

WARWICKSHIRE FLY FISHERS CONSTITUTION

1) NAME

The Club shall be named 'The Warwickshire Fly Fishers' hereinafter called the 'Club'

2) OBJECTIVES

- 1) To foster and promote the arts of fly fishing.
- 2) To rent, lease, purchase or otherwise acquire such fishing rights as may be deemed necessary or desirable for the purposes of the Club.
- 3) To purchase, or otherwise acquire suitable fish for stocking waters rented, owned or leased by the Club.
- 4) To protect and enhance the environment.
- 5) To join or associate with such other bodies as may be conducive to the aims of the Club.
- 6) To do all things conducive to the attainment of the above objectives.

3) MEMBERSHIP

Membership of the Club shall be Open to all approved applicants subject to the maximum number agreed at the A.G.M.

- 1) Members shall be either: (a) Full, (b) Intermediate, (c) Junior, (d) Honorary, (e) Catch & Release, (f) Limited Visits. (as defined in Appendix 1)
- 2) The Annual Subscriptions shall be fixed at the A.G.M. of the Club.
- 3) Honorary membership of the Club may be awarded at any General Meeting of the Club by an eighty per cent (80%) vote of those present. Not more than one Honorary membership shall be granted in any one calendar year. Any Honorary Member shall be entitled to fish Club waters on payment of a subscription equal to half of the full subscription for that year (to the nearest pound).
- 4) The membership year shall run from 1st. March to the last day of February in the following year inclusive, or such dates as the Committee shall decide.
- 5) Members subscriptions are to be paid by February 21st. each year; failure to do so forfeits membership and preference is given to waiting list applicants.
- 6) Club insurance covers any Member who takes part in working parties at either Wolvey or Copston. For members outside of the age range 18 to 80 years this insurance does not cover loss of earnings.
- 7) Any Member found to be in breach of Club Rules, or the Code of Conduct will be subject to the following:
 - a. A verbal warning shall be given by the Bailiff or a Committee Member. This will be backed up by a written confirmation from the Secretary.
 - b. A second offence will incur a formal written warning as to the Members future conduct.
 - c. In the event of a further offence membership will be cancelled with no refund of fees paid.
 - d. In extreme cases membership may be summarily cancelled. The Member will have the right to appear before the Committee to explain his/her conduct and would be invited to do so by the Chairman prior to their membership being cancelled.

Interpretation of the Rules shall be the sole prerogative of the Committee

4) **GOVERNMENT**

“Voting Member” is defined as “all Members other than Junior and Social members”. Other Members may attend as observers.

- 1) Meetings of the Club shall be called by the Secretary on instruction from the Chairman or in his/her absence the Secretary to be held in a suitable venue.
- 2) There shall be an A.G.M. of the Club, to be held during March each year, which shall:
 - a) Receive, consider and approve the Annual Reports and Accounts.
 - b) Receive, consider and approve the estimates of expenditure for the forthcoming year.
 - c) Appoint Members to the following posts: - Chairman, Secretary, & Treasurer.
 - d) Appoint a committee of not more than nine Members in addition to the Officers. During the A.G.M, following the annual reports and delivery of actions planned for the year ahead, The Committee and Officers shall stand down but may be available for re-election. The Chairman is to be the first position filled so that the chosen Member can run the rest of the meeting.
 - e) Take such business as has been notified in writing by any voting Member not less than 14 days prior to the meeting.
 - f) The Agenda for the A.G.M. shall be dispatched to reach the Members not less than seven days prior to the date of the meeting. Notification of the date for the meeting shall be confirmed via e-mail to the members one month or 30 days prior to the chosen date.
- 3) The Members present have authority to proceed with the matters detailed on the agenda, provided that not less than four Members entitled to vote are present and at least one Officer of the Club.
- 4) In addition to the A.G.M. the Committee shall compile and send out to all members a half-yearly business report.
- 5) A Special General Meeting shall also be called at the written request of 15% of the Voting Members. Any such written request must be e-mailed to the Chairman.

5) **MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

1. The Committee shall deal with all matters which appear to it as requiring action to meet the objectives of the Club (as in Para. 2).
2. The Committee shall meet as and when necessary to conduct the business of the Club.
3. A quorum for a Committee meeting shall consist of at least one Officer and four Committee Members. Any Voting Member shall have the right, on written (via e-mail) application to the Secretary, to attend a Committee Meeting. Such Members shall attend as observers only and will have no right to take part in any discussion or debate unless invited to do so.

