

## The Constitution

Where applicable, in the following Constitution and By-laws of the Club, wording importing the masculine shall be taken to include the feminine, similarly, wording importing the singular shall be taken to include the plural and vice-versa.

### 1. Name of The Club

The name of the Club shall be Test Valley Angling Club and Southampton Piscatorial Society.

### 2. Objects of The Club

The objects of the Club shall be to obtain and manage waters for it's members to fish, and to promote the interests of freshwater angling generally.

The Club will not be dissolved, if after calling a General Meeting, there are two or more members wishing to continue the business and objectives of the Club.

### 3. Members

- a) The Committee shall determine the Maximum number of members permitted in the Club at any one time.
- b) Application for membership of the Club shall not be passed or accepted unless the application form is completed fully and correctly. Any entry upon the form subsequently found to be untrue or inaccurate shall automatically nullify the form, and immediately invoke cancellation of any membership already granted. The applicant, or member, shall then have to re-apply.
- c) The Committee reserve the right to refuse admission of an applicant without giving a reason for that refusal.

### 4. Classes of Membership

*The class of membership is conditional on the applicant's age on the 1st of April of the current year.*

An Adult is considered to be any person reaching their sixteenth birthday on or before the 1st of April in any year and therefore liable to pay the appropriate fees and subscriptions.

Any Adult Member aged 16 or 17 years must obtain their parent/guardian signature before fishing on club waters unaccompanied and is not permitted to take juniors or juveniles fishing on club waters at any time.

Only Full Adult, Honorary, Full OAP, Full disabled and Life members are allowed to vote at Club meetings.

All members are entitled to attend club meetings.

#### a) Full Adult Members:

All members 16 years or over living within a thirty-mile radius of Romsey Town Hall, Romsey, Hampshire.

Full Adult Members over 18 may add their partner and any children under 16 years of age to their application form. The partner and children are entitled to fish but must be accompanied at all times by the Full Adult Member. This is a concession, partner/children of the Full Adult Member have no rights to vote at General Meeting, or to stand, or to hold any office of the Club.

#### b) Associate Adult Members:

All members 16 years or over living outside a thirty-mile radius of Romsey Town Hall, Romsey Hants. Associate members shall not be permitted to vote at general meetings of the Club.

Associate Adult Members over 18 may add their partner and any children under 16 years of age to their application form. The partner and children are entitled to fish but must be accompanied at all times by the Associate Adult Member.

#### c) Junior Members:

All members falling within the age range 13 to 15 years inclusive.

Any person reaching their 13th birthday on or before the 1st of April in the year, shall be considered

to come under the junior classification and therefore liable to pay the appropriate fees and subscriptions.

Juniors must be accompanied by an Adult or Non-fishing Member of 18 years of age or over when night fishing.

**d) Juvenile Members:**

All members falling within the age range 12 years and under on the 1st of April. Juvenile members must be accompanied by an Adult member of 18 years of age or over at all times whilst on club property or fishing club waters. When night fishing Juveniles must be accompanied by their parent or guardian who must be an Adult or Non-fishing Member over the age of 18.

Juveniles will only be admitted to the membership of the club with the counter signature of one of the parents or guardians.

**e) Honorary Membership:**

Elected as such by the Committee and shall enjoy all those rights and privileges accorded to Full Members without subscription. These shall be reviewed annually by the Committee.

**f) Non-fishing Membership:**

Open to those adults who wish to belong to the Club but who do not wish to fish. Such members shall not be entitled to vote at General Meetings of the Club.

**g) Full OAP members:**

A member who is 65 or more years of age living within a thirty-mile radius of Romsey Town Hall, Romsey Hants.

OAP members must show proof of reaching 65 years of age on or before the 1st of April in the current membership year when joining the club. Full OAP membership carries the same entitlements as a Full Adult Membership, including the right to vote at General Meetings.

**h) Associate OAP Members:**

A member who is 65 or more years of age living outside a thirty-mile radius of Romsey Town Hall, Romsey Hants.

OAP members must show proof of reaching 65 years of age on or before the 1st of April in the current membership year when joining the club. Associate OAP membership carries the same restrictions as an Associate Adult membership, including no voting right at General Meetings.

**i) Full Disabled Members:**

Disabled members living within a thirty-mile radius of Romsey Town Hall, Romsey Hants. must show Disability Living Allowance Book or Blue Badge when joining the club. Disabled membership carries the same entitlements as a Full Adult Membership including the right to vote at General Meetings.

