

# **POST OFFICE ANGLING SOCIETY CONSTITUTION AND RULES**

**As from the Annual General Meeting 22nd January 2022**

## **1. STRUCTURE AND CONSTITUTION**

- 1.1 The Society is known as the Post Office Angling Society (Southend).
- 1.2 The aims of the Society are as follows.
  - 1.2.1. The practice and promotion of the sport of angling
  - 1.2.2. The acquisition and maintenance of waters and fishing rights for the benefit of members of the Society.
  - 1.2.3. The POAS is primarily a family based club with all members treated equally and with respect.
  - 1.2.4. That to relinquish club waters, requires the consent of a two thirds majority voting at an AGM or EAGM.
  - 1.2.5. The principal assets of the Society, that is, owned waters, shall not be sold unless compulsorily purchased. In this event the monies shall only be used to obtain further waters. In the event of the Society being dissolved, all monies from its assets shall be used for the furtherance of angling in general and left to the discretion of the full membership, their decision to be made at a General Meeting of all members at the time.
- 1.3.1 Membership shall be open to any person over the age of 18 years supporting the aims of the Society. Application for membership shall be in a form approved by the Committee who may in their absolute discretion accept or reject such application as they see fit. Membership shall be limited to 250 fully paid up members with the Committee having the authority to increase this number to 275.
- 1.3.2 A Junior Section to be open to members' children/ grandchildren under the age of 18 years of age.

- 1.3.3 Junior members to only fish under the supervision of a parent or nominated club members who have the child's parents/grandparents previous consent.
- 1.3.4 Any Junior on reaching the age of 18 years will automatically have the option to join as a full member subject to a vacancy being free.
- 1.3.5 Membership of the Junior section is in addition to the limit imposed by rule 1.3.1. Junior members shall not have any voting, ownership, constitutional or administrative rights.
- 1.3.6 Each Junior member shall pay an annual fee of £5 only. All income derived from Junior membership to be used to support the Junior Section.
- 1.3.7 There shall be not more than two trustees of the Society and the property of the Society (other than its cash which shall be under the Control of the Committee) shall be vested in them to be dealt with by them as the Committee shall from time to time direct by Resolution (of which an entry in the minutes book shall be conclusive evidence). The Trustees shall be indemnified against risk and expense out of the Society's property. The Trustees shall hold office until death or resignation or until removed from office by a Resolution of the 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 the office of Trustee. Whereby reason of any such death, resignation or removal it shall appear necessary, or if the Committee deem it expedient to appoint an additional Trustee or Trustees the Committee shall 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 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 by Deed duly appoint the person

or persons so nominated by the Committee as the new Trustee or Trustees of the Society and the provisions of the Trustees Act 1925 or any statutory modification thereof shall apply to any such appointment. Any statement of fact in any such Deed of Appointment shall in favour of a person dealing bona fide and for value with the Society or the Committee be conclusive evidence of the fact so stated.

- 1.4 The affairs of the Society shall be run by the Committee which shall consist of six Executive Members namely the Chairman, Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Treasurer, Membership Secretary, Match Secretary and ordinary Committee members limited to ten. In running the Society the Committee shall have due regard to the opinion of the members expressed at General Meetings of the Society and shall be bound by the decisions of the members as expressed by Resolution of either the Annual General Meeting or any Special General Meeting of the Society.
- 1.5 Authority is vested in the Committee to borrow such monies as is deemed necessary for the furtherance of the Society.
- 1.6 The Committee shall arbitrate on any dispute that may arise and shall have the power to recommend the punishment or expulsion from the Society of any member infringing the rules. Any such action shall be reported to the next General Meeting pending which the Committee may suspend the member or members concerned. Such member or members shall first be given the opportunity to appear before the Committee to refute any allegations.
- 1.6a The committee has the power to expel any member of the club for gross misconduct with immediate effect.
- 1.7 The Executive and ordinary Committee shall retire at The Annual General Meeting and may offer themselves for re-election. The afore-said resolutions shall be declared to the membership by newsletter.

- 1.8 The Society shall affiliate to such other organisation as the Committee may by Resolution decide in the furtherance of the aims of the Society.
- 1.9 The Trustees and the Executive Committee Members shall be indemnified out of Society's assets, in respect of personal liability, arising from or in connection with their acting in accordance with previously obtained authority of the Society.
- 1.10 The Officers of the Society or any member of the Society so authorised by the Committee shall not incur any personal liability for any duties properly carried out on behalf of the Society and any Officer or member of the Society so acting, shall be entitled to be indemnified from the Society's assets and other members of the Society.

