidence). The Trustees shall be indemnified against risk and expense out of the Society property. The Trustees shall hold office until death or resignation or until removed from office by resolution of the General Committee who may for any reason which may seem sufficient to a

majority of them present and voting at any meeting remove any Trustee or Trustees from office. Where by reason of any such death, resignation or removal or where for any reason it shall appear to the General Committee to be necessary desirable or expedient to appoint an additional or substitute Trustee or Trustees the General Committee may by resolution nominate the person or persons to be appointed the new trustee or Trustees. For the purpose of giving effect to such nomination the Chairman of the General Committee is hereby nominated as the person to appoint new Trustees of the Society within the meaning of Section 36 of the Trustee Act 1925 and he shall duly appoint the person or persons nominated by the General Committee as the new Trustee or Trustees of the Society and the provisions of the Trustee Act 1925 shall apply to any such appointment. Any statement of fact in any such deed of appointment shall in favour of persons dealing bona fide and for value with the Trustees or the Society or the General Committee be conclusive evidence of the fact so stated.

13. FINANCE.

(i) So much of the funds of the Society as may not be wanted for immediate use, or to meet the usual accruing liabilities, may with the consent of the General Committee be invested by the Trustees in the purchase of land, fishing or sporting rights, or in the construction or alteration of buildings upon or in the carrying out of any other development of any land owned by the Society or in any investment in which Trustees are for the time being by law authorised to invest trust funds.

(ii) The Trustees may with the consent of the General Committee purchase or take on lease any land, fishing or sporting rights and may sell, exchange, lease, or otherwise deal with, or build upon that land (with power to pull-down buildings and again re-build) and a Purchaser, Assignee, Mortgagee or Tenant shall not be bound to enquire as to the authority for any sale, exchange, mortgage or lease by the Trustees and the receipt of the Trustees shall be a full and sufficient discharge for all monies arising from or in connection with such sale, exchange, mortgage or lease.

(iii) The Trustees may with the consent of the General Committee borrow money for the purposes of the Society (upon the security of any assets of the society) and shall have power to execute deeds or other documents which may be required for the purpose, provided that any such deed or document must validly be executed by all the Trustees for the time being of the Society.

(iv) The General Committee shall once at least every year submit the accounts for examination and verification to the Reporting Accountants.

(v) The General Committee shall lay before the Annual General Meeting a balanced receipts and payments account duly verified by the Reporting Accountants.

(vi) The Treasurer shall be responsible for such items of money as from time to time be paid into his hands. He shall disburse all monies for and on account of the Society but shall not pay any account or bill for an amount exceeding Five Thousand Pounds without the authority of the General Committee. The Treasurer is to present a statement of expenditure and bank balances as requested by the General Committee.

(vii) The Membership Secretary will be responsible for the collection of all joining fees and annual subscriptions and donations which will be banked at least weekly and an itemised bank counterfoil will be handed to the Treasurer, together with detailed lists, for reconciliation. The Membership Secretary will complete and keep correct numerical and other records in accordance with General Committee requirements.

(viii) All money received on account of entrance fees, subscriptions, levies, donations, all interest on investments and all other funds belonging to the Society shall be applied in carrying out the objects of the Society and including (but without prejudice to generality) the promotion and the protection of its interests and reputation.

(ix) The General Secretary will be responsible for all correspondence (other than Membership) and will report accordingly to the General Committee. The General Secretary is empowered to negotiate leases or purchases of fishing or sporting rights at his discretion provided that any final decision is made by the General Committee.

(x) The Assistant Secretary will assist the General Secretary in all those functions for which the latter holds responsibility.

(xi) The Society is a non-profit making organisation. All financial surpluses will be used to maintain or to improve the Society's facilities. No financial surpluses will be distributed other than to a non-profit making body or to the Members eligible to vote on winding up or dissolution of the Society. The Society may be dissolved by a three-fourths majority of the Members eligible to vote, at an Extraordinary General Meeting of which Fourteen days' notice shall have been given. The objects for which the meeting is called shall be as stated in the notice convening the meeting.

14. GENERAL.

(i) Any matters not provided for in these Rules shall be dealt with by the General Committee at their discretion acting in accordance with these Rules concerning the governance of the Society.

(ii) Members attending any meeting of the Society or function organised by the Society will be required to produce their Membership Card to gain admission.

(iii) Every Member shall be bound by and submit to the Rules, Byelaws and Specific Water Regulations of the Society. It shall be the duty of Members to familiarise themselves with such Rules, Byelaws and Specific Water Regulations, and in all dealings with the Society and with the General Committee they shall be presumed to have done so.

15. COMPLAINTS & SUGGESTIONS.

Members wishing to make a complaint or suggestion should write to the General Secretary giving details.