



WEM ANGLING CLUB CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE 1 - INTRODUCTION

1. The name of this club shall be the Wem Angling Club (hereafter referred to as 'the Club').
2. The Club shall remain in existence so long as a minimum of five eligible members wish it to do so.
3. The Club is a non profit making organisation.
4. Members are expected to have read and understood all the rules applicable to the Club. Ignorance of the rules will not be accepted as an excuse or defence for a failure to observe the Club Constitution or Rules.

ARTICLE 2 - OBJECTIVES

5. The objectives of the Club are to:
 - a. Provide both recreational and competitive angling facilities for all its members.
 - b. Provide fellowship and create friendly competition between the Club and other Angling Associations and Clubs.
 - c. Promote recreational coarse angling as a sport.
 - d. Manage and maintain in good order, all waters either owned or rented by the Club.
 - e. Protect the environment.
 - f. Encourage and promote events which will encourage young people and the disabled to become involved in the sport of angling.
 - g. Serve the community by providing fishing venues for school parties and disabled people that are organised and run under the auspices of the Local Education Authority, Environmental Agency or a Registered Disabled Organization.

ARTICLE 3 – CLUB WATERS

6. The Club enjoys comprehensive ownership or pays an annual rental fee for waters. Locations and availability of Club waters can be found on membership cards or by visiting www.hawkcarnews.com and are:
7. Hawk Lake - situated at Weston-under-Redcastle, Shropshire.
8. Tilley Pools Fishery - situated on the outskirts of Wem, Shropshire.
9. Occasionally the Club may also rent other waters on a non permanent basis.
10. A comprehensive set of Fishery Rules are contained in the Club Membership Card and are to be observed by all Club members. Any member found abusing these rules or acting in any way which is deemed to be detrimental to the good offices and welfare of the club or its members, will face disciplinary action which may result in indefinite expulsion from the Club.
11. Only members with a current membership card are allowed to fish any of the Club waters other than during Open and Inter Club matches approved by the Committee. No Open or inter-Club matches shall take place at Tilley Green.
12. Members may invite children under the age of 12 to fish Club water as guests. Adult guests are not permitted.

ARTICLE 3 - AFFILIATIONS

13. The Committee may affiliate the Club to any other angling organization that it believes is in the Club's interest to do so. The Club is currently affiliated to the Shropshire Anglers Federation.

ARTICLE 4 – MEMBERSHIP

14. The Club Membership year runs from 1 January to 31 December annually.
15. The levels of membership are:
16. Life Membership. This may be granted to an individual who it is considered have given lengthy and exemplary service to the club. Proposals for Life Membership are considered at an AGM after the nominee has been proposed and seconded by current Club members and presented to the committee prior to the AGM. A 90% in favour vote is required.
17. Local Membership. This is available to individuals living permanently within a distance of ten miles of Wem Town Hall. There is no limit on the number of Local members who live within 1 mile of Wem Town Hall. There is a limit of 250 of Local members who live beyond 1 mile, but within 10 miles, of Wem Town Hall.

18. Any individual who no longer lives within the ten mile zone, but had previously done so, may apply to become a Local member. They must be able to demonstrate that they were previously a fully paid up local member of the Club for a continuous period of at least five years.
19. Associate Membership, is available to those persons living outside a ten miles radius of Wem Town Hall. Associate Membership is limited to 100 of whom up to 10 may be at concessionary rates.
20. Concessionary rates are available for local and associate members who are:
 - a. Under the age of 16 as at 1 January
 - b. Over the age of 65 as at 1 January
 - c. Registered disabled
 - d. Female
21. All distances are measured 'as the crow flies'.
22. When facilities are available, at the discretion of the committee, River Only Membership may be introduced.

Membership Procedures

23. Membership to the Club is gained through the submission of a written application form to the appropriate Membership Secretary. Details of the information required in support of the application are on the application form. All new membership applications are to be considered by the Committee and only those who have been approved unanimously by the Committee will be offered membership. Once the offer of membership has been accepted a uniquely numbered membership card will be issued.
24. Existing members are required to renew their membership by the last day of February of each year. Any member failing to do so will be considered to have left the Club and will be treated as a new member, including the payment of the joining fee, should they wish to continue with their membership. No one is allowed to fish a Club water until their membership has been renewed.
25. Membership renewals are to be forwarded to the appropriate Membership Secretary. Applications must include a cheque in payment, a current photograph of the applicant, current phone number, e-mail address (if available) and a stamped, self addressed envelope.
26. Memberships are non transferable.
27. The Committee may, at their discretion offer free membership, for one year only, to individuals who have contributed significantly to the aims and objectives of the Club.
28. Membership and joining fees are determined by the Committee and will be published by 31 October of each year.

