



# PICKERING FISHERY ASSOCIATION

(FOUNDED 1892)

## Rules (13<sup>th</sup> March 2024)

### 1. Name

The Association is known as the Pickering Fishery Association and is also referred to as the PFA.

### 2. Objects

The objects of the Association are to promote an Angler's Association in the Pickering Area and to preserve the Association's waters:

- Pickering Beck
- Oxfolds and Costa Becks
- Thornton Beck
- Paper Mill and Pexton still waters.
- any other waters which the committee may from time to time obtain and to further friendship and the art of fly fishing whilst doing so.

### 3. Membership

The Association shall be a members Association, and shall consist of:

- a. Landowners consenting to the preservation by the PFA of their portion of the water.
- b. 120 paid up members, or a number decided at the Annual General Meeting.
- c. Election to membership shall be up to the Membership Committee (Rule 3.g of the Association. No reasons shall be given to any candidate in the event of rejection. No person shall be admitted to ordinary membership until, having been elected as provided above, such person shall have paid the Treasurer the first annual subscription and entry fee (the entry fee is not payable for past members wishing to rejoin but any unpaid surcharges must be paid before rejoining).
- d. The Hon.Treasurer, Hon.Secretary, and Membership Administrator do not pay subscriptions but are classed for voting reasons and headcount as "Paid up" Members.
- e. At any one time there will be a maximum of 6 Honorary Life Memberships that can be bestowed upon deserving Members in recognition of long service and outstanding personal achievement for the club. Honorary Life Members do not have to pay subscriptions; for voting purposes and the headcount are therefore not classified as 'paid-up' members. They may be in attendance and speak at meetings but are not present to vote.
- f. Active Bailiffs do not pay subscriptions whilst serving the club but may vote at meetings, they do count as 'Paid-Up Members" for Headcount.
- g. The Membership Committee shall be comprised of the Honorary Treasurer, the Honorary Secretary, and the Membership Administrator.

### 4. Subscription and entry fees

- a. For a new member the entrance fee shall be 50% of the annual subscription.
- b. The annual subscription shall be such a sum as the Association Members shall determine at the Annual General Meeting.



- c. New members joining after 1st October shall pay a discounted fee of half of the annual subscription, plus the full entrance fee.
- d. Junior membership shall be up to the age of 18, although should a junior so decide, they can be a full member after the age of 16. At 18 a junior member shall pay a sum of 50% of the annual subscription up to the age of 21 when the full subscription becomes payable. A junior member shall not have to pay a joining fee upon becoming an adult member if they have been a junior member for more than 2 years.
- e. The annual subscription for Disabled Wheelchair users fishing Pexton shall be such a sum as the Association shall from time to time determine at the Annual General Meeting. The requirement to pay an entrance fee does not currently apply.
- f. A member in receipt of a state retirement pension who, at the date of the AGM has been a member of the Association for at least 20 years may pay one half of the annual subscription.'
- g. Annual subscriptions shall be payable on election as provided in rule 3 and thereafter without demand prior to the Annual General Meeting in each year but no earlier than 1<sup>st</sup> February.
- h. If a Member's Annual subscription remains unpaid by the AGM then that membership will be lapsed. Such lapsed Member can apply to join the waiting list and reapply.
- i. Any increase in subs agreed in AGM apply for any late paid subs and new members joining after that vote. No increase agreed at the AGM is applicable to members' subs paid prior to the meeting.

## 5. Management

The Officers of the Association are as follows:

- Chairman
- Hon.Treasurer
- Hon.Secretary.

The Committee shall have the power to fill any vacancy that may occur owing to the termination of office by the above. The retiring Chairman, Hon.Treasurer and/or Hon.Secretary shall be eligible for re-election at the AGM.

In the unlikely event that the Chairman shall be unable to attend a meeting the Committee can appoint a 'pro tem' Chair for that meeting.

A committee shall manage the affairs of the Association (in all matters not in these rules reserved for the Association in general meetings), made up as follows:

- i. The President
- ii. The Chairman
- iii. The Hon.Treasurer
- iv. The Hon.Secretary
- v. Membership Administrator
- vi. Senior Bailiff
- vii. Fisheries Officer
- viii. 5 ordinary members, 2 of which will stand down at the Annual General Meeting.



The committee shall have the power to fill any casual vacancy that may occur.

It is a requirement that Committee Members attend meetings (be those meetings online or in person). Members who cannot attend regularly may be invited by the Committee to stand down.

#### **6. Quorums**

At committee meetings, (except for the purpose of rules 8 & 16 when half the total members of the committee shall form a quorum), 5 shall form a quorum. At the Association's General Meetings, 15 shall form a quorum.

#### **7. President**

The President of the Association shall be elected by the members in general meetings, and shall hold office until death or resignation, or until ceasing to be a member of the Association unless removed from office by a resolution of the committee.

#### **8. Trustees**

The property of the Association shall be vested in 4 trustees who shall be appointed by the committee, and the property of the Association shall be vested in them to be dealt with by them as the committee may from time to time direct by resolution (of which an entry in the minute book shall be conclusive evidence). The trustees shall be indemnified against risk and expense out of the Associations property.

The Trustees are also to be consulted when the committee decide to purchase fishing rights within or near to Pickering with funds from the HMF (Hardy Memorial fund). Their role being solely to confirm that those two requirements are met.

The Trustees shall hold office until death or resignation or until removal from office by a majority vote by the members of the committee present (not being less than half the members). Where, by reason of death, resignation, or removal, it is necessary that a new trustee or trustees be appointed, the committee shall 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 nominated as the person to appoint new trustees of the Association within the meaning of the Trustee Act 1925, section 36, and the Chairman shall by deed appoint the person or persons so nominated by the committee.