## **2. ADMINISTRATION**

- 2.1 Election to membership of the committee shall be by postal ballot and/or of those members of the Society present at the Annual General Meeting. Anyone having been a member of the Society for five years shall be eligible for election to the Executive Committee. Anyone having been a member of the Society for three years shall be eligible For election to the Non-Executive Committee provided that in each of the cases The member does not hold office on the Committee of any other fishing club/society etc. Nomination for Committee membership shall be in writing and must reach the Secretary by the last day of November. Each nomination shall be proposed and seconded by current members of the Society. Where more than one valid nomination is received for an executive position, the person receiving most votes shall be elected. Where there are more Nominations than places of the non-executive position the persons elected shall be those receiving the most votes in the ballot, each member present having the right to cast a number of votes equal to the number of vacant positions.

- 2.2 There shall be an Annual General Meeting of the Society which shall be held in January each year. Notice of the meeting and of the business to be transacted shall be sent by the Secretary to each member not later than twenty-one days before the meeting.
- 2.3 A special General Meeting of the Society shall be held if either the Committee by Resolution so direct or if the Secretary shall receive a request from 30% or more of the Society's current members stating clearly the reasons for the meeting and the details of the proposed business. Notice of the meeting and the business to be transacted shall be sent by the Secretary to each member not less than fourteen days before the meeting. Any such meeting shall be called within six weeks from the date of receipt by the Secretary of such valid direction or request.
- 2.4 There shall be such Ordinary General Meetings of the Society as the Committee may decide. Notice of such meetings shall either be by announcement at the Annual or Special General Meeting or by publication in the Society's newsletter. At any Annual/Special General Meeting attendance by 20 of the current registered membership shall constitute a quorum.
- 2.5 For the efficient running of the Society the elected Committee shall convene at least six times a year in January, March, July, September and December of each calendar year. Reasonable advance notice of these meetings shall be given to all Committee Members and a majority of the Committee shall constitute a quorum.
- 2.5.1 All Committee members to attend at least 50% of meetings.
- 2.6 The Constitution and Rules of the Society may be amended by a postal ballot and/or of those members of the Society present at the Annual General Meeting or a Special General Meeting called for the purpose. Amendment of Sections 1 and 2 (Structure, Constitution and Administration) shall

require a two-thirds majority of those present and voting. Amendment of all other Sections shall be by a simple majority. Proposals to amend any part of the Constitution and Rules shall be in writing and each such proposed amendment shall be proposed and seconded in writing by current members of the Society.

- 2.7 Conduct of meeting shall be the responsibility of the Chairman or in his absence such other member as the Committee members present may appoint in his place.
- 2.8 Any proposal for discussion at an Annual General Meeting shall be proposed and seconded by current members of the Society and shall reach the Secretary not later than the last day of November. To be considered at a Special General Meeting any such proposal must accompany the request for the meeting.
- 2.9 The Chairman at any General Meeting may with the consent of a majority of the Committee members present accept for discussion not more than one amendment from the floor to any proposal.
- 2.10 The venue of Annual or Special General Meetings shall be smoke free zones.

### **3 MEMBERSHIP**

- 3.1 Each application for membership must be in writing and must be proposed and seconded by current members of the Society.
- 3.2 A condition of membership of the Society is that members of the said Society shall give permission for the Executive Committee to hold paper and retrievable computer records (not available to third parties without members consent) to enable the efficient management of the Society's official business in accordance with the relevant Data Protection Acts.
- 3.3 Each member of the Society shall have and maintain a current rod licence.

- 3.4 The Society does not operate a complete Close Season on its still waters. However, some fisheries will be closed for fishing on 4 Sunday mornings 7.00am to 1.00pm during March and April, and at the discretion of the committee on such other dates as may be considered for the purposes of work parties. Dates and venues to be advised by either newsletter, email or Facebook.
- 3.5 There will be working parties on 4 selected Sunday mornings during March and April and on such other dates as the Committee may consider necessary. Attendance at a minimum of two 4 hour (8.00am to 12.00 noon) work parties is compulsory and the membership of any society member failing to attend the required number shall lapse unless the current fine for each missed work party is paid. The exception to this rule is for members who have reached their 70th birthday at the start of the society year, whereupon it is not compulsory to undertake working parties or pay the current fines. Variation of this rule is at the discretion of the Committee where alternative arrangements have been made or where there are extenuating circumstances.
- 3.6 There shall be such Honorary Members as the Society may by resolution decide. Such Honorary Members shall not pay any membership fee.