29. There is no discount applicable to members joining or leaving part way through the year.
30. When authorised by the committee, day tickets may be available on some waters rented by the club. No other form of temporary membership is permitted.

ARTICLE 5 - GOVERNANCE

31. The day to day running of the Club is vested in an elected Committee. The primary responsibilities of the Committee are:
 32. Ensuring compliance with all legislation relevant to the Club.
 33. The establishment, implementation and maintenance of this Constitution and Fishery Rules.
 34. Ensuring adequate and appropriate insurance is held by the Club.
 35. The maintenance of Club equipment and waters.
 36. Ensuring the financial position of the Club is protected.
37. The Committee consists of:
 38. Officers. These are the President, Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Treasurer, General Secretary, Local and Associate Membership Secretary, Club Match Secretary and Open Match Secretary.
 39. Members. Up to an additional 12 local members (except Juniors).
 40. Trustees. Eight responsible persons may be nominated from volunteers prepared to undertake the duties of Trustees of the Club. Trustees are responsible for overseeing the general and financial welfare of the club and will be expected and prepared to stand guarantors for any financial transactions undertaken by the club. Trustees will come up for re-election using a rolling system, with the two longest serving members stepping down and being replaced or re-elected after an agreed period of time, normally four years.
41. The Committee may co-opt members, within the numbers outlined above, during the year.
42. Associate members may not stand for election as Officers, Committee members or Trustees. However, the Committee may, at their discretion, co-opt two associate members as Committee members with full voting rights.
43. All Committee members who hold any form of office or executive position in any other Angling Club or Association are to declare this and refrain from voting on any issue that may be seen as a potential conflict of interest. Failure to comply may mean the member facing disciplinary action and subsequently being barred from office.

44. Unless there are extenuating circumstances, members elected to the Committee must attend a minimum of six Committee meetings during their time in office. Failure to do so excludes that member from standing for election the following year.
45. Election of the Committee. The officers and committee members will be elected annually at the Annual General Meeting (AGM). All in post officers and committee members retire automatically at the AGM although they may seek re-election.
46. Nominations for all committee posts must be received by the Committee by no later than their August meeting. Each nomination must be in writing and proposed and seconded by local members (other than a junior).
47. At the AGM the election of the incoming officers and members shall take place, starting with the position of Chairman. Should there be more than one nominee for the officer posts each candidate will be given the opportunity to address the meeting. All candidates must leave the room while a card vote is taken. The candidate receiving the most votes will be elected. Once elected, the new Chairman will take over the meeting, supervising first the election of the position of General Secretary then other Officers, using the same procedure.
48. In the event that more than 12 nominations for committee posts are received then a paper vote will be held. All members present will be given a voting paper with all candidates' names on. Members may vote for up to 12 candidates with the 12 candidates receiving the most votes being elected.
49. In the event that 12 or less nominations for committee posts are received then their will be a card vote for each candidate. Providing the candidate receives votes from the majority of the members who vote they will be elected, any candidate who fails to be elected can not be co-opted on to the Committee during that year.

ARTICLE 6 - MEETINGS

50. **Committee Meetings.** The Committee shall normally meet at least monthly, usually the first Thursday of the month, except in the month of the AGM, at the Club HQ. Additional meetings may be held at the discretion of the Chairman. A minimum of five elected officers, members or trustees must be present to form a quorum at a Committee meeting.
51. Voting will generally be by a show of hands. The Chairman shall hold the casting vote.
52. **Annual General Meeting (AGM).** The AGM normally takes place at the Club HQ on the first Thursday in September or the nearest practical day to that date. Notification of the venue and time and date of the meeting is to be posted on notice boards at all Club waters at least two weeks prior to the meeting.
53. The Chairman, General Secretary and Treasurer will present reports outlining their activities since they were elected.

54. Any proposals for consideration at the AGM must be received by the committee, in writing, by the July Committee meeting. These will be displayed on Club notice boards within seven days to enable members to submit amendments to the proposals. Any amendments must be submitted by no later than the August Committee meeting. All proposals must be submitted by a proposer and seconder eligible to do so who must be present at the AGM to support the proposal. Nominations for elected posts shall follow the same procedure.
55. **Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM).** From time to time it may become necessary to call an Extraordinary General Meeting to discuss significant matters. An EGM may be called if:
- a. The Committee receive a written request, signed by all Trustees to do so. The request must detail the purpose of the EGM.
 - b. The Committee decide to do so.
 - c. The Committee receive a written request, signed by at least 30 local members to do so. The request must detail the purpose of the EGM.
56. Notification of the venue and time and date of the meeting, and the purpose, is to be posted on notice boards at all Club waters at least two weeks prior to the meeting.
57. **Voting at AGM/EGMs.** Associate and junior members may not vote at the AGM/EGM.
58. Voting is by a show of membership cards and a strict 'no card- no vote' principle shall be applied.
59. The Chairman shall hold the casting vote at all Annual and Extraordinary General Meetings.