6) **FINANCE**

1. The Committee may raise money for the objectives of the Club by subscriptions, donations and any other legal means for the purpose of extending the operations and efficiency of the Club and its general running.
2. The Committee shall maintain a Banking Account into which all moneys received on behalf of the Club shall be paid. A separate Reserve Fund invested at the Management Committee's discretion may be maintained.
3. The Financial Year of the Club shall run from 1st March until the last day of February (28th/29th) in the following year.
4. At the committee's discretion, the Annual Subscriptions will be set each year for the ensuing year at the March AGM meeting at a level of at least, but not limited to, the higher of either CPI or RPI at the time of the meeting.

7) **ALTERATIONS**

Any proposal to alter the Constitution shall be notified to the Secretary in writing via e-mail and shall be placed on the written agenda of the next General Meeting. The Committee will debate the proposal prior to the General Meeting and advise the Meeting of its' decision. Where constraints of time prevent referral to the Committee prior to the next General Meeting the proposal will stand adjourned without debate to the Committee.

8) **DISSOLUTION**

Any proposal to dissolve the Club shall be treated as a proposal to alter the Constitution except that postal and e-mail votes will be accepted.

In the event of the Meeting voting in favour of dissolution, the assets of the Club, after settlement of all debts and liabilities, shall be divided *pro rata* to the subscription paid between those who are fishing Members of the Club at the time of dissolution unless the Meeting instructs otherwise.

9) **GENERAL**

No organisation or individual may use the name of the Club or its Officers or its publications without the prior written consent of the Club Chairman.

Appendix No. 1 to the Constitution of the Warwickshire Fly Fishers

Members

1) Full Member

Anyone who is over the age of eighteen years (18 years) before the commencement of the Club year and has:

- a. Paid the FULL subscription as agreed at the Annual General Meeting or would have paid the full subscription had they not been allowed a discount (e.g. someone who joined after the start of the season. Such discount will be available to NEW Members only)
- b. Been granted Honorary membership and having paid a subscription of half of the full subscription for the year. (Clause3. Para.3)

2) Intermediate Member

Anyone who has been a Junior Member (*See below*) and has reached the age of sixteen years (16 years) but is in full time education, an apprenticeship or other low paid work (defined as minimum wage).

Intermediate membership is available until the season after reaching the age of eighteen years.

This Membership shall be at the sole discretion of the Committee.

3) Junior Member

Anglers under the age of sixteen years (16 years). Junior anglers on Club waters *MUST* be accompanied by an adult MEMBER whether fishing or not.

4) Honorary Member

A Member who has been of service to the Club and has been elected at a meeting of the Club in accordance with Clause 3. Paragraph 3 of the Constitution.

5) Limited Visits Member

Anglers who have the same rights as Full Members **except** that they are limited to 12 visits in any Club year. They will have the option to purchase further visits in blocks of five (5).

Such Members may Coarse fishing on the Club still waters when allowed may do so without the use of a "ticket".

7) Catch and release Member

Anglers who have opted to return **ALL** fish caught to the water. Diseased/injured fish may be killed and should be recorded on leaving the water. Any fish killed due to being injured or diseased does not need to be paid for.

NOTE - The terms of the leases of the pools at Wolvey and Copston allow the owners, or their guests, two rods to fish Club waters, subject to the Rules of the Club.

WARWICKSHIRE FLY FISHERS

FISHING RULES as amended February 2025

NOTE -The term "STILL WATERS" refers to Snipe, Tern, Mallard and Eider unless otherwise stated.

Fishing is to be conducted in a traditional manner with due respect for other members and their guests. ALL fishing is subject to National Byelaws. Members and guests must hold a current Environment Agency Licence.

1) SEASON

- a) The Club year is: "From 1st. March to the last day of February the following year".
- b) No Member may fish after that date until the new subscription has been paid. *(the combination of the locks will be changed).*
- c) The Club STILL WATERS will remain open for fishing for RAINBOW and BROWN trout throughout the year. OR as advised by the Environment Agency or the Committee.

2) GUESTS

Adult members may invite guests to fish the Clubs waters provided that:

- a) The guest fee(s) must be paid before the date of the visit .
- b) A member may be accompanied by no more than two guests at a time.
- c) All guests are accompanied by the member who invited them.
- d) The adult guest fee is as agreed at the A.G.M.
- e) The junior guest fee is as agreed at the A.G.M.
- f) Guests who join the Club/Society within three months of fishing will be refunded the Guest Fee
- g) All Guests fish Catch and Release only

3) RETURNS

Members and Guests MUST book in on arrival and book out on leaving Club waters.