**j) Associate Disabled Members:**

Disabled members living outside a thirty-mile radius of Romsey Town Hall, Romsey Hants. must show Disability Living Allowance Book or Blue Badge when joining the club. Disabled membership carries the same restrictions as an Associate Adult Membership, including no voting right at General Meetings.

**k) Life Membership:**

Life Membership will be considered by the committee after a minimum of 14 years of outstanding service to the Club.

**l) Night Ticket:**

This facility is available to all members. This must be selected and paid for at the time of application for Membership.

Where night fishing is permitted, a Night Fishing Ticket is required to fish on those Lakes between Dusk and Dawn.

Juniors must be accompanied by a member over 18 years of age when night fishing and Juveniles must be accompanied by their Parent or Guardian who must be a member over the age of 18 when

night fishing.

#### **m) 3<sup>rd</sup> Rod**

A third rod is allowed on some venues between 1<sup>st</sup> November to the last day of February. For details see By-Laws 30.

### **5. Subscriptions and Entrance Fees**

- a) New Members shall pay an entrance fee upon joining the club, along with an annual subscription. Thereafter, they shall only pay an annual subscription.
- b) Entrance fees and the annual subscription shall be such sums as determined solely by the Committee.
- c) Subscriptions shall not be paid before the 1st April in each year but shall become due on that date. Members failing to renew membership by the 30th of April of the same year shall cease to be members, such persons failing to re-join by 31st of March the following year will have to apply for membership and pay the entrance fees as In Rule 5(a) as well as being liable to join the membership waiting list.
- d) Cheques are no longer accepted as payment for Membership.
- e) All members shall notify the Membership Secretary/Secretary or the Treasurer of any change of address, car registration or email address via our Email address TVACBUS@GMAIL.COM.
- f) There will be an administration charge for the replacement of lost membership warrants which will be decided annually by the Committee.

### **6. Resignation**

Any Member may resign his membership of the Club at any time by notice in writing to the Secretary. In any such case, the Club shall not be liable for the refund of any fees or subscriptions paid.

### **7. Discipline**

- a) The Committee shall have the right to suspend, expel or otherwise reprimand any member who shall be considered to be in breach of Club rules or whose conduct could be construed as injurious to the reputation or well-being of the Club or who could be considered to have acted in an unsportsmanlike manner.
- b) No member shall be disciplined under Rule 7(a) without his first being summoned in writing on a stated charge (at least seven days beforehand), in order that he shall have a full opportunity to state his case in his defence.
- c) The Committees power to discipline a member will be by a simple majority of those present at a properly convened Committee meeting. Any member so disciplined shall have the right of appeal.
- d) Any member suspended or expelled from the Club shall not be entitled to any refund of any fees or subscriptions paid. In the case of expulsion, the former member shall not be permitted to re-join the Club without first applying to the Secretary in writing for permission to do so. The Secretary will notify the Committee decision to him. Any person who has been suspended or expelled from the Club shall not under any circumstances enter upon any Club facility.

### **8. Officers of The Club**

#### **a) Honorary President & Vice President:**

1. President: The Committee shall elect a President of the Club who shall serve until death or resignation or until removed from office by the resolution of the Committee.
2. Vice Presidents: The Committee shall, from time to time, elect Vice Presidents of the Club the terms of office being as those of the office of president. This position shall be used by the Committee to especially honour those that the Committee feels have served the Club and it's aims exceptionally well. The number of Vice-Presidents the Club shall have at any one time shall be at the discretion of the Committee.

#### **b) The Committee:**

The Committee shall consist of the following Officers of the Club: Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Membership Secretary, Head Bailiff, Match Secretary, Maintenance Officer, Special Projects

Officer, IT Officer, Fisheries Officer.

All shall be elected from the membership at an AGM and shall serve for a term of two years. All positions shall be Honorary. The positions of Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and Membership Secretary shall be Ex Officio. The Term ex-officio shall be taken to refer to all those persons having served a full term of office on the Committee. Upon completion of such a term of office, that person shall be forever regarded as ex-officio and therefore eligible to stand for election to an ex-officio position at any time, unless that person has at any time previously been removed from office under Rule 7 or Rule 11(iv).