## **4. FEES**

- 4.1 Each member shall pay an annual membership fee of £..... If any member's subscription is not received by 1st MARCH in the Society's year membership shall lapse.
- 4.2 Adult members reaching the age of 65 and have been members for five years or more and joined before 2018 will receive a reduction in fees. Those who joined from 2018 onwards will pay full membership fees. Members who already benefit from reduced fees shall continue to do so after that date.

- 4.3 Joining fee for new members is £15. New members will not have to complete two compulsory work parties in their first year but will have to attend an induction meeting at either Beauchamps or Lambourne Mead.
- 4.4 Key money of £25 shall in addition be payable by each member with the first year's membership fees, returnable upon cessation of membership and return of key. Keys will be numbered and a record kept of the key number allotted to each member. All keys will remain the property of the Society and are not transferable. Checks will from time to time be made by the Committee members.
- 4.5 The maximum number of paying guests that may accompany a member is 3 when using a society fishery. A member shall purchase a guest ticket in advance for each guest. The ticket will be valid for the times specified at the time of purchase. The current cost of a ticket for adults is £5. Guest tickets will be on sale to members every day except 4 Sunday mornings, 7.00am to 1.00pm during March and April, and at the discretion of the committee on such other dates as may be considered for the purposes of work parties. Dates and venues to be advised by either newsletter, email or Facebook.
- 4.6 Fines for missed work parties are £10 for one missed attendance and £30 for two not attended.
- 4.7 Lost keys or Membership books will be replaced at a charge of £15 each.

## **5. GENERAL FISHERY RULES**

- 5.1 All members and guests of members shall observe the Society rules at all times whilst using the Society's fisheries.
- 5.2 A member may take his/her spouse and no more than two children under the age of 18 years fishing on the Society's waters at no cost for the guest permit. Any such children are to be directly supervised by the member and



shall fish only in the same swim as the member or his/her spouse. Regular attendees under the age of 18 are expected to join as junior members.

- 5.3 Members shall carry their membership books and rod licences at all times when fishing Society waters and shall produce them on demand to any person having good reason to ask them so. Such person shall expressly include any Society Member, Bailiff, Police Officer and where the water is leased, the landlord or his agent. If a membership book cannot be produced they must leave the fishery if requested to do so. Membership books are not valid without a current photograph fixed to the inside cover and must be signed by the POAS issuer and the member.
- 5.4 Members and guests shall comply with any instructions from any Society Water Bailiff or Committee Member whilst using the Society's fisheries.
- 5.5 Members shall be responsible for ensuring that no litter is left on any part of the fishery either by themselves or their guests. Special care must be taken to collect and remove waste line.
- 5.6 Vehicles taken on to a fishery shall be parked only in recognized car parking areas and shall be kept well clear of the banks. Where gates are provided they shall be shut and locked as appropriate both on entry and on departure.
- 5.7 No dogs or guns shall be taken on to any Society fishery. The use of portable radios, tape recorders or similar apparatus is prohibited except with the use of a personal earphone. Mobile phones must be placed in silent mode and only used in the event of an emergency.
- 5.8 Members and guests must not trespass on private land adjoining any Society fishery and shall proceed to the water only by the recognized routes. Members and guests must show due consideration to other anglers/members by not overcrowding them, causing annoyance to or

inconveniencing them.

- 5.9 No person shall be permitted to dig or search for bait or to light fires, cut down or remove trees or bushes on a Society fishery without the prior consent of the Committee.
- 5.10 No person shall introduce any live fish, animal, plant or any mineral substance into any Society water without the express consent of the Committee.
- 5.11 Fishing from boats is prohibited.
- 5.12 No person shall fish with more than two rods at any one time and each rod shall bear no more than one hook (no treble hooks).
- 5.13 At Society still waters, a maximum of 2 kgs combined dry weight of ground bait and pellets per day is permitted.
- 5.14 Landing nets and keep nets shall be of knotless materials. All keep nets shall be of a minimum size 2.5m long for silver fish and 3m long for carp. The use of keep nets shall be limited to six hours excepting during matches. Landing nets and disgorgers must be to hand prior to commencement of fishing by each angler present.
- 5.15 Only barbless hooks are permitted.
- 5.16 Maximum breaking strain of mainline with hook length is 10lbs.
- 5.17 Braided line is banned on all Society waters.
- 5.18 Other than for weighing and witnessing fish over 2lb shall be returned to the water immediately unless caught during a competition.
- 5.20 No fish shall be removed from the Society's fisheries and all fish shall be returned to the water as soon and with as little injury as possible unless otherwise expressly directed by the Committee. This rule shall not apply to any diseased fish which shall be killed quickly and humanely at the waterside and removed for disposal away from the fishery. The presence of any diseased fish must be reported to the Committee as soon as possible.