In addition, guests must complete the catch return on their guest ticket before leaving the water.

Limited Visit Members must use the numbered tickets supplied except when coarse fishing the still waters.

NIL RETURNS ARE REQUIRED. FISH CAUGHT AND RELEASED MUST BE RECORDED.

- a) Posting boxes for returns are situated at all waters. Return sheets are in the boxes.
- b) Members should distinguish between catches from Snipe, Tern, Mallard and Eider.
- c) Members are required to **kill injured/diseased fish** which will not count towards their limit, but should be recorded in the signing in book with the reason for the kill.
- d) NOTE; Catch and Release Members will NOT be charged for such kills
- e) When coarse fishing is permitted Members and Guests MUST book in and out on the separate sheet provided

4) FISHING

- a) Fishing is permitted only by means of a single rod and line with a single fly or team of flies, artificial or nymph only.
- b) A team shall consist of no more than THREE flies.
- c) Flies must be dressed on single hooks to a maximum size 8, no doubles, tandems, trebles are allowed.
- d) All floating flies, including Boobies, are to only be fished on a floating line. The use of floating flies on sinking lines is prohibited.
- e) Imitation "food" is NOT permitted i.e., sweetcorn, etc...
- f) Bite Indicators may be used.
- g) Feeding the fish with pellets / biscuits, etc... is NOT permitted.
- h) Hours of fishing at Wolvey are: One hour before sun-up to one hour after sundown.
- i) Hours of fishing at Copston are from 8am until one hour after sundown.
- j) The following applies when working parties are in progress at either site:
 - I. Where possible the working party will focus their attention on just one lake at a time, leaving members free to fish the other water at that site while the working party is in progress.

- II. If the work required is substantial and needs to be carried out on or around both lakes simultaneously the bailiff's decision on whether to shut down both lakes is final. If this is required, the bailiff responsible shall inform members via e-mail at least one week prior to the work party taking place.

REMEMBER - ALL HOOKS MUST BE BARBLESS OR HAVE THE BARB FLATTENED / FILED WHETHER OR NOT THE INTENTION IS TO KILL FISH

No junior is to fish alone at the Clubs waters; they must be accompanied by an adult Member.

NOTE - A JUNIOR up to twelve (12) years of age who is NOT a Member may fish with an ADULT MEMBER and their catch shall be part of the Member's limit. Only ONE rod may be used when this option is taken.

5) LANDING NETS

Landing nets (knotless) must be used at all times when landing fish.

LANDING NETS SHOULD BE AT LEAST 20 INCHES ACROSS AND HAVE A HANDLE AT LEAST FOUR (4) FEET LONG OR EXTENDABLE TO FOUR FEET.

6) CATCH & RELEASE

The following MUST be returned to the water:

- a) ALL brown trout
- b) ALL Rainbows over 4lbs to allow sport for other Members.
- c) Catch and release IS permitted on all waters subject to:
 - i) Hooks must be BARBLESS or have FLATTENED barbs.
 - ii) Catch and release members must record fish killed and pay for them at a rate agreed by the Committee at the prior A.G.M – (excluding any covered in Rule 3c)
 - iii) Fish to be released in the water, or, if landed to be held in a KNOTLESS NET. *(See also Appendix No.1, "guide lines for catch and release")*
 - iv) When fishing "Catch and Release" there is a limit of 10 (ten) fish per lake INCLUDING FISH KILLED except for the first full week after stocking during which time, the limit will be six (6) from each lake.

7) LIMITS

- a) The bag limit for all Members ON CLUB STILL WATERS is always TWO fish per week.
- b) Junior Members may kill ONE fish.
- c) Adult and Junior Guests fish "Catch and Release" ONLY.

8) GENERAL

- a) Because of its relatively small area not more than 10 rods may fish Mallard pool at any one time.
- b) A week is defined as being from MONDAY TO SUNDAY INCLUSIVE.
- c) NO LITTER OF ANY DESCRIPTION is to be left at any water.
- d) No dogs, *(unless sanctioned by the Committee)*.
- e) No guns *(except for persons authorised and sanctioned by the committee to deter cormorants)*.
- f) No portable radios or playing of music.
- g) Mobile phones should be used sparingly with consideration for other anglers.
- h) Any person fishing or attempting to fish without a permit authorising him or her to do so will be treated as a trespasser and may be prosecuted.
- i) Wading is prohibited on all club waters
- j) All gates to Club waters are to be kept closed and locked at all times.
- k) Any breach of the above rules will render any permit void, and action may be taken as though no permit was held. *(See also, Constitution Clause 3(7))*.
- l) Members enter and remain on the land-owner's property entirely at their own risk, neither the Landowner nor the Club shall be responsible for any injury, loss or damage howsoever caused.

