

THE DELL ANGLING SOCIETY

CONSTITUTION

JULY 2021

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The Dell Angling Society

Constitution

1. Title:

1.1. The club shall be called “**The Dell Angling Society**”, hereafter referred to as “the Society” and will be open for membership to all anglers in the local area, subject to the limitations set out in Section 10: Membership:10.1.

2. Objectives:

2.1 The Society will endeavour to provide angling facilities for its members and guests, whilst conserving its fish stock, its flora and fauna, nurture an understanding and appreciation of the environment within the membership and cooperate with the riparian owner, the local authority and the Environment Agency.

3. Society Officials and Officers: The Officials and Officers of the Society hereafter referred to as “the Committee”:

Position	Responsibilities
Chairperson	Responsible for the management of the committee and chairing Society meetings. In the event of a tied vote, the Chairperson will hold the casting vote. Signatory to the Society’s bank account.
Vice Chairman	To assist the Chairperson and cover their duties as required. Signatory to the Society’s bank account.
General Secretary	Responsible for the general running of the Society including the recording of minutes, the delegation of duties, maintaining and preparation of the mailshots and newsletters. Liaison with the Defence Estate Organisation concerning the Society’s lease of the fishery. Signatory to the Society’s bank account.

Vice General Secretary	To assist the General Secretary and cover their duties as required.
Treasurer	Responsible for all of the Societies finances, the maintenance and recording of accurate accounts, preparation of balance sheets, forecasts, and ensuring that all outgoing liabilities are met. Signatory to the Society's bank account.
Membership Secretary	Responsible for producing and maintaining the list of members, the organisation of renewals and new memberships, the distribution of annual membership cards, and maintaining the attendance register at society meetings. Signatory to the Society's bank account.
Fisheries Manager	Responsible for liaison with the appropriate water authorities concerning the health of the fish and water quality at the fishery, the organisation of working parties, and liaison with the Station Commander and their nominated officers
Head Bailiff	Responsible for membership card inspection and compliance with all Society fishery rules by members and guests. To appoint Society bailiffs and to organise their activities accordingly. To liaise with the Fishery Manager as required.
Society Captain	Responsible for the booking of fisheries for the forthcoming season, the preparation of associated costs, the organisation and running of competitions
Vice Society Captain	To assist the Society Captain and cover their duties as required.

3.1. Committee members will be elected at the Annual General Meeting by the members of the Society holding voting rights present, who must produce a valid club membership card at the Annual General Meeting to qualify to vote.

3.2 In extenuating circumstances, and at the discretion of the Committee, the election of officers may be by way of a postal vote.

3.3. Nominations for Committee positions must be submitted in writing and delivered by hand or post, duly proposed and seconded by members holding voting rights no later than 2 (two) months before the Annual General Meeting.

3.4. If no nominations are received for a position and if the incumbent Committee member is prepared to serve a further term then that member automatically retains the position without a vote from the floor being required.

3.5. If no nominations are received for a position and if the incumbent Committee member is not prepared to serve a further term, the Committee has the authority to co-opt a Society member who is prepared to serve, to that position.

3.6. No Committee member will hold more than 1 (one) post concurrently. However, at the end of their tenure of office, an outgoing Committee member may seek election to another Society position.

3.7. Committee members serving for 1 (one) or more years will be granted Society membership free of charge for as long as they continue to serve.

3.8. Committee members having served 3 (three) years or more in a post will receive a further 1 (one) year free Society membership upon standing down at the end of their term, in appreciation for services rendered.

3.9. At the discretion of the serving Committee members, any Committee member resigning their position will not be permitted to stand for election to any Committee position for 5 (five) years.

3.10. Committee members failing to attend 3 (three) consecutive Committee Meetings will, at the discretion of the serving Committee members, be deemed to have resigned their position.

3.11. Outgoing Committee members leaving the Society, or remaining as a member, must relinquish all Society property, including data, within 7 (seven) days of the end of their term or resignation. Failure will invoke the Disciplinary Procedure with subsequent loss of membership. In exceptional circumstances, and at the discretion of the Committee, legal action may be taken against individuals withholding Society property.

3.12. The following Committee members will not hold concurrent office in any other Angling Society or Fishing Club:

Chairperson
Treasurer
General Secretary
Membership Secretary

3.13. The Committee has the authority to co-opt Society members to act as stewards, scales men, and for such other non-elected duties that may arise from time to time.

3.14. Functions of the Committee:

3.14.1. To manage the affairs of the Society on behalf of the members.

3.14.2. To make decisions based on a simple majority vote: in the case of equal votes, the Chairperson shall be entitled to a casting vote.

3.14.3. The Committee is authorised to close any portion of the fishery for fishing competitions, work parties, maintenance or any other reason deemed necessary.