#### **9. Duties of the Hon. Secretary**

The Hon. Secretary shall conduct the correspondence & General Management of the Association and shall have custody of all documents belonging to the Association and keep full and correct minutes of all proceedings.

#### **10. Duties of the Hon. Treasurer**

The Hon. Treasurer shall keep the accounts of the Association and shall make up the Annual statement of accounts and balance sheet of the Association to the 31<sup>st</sup> January in each year which shall, after audit, be made available to all members when the notice of the Annual General Meeting is given.

#### **11. Auditors**

2 members shall be appointed auditors at the Annual General Meeting. They or one of them shall audit and then certify the annual statement of the accounts and balance sheet, before they are issued.

#### **12. Annual General Meeting**

An Annual General Meeting of the Association shall be held at Pickering in every year not later than the Wednesday nearest to the 15<sup>th</sup> March to transact the following business:

- a. To receive and, if approved, to adopt a statement of the Associations accounts to the end of the preceding year.



- b. To consider and, if approved, sanction any duly made alteration of the rules, provided that the Hon. Secretary has received any proposal for such alteration in writing by the 31<sup>st</sup> January prior to the Annual General Meeting.
- c. To appoint the officers and other members of the committee.
- d. To appoint an auditor or auditors.
- e. To deal with any special matter, which the committee desires to bring before the members and to receive suggestions from the members for consideration by the committee, notified in writing by the 31<sup>st</sup> January prior to the Annual General Meeting.
- f. Notice convening the Annual General Meeting shall be sent to members not less than 14 calendar days before the meeting and shall specify the matters to be dealt with.

NOTE: In times of difficulty, e.g. pandemic or bad weather, the Committee can decide to hold an Annual General Meeting online subject to 14 calendar days prior notice.

### **13. Special General Meetings**

A Special General Meeting may be convened by the committee within 21 calendar days from receipt by the Honorary Secretary of a requisition in writing signed by not less than 10 club members specifying the object of the meeting for any of the following purpose:

- a. To consider and, if approved, sanction any duly made alteration of the rules.
- b. To deal with any special matter which the committee may desire to place before the members.
- c. To remove any member or members of the committee from office and to fill any vacancy or vacancies caused by such removal.
- d. To deal with any special matter which members requiring the meeting may desire to place before the Association.

A notice convening a Special General Meeting shall be sent to members not less than 7 calendar days before the meeting and shall specify the matters to be dealt with.

NOTE: In times of difficulty, e.g. pandemic or bad weather, the Committee can decide to hold a Special General Meeting online subject to 7 calendar days prior notice.

### **14. Voting Rights**

At any General Meeting of the Association, every fully 'paid-up' member of the Association (as defined in Rule 3) shall be entitled to be present and shall be entitled to one vote upon every question raised. In the event of equality of voting, the Chairman of the meeting shall have a second or casting vote.



## **15. Bylaws**

The committee shall have power to make bylaws for regulating the conduct and affairs of the Association provided the same are not inconsistent with these rules. Such bylaws shall be binding on all members.

## **16. Expulsion**

If at any time the committee is of the opinion that the interest of the Association so requires, it may by letter (sent by post or as email attachment) invite any member to resign from the association within a time specified in the letter.

- The Committee may require the Honorary Secretary to issue a warning to a member for a breach of the Rules, Policies or Byelaws, or for bringing the Association into disrepute.
- In serious or persistent cases, the committee can elect to issue a warning or for subsequent or serious offences expel a member provided that no less than two thirds of the committee present vote in favour.
- The committee shall have the power to exclude the member from the Association's property until such Special Committee Meeting has been held.
- The Member has a right to appeal in writing to the Honorary Secretary within 14 days of the date of the letter advising of the committee decision
- The appeal should include a written defence sent to the Honorary Secretary which will then be put before the committee within 14 days of receipt of the defence.
- Within 48 hrs of the Committee Meeting the final decision will be conveyed to the member.

## **17. Effect of resignation or expulsion**

Any person ceasing to be a member shall forfeit rights to claim upon, the Association, its property and its funds, and shall have no right to the return of any part of such member's subscription. Nor will the expelled member be allowed to fish the Association's waters via guest or day tickets including exchange tickets from other clubs with whom the PFA has an exchange agreement.

## **18. Notices – Members addresses**

Any notice required by these rules to be given or sent to a member shall be deemed to have been given or sent on the next working day after it is posted if sent by prepaid post to the address of the member appearing in the Associations books or if a Member has provided an email address the same day. Every member shall immediately give to the Hon. Secretary written notice of any change in such members a contact details.

## **19. Amendment of rules**

These rules may be added to, repealed, or amended by resolution at any General Meeting provided that no such resolution shall be deemed to have been passed unless it is carried by at least two thirds of the members voting on it. Any reference in these rules to 'these rules' or 'the rules of the Association' shall include a reference to the rules of the Association as from time to time altered in accordance with this rule. Reference is also made to Rule 12 and 13 as applicable.



**20. Liability for loss or damage etc.**

Neither the Association nor any Officer of it shall be liable to any member or guest of the member for any loss of or damage to any property occurring from whatever cause in or about the Association's property, nor for any injury sustained by any member or guest whilst on or entering or leaving the Association's property.

**21. Dissolution**

If at any General Meeting a resolution for the dissolution of the Association shall be passed by a majority of the members present and entitled to vote, and if such resolution shall be confirmed by a resolution passed by a majority of two thirds of the membership present entitled to vote at a Special General Meeting held not less than one month after that meeting at which not less than one half of the members entitled to vote shall be present, the committee shall immediately at such future date as shall be specified in such resolution proceed to realise the property of the Association and after the discharge of all liabilities shall divide the remainder equally among all the paid up members, and, upon completion of such a division the Association shall be dissolved.