(Members are advised to seek personal insurance).

m) When fishing members MUST carry their current Club membership card and their current E.A. licence. The licence and card must be shown on request to any other member, landowner, tenant, bailiff, Water Authority official Environment Agency Inspector, the Police or any other authorised person.

- Car parking at all waters is restricted to the Official parking areas only.
- When taking visitors, fishing or non-fishing guests, to the water please travel in one vehicle if possible as parking space is limited.
- Members using tools, mechanical or otherwise MUST wear appropriate protective clothing and safety items.
- **No one may operate a chainsaw unless they hold the necessary certificate.**

9) COARSE FISHING

- a) Coarse fishing is permitted ONLY at periods advised by the Committee.
- b) Limited Visits Members do not have to use their tickets for coarse fishing.
- c) A SEPERATE SIGNING-IN SHEET IS PROVIDED FOR MEMBERS.

COARSE FISHING RULES

- 1) The period of coarse fishing will be set by the Committee at their absolute discretion.
- 2) Single barbless hooks only.
- 3) Single rod only.
- 4) No ground baiting.
- 5) Trout may be taken as part of the Members limit.
- 6) All other fish must be returned. No keep nets.
- 7) Surplus bait MUST be removed from the site.

IN ALL OTHER RESPECTS THE CLUB RULES APPLY

Appendix No. 1 to the fishing rules.

Guidelines for Catch and Release

The best interests of the fish must always be paramount

1. Fish are to be held in a landing net – knotless mesh – while being unhooked (*See Rule 5 for minimum size of net*).
2. Fish should be unhooked in the water if practicable. The use of a “Ketchum” type release is recommended
3. All fish should be returned to the water as soon as possible. Fish should be placed, NOT thrown, into the water and if necessary, supported in an upright position whilst they recover.
4. If, exceptionally, fish are handled it should be with wet hands.
5. When fish are shoaling anglers should move on after a reasonable time to allow sport for other anglers (*Three of four fish from one spot is considered reasonable*).

Appendix No. 2 to the fishing rules.

FISHING SAFETY AND RISK ASSESSMENT STATEMENT

This is a general document applicable to all fishing

It is the duty of the Club to familiarise its Members with the principles of safety and risk assessment. Members must be aware of the risks involved in angling. All Members should make themselves aware of the risks they face in the surroundings they find themselves and carry out their own risk assessment which generally amounts to common sense and take appropriate action to ensure their own safety and that of others.

SOME GENERAL RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH ANGLING

Paths Slips, trips and falls can be dangerous so only use obvious paths along the river or beside still water.

Banks Beware of undercut banks and take particular care when banks are wet and slippery.

Power lines Beware of walking or fishing under power lines. Electricity can arc over considerable distances. You are ideally earthed in water or on a damp bank to conduct electricity. Remember that graphite/carbon is an excellent conductor of electricity.

Lightning You are ideally earthed in water or damp bank conditions and if using a graphite/carbon rod you have a good lightning conductor. Take cover well away from trees – a car is a good refuge.

Casting Always show consideration for other users of the waterside by avoiding anyone with your backcast. Remember that a heavy lure acts like a guided missile if pulled to release it when snagged.

Trees Fishing under trees can be dangerous in windy conditions. Beware of falling branches.

Animals Do note that bulls are dangerous, as are cows, particularly with calves. Approach all animals with caution or avoid them completely.

Diseases Wile disease is transmitted in rat and cow urine. Never put wet line or any items of tackle that have been in the water in your mouth. Wash your hands or use an anti-septic wipe before eating or smoking.

Wear waterproof plasters on any cuts or abrasions. E-coli may be present in some animal droppings - take the same precautions. There is also a risk in some waters from treated sewage effluent.

(WEILS DISEASE GIVES FLU LIKE SYMPTOMS AND THE POSSIBILITY OF THE CONDITION SHOULD BE POINTED OUT WHEN VISITING A DOCTOR)