**c) Trustees:**

The committee shall elect three Trustees, who shall serve until death or resignation or until removed from office by resolution of the Committee. Any vacancy occurring shall be filled by appointment by the Committee during any period after the vacancy occurs. Before it is filled, the remaining Trustees shall continue to act as such, provided there are at least two. The property of the Club, excepting cash and chattels, shall be vested in the Trustees, to be dealt with by them as the Committee shall from time to time, by resolution direct. The Club shall indemnify the Trustees for any actions brought against the Club in respect of the properties held in their names. The Committee shall have the power to authorise the Club's Trustees to enter into capital loan agreements, or mortgage agreements, on its behalf in order to facilitate the purchase of land, riverbeds, lakes or equipment to the Club's benefit. The Committee shall have the authority to permit the Club's Trustees to use the Club's existing assets or any assets being purchased, as collateral if necessary. In all such cases, the Club shall indemnify the Trustees against any personal loss.

**d) Bailiffs:**

The Club shall endeavour to employ a team of voluntary Bailiffs, who shall work under the direction of the Head Bailiff. They shall be responsible for the enforcement of the Club's rules and by-laws. The Head Bailiff shall have served a minimum of two years concurrent service as a bailiff of TVAC. In the event of there being no eligible nominee the Committee shall exercise its discretion.

**e) Auditors and Club Accounts:**

Auditors for the Club's accounts shall be elected at an AGM following the same procedures as those for the election of Committee Officers. The Auditors shall serve for a term of two years. The Club's accounts shall close on the 31st of December each year.

**f) Solicitors:**

Solicitors to act on behalf of the Club shall be appointed by the Committee.

**g) Conflict of Interest:**

The Committee shall have the power to remove from office any Club Official that it considers to have a conflict of interest. Subject to a vote of 2/3rds in favour by the full committee. A Committee member shall not hold office in any other freshwater Angling Club, Fishing Club or Fishing Syndicate.

**9. Legal Proceedings**

The Committee shall have the power to take and defend legal actions in order to further the objects of the Club. Any expenditure of Club funds for such purposes shall be shown as such in the Club accounts and shall be presented to the next occurring AGM following the termination of any such litigation for ratification.

**10. Management & Interpretation**

The Management of the Club shall be vested solely and entirely in the Committee. The Committee shall be the sole authority for the interpretation of the Club Rules and By-laws and the decision of the Committee on any question of the interpretation shall be final and binding upon the membership.

## **11. Meetings**

### **a) Committee Meetings**

- i) The Committee shall meet, when necessary, but not less than monthly, to conduct the business of the club. A quorum at any Committee meeting shall be five, and no business of the Club shall be decided upon unless a quorum is present. A quorum shall be deemed to include the Chairman of such a meeting. Minutes shall be taken at every Committee meeting, a copy of those minutes to be signed by the Chairman as a true record of the meeting and kept in a safe place by the Honorary Chairman as a record of the business of the Club.
- ii) The Committee shall have the power to co-opt members to fill any vacancy that may arise on the Committee or for other special purposes. Such co-opted members shall have no power to vote at Committee Meetings, though in the case of members co-opted to fill Committee vacancies, they shall have the right to put themselves forward for election to those positions proper at the next occurring AGM.
- iii) At Committee meetings the Hon. Chairman shall take the Chair, or if he is not present, a Committee member elected from those Committee members present. The Chair shall hold only a casting vote, to be used in the event of a proposition receiving an equal number of votes both for and against. The Chair shall hold the sole authority of decision on any question of proceedings at a Committee meeting.
- iv) Any Committee member missing three consecutive Committee meetings shall forfeit his seat unless he can show just cause to the satisfaction of the committee.

### **b) Annual General Meetings (AGM)**

An AGM shall be held in each and every year, not later than the 31st March, to consider the following: - The Audited balance sheet: The appointment of Committee officers, Auditors and any resolution put forward by the members under Constitution Rule 12 or by the Committee.

### **c) Extraordinary General Meetings**

An Extraordinary general meeting may be called at any time that the Committee might determine, either for their own reasons or upon receipt of a letter duly signed by at least fifty current Full (Adult, OAP, Disabled) Members in their own hand calling for such a meeting and stating the reasons why. Any member signing such a letter, shall write his full name and Membership warrant number alongside his signature in a legible manner, this being for the purposes of verification, failure to do so rendering the letter invalid. Upon receipt of such a letter, the Committee shall call an extraordinary meeting within twenty-eight days where possible.