3.14.4. The Committee is authorised to amend, delete or introduce Fishery Bye Laws at any time to ensure the wellbeing of the fishery, its fish stock, its flora and fauna, and its members.

4. Third Party Indemnity:

4.1. The Society will protect itself by purchasing suitable insurance cover against injury, loss, or damage arising out of its actions, including the actions of all its Officers and Officials, members, guests, and volunteers.

4.2. Such insurance must indemnify the Secretary of State for Defence and his/her agents or servants and/or the MOD and/or The Crown against injury, loss or damage.

5. Finance:

5.1. The Society Treasurer will be responsible for the finances of the Society.

5.2. All Society monies will be banked in an account held in the name of the Society.

5.3. The financial year of the Society will end on the last day of February.

5.4. An audited statement of annual accounts will be presented by the Treasurer at the Annual General Meeting.

5.5. The Society will keep accurate financial accounts through the Treasurer, which shall be available for reasonable inspection by the Society members.

5.6. The Society will maintain current bank and separate on line electronic accounts and the following officers shall be authorised signatories for Society payments: two (2) from the following officers: Chairperson, Vice Chairman, Treasurer, General Secretary or Membership Secretary for bank related payments, i.e. cheques, and any 1 (one) for on line transactions.

5.7. A quorum of 5 (five) committee members is required for fiscal purposes, i.e. Treasurer or Chairperson and 4 (four) other officers.

6. Annual General Meeting (AGM):

6.1. The Annual General Meeting of the Society shall not be held later than the end of April each year. Members will be given 28 (twenty eight) days notice of the Annual General Meeting by posting a notice on the club website:

<https://www.dellangling.co.uk>

6.2. Members must advise the General Secretary, in writing, of any business to be moved at the Annual General Meeting by the January Committee Meeting. Any proposals forwarded for consideration at the Annual General Meeting will only be accepted and acted upon if the proposer is present at the meeting.

6.3. The business of the Annual General Meeting shall be:

6.3.1. To confirm the minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting and any Special General Meetings to be accurate and a fair record of the proceedings.

6.3.2. To receive and approve, or otherwise, the audited accounts for the previous year from the Treasurer.

6.3.3. To elect the managing committee of the Society, as required. See Section 3: Society Officials and Officers.

6.3.4. To transact such business as proposed and seconded by members holding voting rights and included in the agenda.

6.3.5. At the Annual General Meeting, the chair will be taken by the Chairperson or Vice Chairperson, or in their absence, by a nominated member of the Society attending the meeting.

6.3.6. A quorum required for an Annual General Meeting shall be 15 (twenty) Society members holding voting rights, of which a minimum of 5 (five) must be committee members.

6.3.7. All voting to be conducted by the showing of a current membership card, Members attending without their membership card will not be eligible to vote.

6.3.8. Society members holding voting rights shall be entitled to 1 (one) vote per item on the agenda at the Annual General Meeting.

6.3.9. Decisions made at the Annual General Meeting shall be by majority vote, cast by those eligible members attending the meeting.

7. Special General Meetings:

7.1. Special General Meetings may be convened by the Committee on receipt by the General Secretary of a request, proposed in writing, and seconded by not less than 30 (thirty) Society members holding voting rights. At least 21 (twenty one) days notice of the Special General Meeting will be given and posted on the club website:

<https://www.dellangling.co.uk>

7.2. Only specific matters affecting the management of the Society may be discussed at the Special General Meeting, as defined by the proposal(s) received requesting the meeting and subsequently included in the published agenda.

7.3. Personal grievances are outside the scope of the Special General Meeting and are catered for in the Disciplinary Procedure Section.

7.4. At the Special General Meeting the floor will not be open to Any Other Business.

7.5. At the Special General Meeting, the chair will be taken by the Chairperson or Vice Chairperson, or in their absence, a nominated member of the Society attending the meeting.

7.6. A quorum required for a Special General Meeting shall be 20 (twenty) Society members holding voting rights, of which a minimum of 5 (five) must be committee members.

7.7. Society members holding voting rights shall be entitled to 1 (one) vote per item on the agenda at the Special General Meeting.

7.8. All voting to be conducted by the showing of a current membership card. Members attending without their membership card will not be eligible to vote.

7.9. Decisions made at the Special General Meeting shall require at least a 2/3rds (two-thirds) majority of the votes cast by those members holding voting rights and attending the meeting.

8. Society Committee Meetings:

8.1. The affairs of the club will be managed by the Committee comprising of the elected officers of the Society.

8.2. The Committee will meet not less than 10 (ten) times per year. Meetings will be held during the last week of each month.

8.3. Discussions and subsequent minutes recorded at the Society Committee Meetings will be held in the strictest confidence. At the closure of the meeting, the Committee will decide what information will be communicated to the membership.