ARTICE 7 - FINANCES

60. The Club is financed by levying membership subscriptions and receiving a proportion open and club match fees from matches with 10 or more competitors. The proportion of the match fee received is determined by the Committee.
61. The Committee will produce a financial plan to enable the financial health of the Club to be protected. All expenditure is to be approved by the Committee who may delegate responsibility if they wish.
62. Only the Treasurer is empowered to hold or manage any accounts or other monies belonging to or appertaining to the Club. In particular, Membership Secretaries are to forward any fees they receive to the Treasurer with the minimum of delay.
63. Only the Treasurer is empowered to sign cheques, with any cheque greater than £20 requiring the added signature of the Chairman.
64. The Treasurer may not open bank accounts or discuss financial matters with outside

agencies without the approval of the Committee unless required to do so by law.

65. The Treasurer is to prepare a Profit & Loss account and Balance Sheet for presentation at the AGM.
66. The signature of both the Chairman and one of the Committee members is required to indicate inspection and acceptance of the annual financial report.

ARTICLE 8 - INSURANCE

67. While the Club does not accept liability for any injury, loss or damage to equipment within club owned property it does hold comprehensive public liability insurance covering the activities undertaken by Club members on Club waters. Only fully paid up members of the club are covered by this policy.
68. A specific section in the insurance document covers the activities of authorised members of working parties. It is mandatory that all Members carrying out such work use the appropriate personal protection equipment (PPE) provided by the club. Not complying with this mandatory requirement may well invalidate any claims arising from accidents sustain during such working parties. All tools and other work aids provided by the club for use by working parties must be in good working order and fit for purpose. All working party activities must be subjected to a comprehensive risk assessment carried out by a Responsible Person, usually the person in charge of the working party.
69. A comprehensive general risk assessment covering general risks, individual activities etc., must also be carried out on all Club venues. This must be reviewed annually or when any major change or activity takes place.
70. Members should note that in many cases they are also covered by third party insurance cover which is included in personal policies such as House, Car Insurance etc.

ARTICLE 9 - DISCIPLINARY ACTION

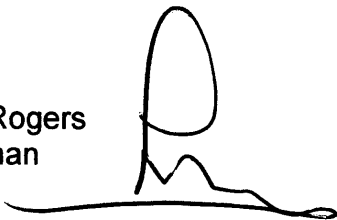
71. In the event that the Committee receive an allegation that a member has contravened the Club constitution or fishery rules or committed an act deemed to be detrimental to the welfare and good auspices of the club or its members the Chairman shall, without delay, instigate an investigation into the allegation. The investigation shall be conducted by a panel consisting, normally, of the Vice Chairman, General Secretary and one other member of the Committee nominated by the Chairman. The member under investigation will be given full details of the allegation, in writing, and given the opportunity to refute it. If the Panel decide the allegation is proven then they may take disciplinary action in one of the following forms:
 - a. Reprimand the member, for a specified period, and inform the member that any further cause for concern may result in a defined or indefinite ban from the Club.
 - b. Ban the member from the Club for a specified period.

- c. Ban the member from the Club indefinitely.
- 72. The Panel's decision will be given in writing and advise the member that they have 7 calendar days from the date of the letter to appeal. The appeal must be in writing, addressed to the Chairman, and give an outline of the basis of the appeal.
- 73. Any appeal will be heard by the Chairman, or another member of the Committee nominated by him and not involved in the original investigation. The decision taken by the person hearing the appeal shall be final.
- 74. Should a member be banned from the Club for any reason no part of their membership fee will be refunded.

ARTICLE 10 – AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

- 75. Amendments to the Constitution can only be made at an AGM or EGM.
- 76. Amendments to Article 1 and Article 5 of the Constitution require a 100% majority of eligible members attending the meeting to be passed.
- 77. Amendments to all other Articles of the Constitution require a 75% majority of eligible members attending the meeting to be passed.
- 78. Once an amendment to the Constitution has been approved, the original document shall be destroyed and a new copy printed and signed by the Chairman, Secretary and at least two trustees.

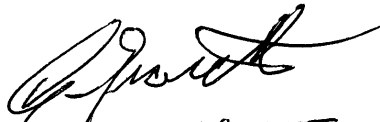
Terry Rogers
Chairman



Fred Clarke
Secretary



Tony Bennett
Trustee



ELVIVE GROCCOTT
TRUSTEE