- 5.21 The use of all types of beans, nuts and peas, as ground bait or hook bait is not permitted. Spod mixes containing nuts or pulses are not permitted. A boilie is permitted as a hook bait. However, no loose feeding boilies allowed, whether it is whole, ground or crushed and cannot be added to ground bait. Stringers and PVA bags will be classed as loose feeding and are not allowed. Sweet corn and meat are allowed, however only two standard tins are to be used per session.
- 5.22 The erection of tents/bivvies during daylight hours must not obstruct access to other swims.
- 5.23 The use of fixed lead bolt rigs is not permitted.
- 5.23a The use of Guru X Safe elasticated stem feeders are allowed on all fisheries owned or leased by the Society.
- 5.24 All nets to be laid out behind anglers a minimum of 15 minutes before the start of fishing.
- 5.25 Unhooking mats must be used if a fish is to be placed on the ground.
- 5.26 Night fishing is not allowed, fishing only dawn to dusk throughout the year.
- 5.27 When a match is in progress on a Society water, floating baits will not be allowed on that water to any member participating in the match or not.
- 5.28 All fish over 1/4lb in weight ( 4" to 6" in length) to be landed using a landing net.
- 5.29 All rigs to have a hook length.
- 5.30 No artificial baits.
- 5.31 No live baiting, dead baiting or lure fishing.
- 5.32 Photographs of catches are allowed however the subject should be placed on an unhooking mat or held no higher than your knee.

## **6 MATCH RULES**

- 6.1 Matches are to be started and finished by audible signal.

- 6.2 Except for the removal of some water for mixing of ground bait, plummeting the depth and the placing of a keep net the surface of the water shall not be broken prior to the starting signal for the match.
- 6.3 All fish to count must be hooked and landed by the competitor from within 2 metres of the allocated peg.
- 6.4 All species of fish, irrespective of size will count towards both weight and points.
- 6.5 No competitor may use more than one rod (with one hook) at any one time during the match.
- 6.6 A competitor's catch shall be void if any rubbish is left at or near the peg.
- 6.7 All match anglers shall vacate their allocated swims within one hour of the completion of the match if asked to do so.
- 6.8 There shall be such Society matches and competitions as the Match Secretary and the Committee may decide.
- 6.9 The Match Secretary shall circulate as soon as possible after the AGM a list of matches for the coming season together with all relevant details.
- 6.10 All matches shall be advertised 7 days before the match.
- 6.11 Separate keep-nets for carp and silver fish, in accordance with Rule 5.24 and Rule 6.13.
- 6.12 The use of floating baits and feed including dry ground bait is not permitted in any matches held on Society fisheries.
- 6.13 Lambourne's net rule, maximum of 3 carp nets plus one silvers net. 50lbs limit per net, anything between 50 & 60lbs gets knocked back to 50lbs. Any net over 60lbs will be disqualified unless all 3 carp nets are up to their limit, in which case you can alternate between the nets trying to keep them even as possible.  
Beauchamp's net rule, all fish less than 11lb in one net and all fish over 11lb in a separate net. 50lbs limit per net, anything

between 50 & 60lbs gets knocked back to 50lbs. Any net over 60lb will be disqualified.

- 6.14 No sponsored angler may participate in club matches other than those who become sponsored whilst being a member.

## **7 FEES as of 1st February 2022**

- 7.1 Full membership £70.  
Aged 65 with over 5 years membership & joined before 2018 £55.  
Aged 65 and joined 2018 onwards £70.  
Junior £5.
- 7.2 Key money £25.
- 7.3 Guest permits, Adults £5, up to 3 Juniors free of charge.
- 7.4 No work parties or fines, covered in fees.
- 7.5 The Committee has the authority invested in them to increase the annual subscriptions by a maximum of 5% per annum at their own discretion without having to obtain member's permission at the AGM.

## **Executive Committee**

### ***Chairman***

Keith Lambird (07582) 832328

### ***Secretary-Membership Secretary***

Mike Salmons (01702) 217407

### ***Assistant Secretary***

Vacant

### ***Treasurer***

Richard Bultitude (07876) 458240

### ***Match Secretary***

Andy Haynes (07801) 229092

## **Committee Members**

Paul Baker

Jim Jobling

Paul Saunders

Email: [fishing@poas.co.uk](mailto:fishing@poas.co.uk)

Website: [www.poas.co.uk](http://www.poas.co.uk)