9. General Members' Meetings:

9.1. The Society will hold General Members' Meetings in the first week of each month. Alternative arrangements will be posted on the website in the event of a date or venue change or if the meeting should fall on a Bank Holiday. At such meetings, the Committee will report on activities since the last General Members' Meeting.

9.2. Society members are required to attend 3 (three) General Members' Meetings during the year.

9.3. The Membership Secretary will register members' attendance at the General Members' Meeting.

9.4. The requirement to attend General Members' Meetings does not apply to senior, youth, junior, non fishing (ID card holders), partners of full members (joint members), or those registered as disabled. However, all are welcome to attend.

9.5. A quorum required for a General Members' Meeting shall be 15 (twenty) Society members holding voting rights, of which a minimum of 5 (five) must be committee members.

9.6. All voting to be conducted by the showing of a current membership card. Members attending without their membership cards will not be eligible to vote.

10. Membership:

10.1. Membership of the club shall be open to any person paying the relevant subscription and/or joining fee as determined at the Annual General Meeting and subject to the limitation of a maximum 300 (three hundred) members, excluding Garrison members, ID Cardholders, and day ticket holders.

10.2. Categories of Membership:

Category	Criteria
Full	An adult member. Has voting rights. Can fish overnight. Can purchase Day Tickets. Required to attend three (3) Society meetings per year. Required to attend 1 work party per year.
Senior Citizen	An adult member over the age of 65. Has voting rights. Can fish overnight. Can purchase Day Tickets Not required to attend meetings or work parties.
Joint	A spouse or partner of a full club member. Has voting rights. Can fish overnight. Can purchase Day Tickets. Not required to attend meetings or work parties.
Youth	A Society member aged 16 to 17 with the ability to fish unaccompanied during daylight hours, after verification by their proposer. Membership application must be counter signed by a parent or guardian. No voting rights. Cannot purchase Day Tickets. Can fish overnight if accompanied by a full or senior member. Not required to attend meetings or work parties. .

<p>Junior</p>	<p>A Society member aged 7 to 15 who must be associated with a full or senior member. Must be accompanied by a full or senior member when attending the fishery. Not required to attend meetings or work parties, Issued with I.D. and Membership cards. No voting rights. Cannot fish overnight. Cannot purchase Day Tickets.</p>
<p>Non Fishing I.D. Card Holder</p>	<p>A non-member who has been permitted by the Membership Secretary to visit the fishery, usually to support a disabled member. No voting rights. Cannot purchase Day Tickets. Can attend the fishery overnight. Issued with an I.D. card free of charge.</p>
<p>Honorary Life Member</p>	<p>An adult member who has been awarded Honorary Life Membership in recognition for services to the Society. Has voting rights. Can fish overnight. Can purchase Day Tickets Not required to attend meetings or work parties</p>
<p>Disabled</p>	<p>A Society member who is registered as disabled under the Equality Act 2010. An application must be made to the Membership Secretary who will confer validity or otherwise. Has voting rights. Can fish overnight. Can purchase Day Tickets. Not required to attend meetings or work parties,</p>
<p>Woolwich Garrison Personnel</p>	<p>Temporary membership for a defined period at a pro-rata subscription rate. Uses Forces I.D. card instead of a Society I.D. card. Issued with a Society Membership Card defining agreed period of membership and Rule Book. No voting rights. Can fish overnight.</p>

Day Ticket member	A paying guest/visitor who is deemed a temporary member of the Society (and therefore bound by the Society Rules and Regulations) who must be accompanied by a full or senior member on the date shown on the day ticket. No voting rights. Cannot fish overnight. Not required to attend meetings or work parties, Not issued with a Rule Book or I.D. Card.
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10.2.1. Society members holding voting rights are shown in the preceding table.

10.3. Membership: Renewals and New Members:

10.3.1. Membership will run from the 1st July to the 30th June the following year.

10.3.2. Existing members will be required to submit an annual Application Form, including fees, no later than the 30th June. Members will be deemed to have resigned if their application is received after this date, and, at the discretion of the Committee, the relevant member may lose their membership. If requested, the member's name will subsequently be placed on the waiting list.

10.3.3. Renewal of Membership will be granted only after 3 (three) General Members' Meetings and 1 (one) Work Party have been attended during the year. The Membership Secretary will register attendance and any member not attending the requisite amount of meetings or failing to attend a Work Party, will, at the discretion of the Committee, be fined per activity at rates agreed at the Annual General Meeting.

10.3.4. Membership and joining fees shall be determined by the Committee annually and presented at the Annual General Meeting, based on monies held in reserve, forecast expenditure, and the total membership for the current year.

10.3.5. Fees are payable before renewing membership, joining, or rejoining the Society. Should a member owe money to the Society, they will not, but at the discretion of the Committee, be granted renewed membership or allowed to rejoin until that money is repaid.