## **12. Notice & Proceedings at General Meetings**

- a) Notice of the time, date and location of every general meeting, including notice of the closing date for the submission of resolutions, shall be sent to each member at his last known address at least ten days before the date of that meeting.
- b) Notice of any resolutions to be moved at a general meeting, unless proposed by the Committee, shall be submitted to the Hon. Chairman before the 31st of December preceding the AGM and shall be signed by the member proposing and the member seconding. Any such resolution unless withdrawn by the proposer, shall be included in the business of the meeting.
- c) At any general meeting, thirty-five members shall be a quorum. No business of the Club shall be decided upon unless a quorum is present.
- d) At any general meeting, the Hon. Chairman or in the case of his absence, a member elected from those present shall take the chair. The Chair shall carry only a casting vote, to be used in the event of a proposition receiving an equal number of votes both for and against. The Chair shall hold the sole authority of decision on any question of procedure at a general meeting.
- e) Only Full (Adult, AOP, Disabled) Members shall be entitled to vote at a general meeting, and shall carry with them their current membership warrant to produce for inspection prior to being given a voting card. Though Partners and Children, Associate, Junior and Juvenile members shall

have no vote at general meetings, they shall be made welcome and shall be entitled to put forward their own views and propositions.

- f) Except as otherwise provided for elsewhere in the Rules, a simple majority vote of those present and voting shall carry any resolution or proposition, including the amending and repealing of the rules and by-laws of the Club.
- g) The Chair may, if he so decides, include in the business of the meeting any motion raised under the heading Any Other Business, provided that he feels the motion to be worthy of discussion. The Chair's decision on any such matter shall be final and binding upon those present.
- h) Balance sheets and copies of previous year's AGM minutes must be made available for member's perusal upon request at least seven days prior to AGM.

### **13. Access to Club Facilities**

No person shall be entitled to enter Club property or fish Club waters until they have been accepted as a bona-fide member of the Club and have paid all those relevant fees and subscriptions due. All members must have a current membership warrant in their possession which they must carry with them at all times whilst on club property or fishing club waters and exchange waters. Entrance to General meetings will require the production of the membership warrant. Any member using Club facilities or on Club property, on being approached by a Club Bailiff showing his Bailiffs Warrant, must produce his own membership warrant and Environment Agency / Rod Licence / Permit for that Bailiffs inspection. He must also comply with any reasonable request that bailiff might make. Failure to comply with this rule shall leave that member open to disciplinary action.

### **14. Guest Tickets**

Are no longer available.

### **15. Exchange/Day Ticket Waters**

Where possible, or where expedient, the Committee shall endeavour to arrange exchange/day ticket facilities with other clubs and organisations in the area, in order that members might fish other waters. Details of which clubs and waters we have exchange arrangements with can be found at our website [WWW.TVACSPSANGLING.COM](http://WWW.TVACSPSANGLING.COM)

Upon collection of the books, you are advised to read their rules as these will be binding on you. Exchange books (tickets) permit only the holder to be present on specified waters of other clubs. They shall be available from the membership secretary, failure to return Exchange/Day Tickets by 09.00 hours the following morning will incur a penalty to the cost of the Exchange/Day Ticket, per day except IOW books which may be booked out longer by arrangement with the Membership Secretary. Lost tickets will incur a cost to the Club of a replacement and therefore no further tickets will be issued to that member until the penalty is paid.

### **16. Specimen Fish**

The Club shall award trophies annually to the captors of the best-known specimen of each species of freshwater fish from Club and non-owned/leased waters each year.

The fish must be witnessed by at least two other members of the Club (excepting in certain cases at the sole discretion of the Committee) and within fourteen days of the capture report it to the Committee using our Email address [TVACSPS@GMAIL.COM](mailto:TVACSPS@GMAIL.COM).

### **17. By-Laws**

- a) The By-laws set out in the appendix to these Rules, as well as any By-laws made under Constitution Rule 17(b), shall be binding upon the membership until repealed at a general meeting or by the Committee, subject to any amendment made under Rule 17(b).
- b) The Committee shall, from time to time, make, repeal or amend all such By-laws as it deems expedient (provided that they are not inconsistent with these Rules), to take effect until set aside at a general meeting or by the Committee.

## **18. Matches**

- i) Matches shall be permitted on Club waters under the direction of the Match Secretary, but no more than 24 matches to be fished on Club waters during each membership year. No more than 6 matches to be held on any one water during each membership year. The rules for the matches to be decided by the Match Secretary and appended to the Club Rule Book and published on our website: [www.tvacpsangling.com](http://www.tvacpsangling.com), prior to the 1<sup>st</sup>. April each year.
- ii) On the day on which the match is fished, the Club water being used for the match shall be deemed to be closed to Club members/guests and exchange tickets holders for the period starting three hours prior to the commencement of the match till one hour after the end of the match. No Fishing, other than the match itself, shall be available during this period.

## **19. Trophies**

In the event of the Club being dissolved, then trophies shall be returned to the donors or their surviving relatives, if desired.