10.3.6. Prospective new members must submit an application form sponsored, signed, and seconded by 2 (two) current members holding voting rights together with 2 (two) passport size photographs. Applications for membership in the current year must be received by the 1st September unless otherwise agreed by the Membership Secretary. Prospective new members may be vetted by the Committee for suitability before acceptance.

10.3.7. Society members will be required to produce a current, statutory Environment Agency Rod License when applying for or renewing membership.

10.3.8. At the Committee's discretion, Society members having made a significant contribution to the overall wellbeing of the Society, may be awarded Honorary Life Membership. Such membership shall entitle the holder to use the Society's facilities at no charge to themselves.

10.3.9. Upon acceptance of membership the individual must accept the Society's rules, regulations, and policies and adhere to them at all times.

10.4. Membership cards, fishery keys, and trophies:

10.4.1. Such items will remain the exclusive property of the Society and must be returned to the General Secretary in the event of a member being expelled, suspended, or leaving the Society for any other reason. In exceptional circumstances, and at the discretion of the Committee, legal action may be taken against individuals withholding Society property.

10.5. Disciplinary Procedure:

10.5.1. Society members whose conduct is inappropriate or who decline to abide by the Society's rules, regulations, policies, and instructions may be suspended or expelled by the resolution of the Committee. In such instances, entrance fees and subscriptions will be forfeited.

The procedure is such:

10.5.2. A verbal warning may be given on the spot by a Committee member or Bailiff for infringements of the Society's rules, regulations, policies, or instructions. Such warnings, once ratified by the Committee, will be confirmed in writing to the offending member within 14 (fourteen) days of the offence.

10.5.3. Subsequent infringements will result in the offending member receiving a further written warning. Such warnings, once ratified by the Committee, will be confirmed in writing to the offending member within 14 (fourteen) days of the offence.

10.5.4. Withdrawal or suspension of membership may result following a third infringement. Such actions, once ratified by the Committee, will be confirmed in writing to the offending member within 14 (fourteen) days of the offence.

10.5.5. Withdrawal of membership will occur following an accumulation of infringements or an infringement deemed by the Committee to be of gross misconduct. Such an action, once ratified by the Committee, will be confirmed in writing to the offending member within 14 (fourteen) days of the offence.

10.5.6. Any person who is expelled from the Society will not be permitted to apply for re-admission to the Society for a minimum period of 2 (two) years. In such cases, the applicant will be required to submit an application form duly proposed and seconded by members holding voting rights and pay a full joining fee in addition to the associated year's membership fee. Re-admission will be at the discretion of the Committee.

10.5.7. Members will have the right to appeal in person to the Committee concerning any decision affecting their membership, provided that such notice of appeal is submitted to the General Secretary, in writing, within 14 (fourteen) days of notification of the suspension or expulsion.

11. Alterations to the Constitution:

11.1. Any proposed alterations to the Society constitution may only be considered at the Annual General Meeting or a Special General Meeting, convened with the required written notice of the proposal. Any alteration or amendment must be proposed and seconded by members holding voting rights, such alterations shall be passed if supported by not less than 2/3rds (two-thirds) of those members holding voting rights present at the meeting, assuming that a quorum has been achieved.

12. Dissolution:

12.1. If at any General meeting of the club, a resolution be passed calling for the dissolution of the Society, the General Secretary shall immediately convene a Special General Meeting of the Society to be held not less than 1 (one) month thereafter to discuss and vote on the resolution.

12.2. If at that Special General Meeting, the resolution is carried by at least 2/3rds (two-thirds) of members holding voting rights present at the meeting, the Society 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 Society.

12.3. After discharging all debts and liabilities of the Society, the remaining assets will not be paid or distributed amongst the membership of the Society, but shall be given or transferred to a voluntary, charitable organisation having objectives similar to those of the Society, at the decision of the Committee.

13. Adoption of the Constitution:

13.1. The club and its property will be administered and managed in accordance with the provisions in this constitution. The Society hereby adopts and accepts this constitution as a current operating guide regulating the actions of its members.

SIGNED:

DATE:

NAME:

POSITION: Chairman

SIGNED:

DATE:

NAME:

POSITION: General Secretary

Addendums, Additions and Amendments

Date	Section	Addendum, additions and amendments
14/04/26	1.1	Wording changed from 'all persons in the local area' to 'all anglers in the local area'
14/04/26	6.3.6	The quorum required for an Annual General Meeting reduced from 20 (twenty) to 15 (fifteen) Society members holding voting rights, of which a minimum of 5 (five) must be committee members.
14/04/26	9.5	The quorum required for a General Members' Meeting reduced from 20 (twenty) to 15 (fifteen) Society members holding voting rights, of which a minimum of 5 (five) must be committee members.