

Darlington Fly Fishers Club



CONSTITUTION

1) TITLE

- 1) The Club shall be called Darlington Fly Fishers' Club, hereafter to be referred to as "the Club."

2) OBJECTS

- 1) To arrange fishing for its members who will use artificial fly only.
- 2) To promote the sport of fly fishing and the care of the environment

3) MEMBERSHIP AND SUBSCRIPTIONS

- 1) Membership will be limited to forty though, at the discretion of the committee this number may be temporarily increased to forty two.
- 2) Membership of the Club shall be open to any person over the age of 18 completing a membership application form and paying the relevant subscription/joining fee.
- 3) The Club does not admit junior members, but children (under the age of 18 years) must be accompanied by their parent and may fish as a guest on payment of one half of the normal guest fee. Such occasions may be in addition to the four guests.
- 4) There shall be two classes of membership available. These are:
 - (a) Full Member
 - (b) Honorary Member – who may be elected at Annual General Meetings for outstanding services to the Club.
- 5) Only persons proposed and seconded by members of the club will be considered for membership.
- 6) The admission of new members will be decided by the committee, who will have the power to delegate this responsibility to the President and Honorary Secretary.
- 7) All Members will pay to the Honorary Treasurer by the end of January an annual subscription for the forthcoming year.

Members wishing to withdraw from the Club must give notice of their intention to the Club Secretary, in writing, by the end of January, otherwise they will be required to pay the following year's subscription.

4. EXPULSION OF MEMBERS

- 1) Members of the Club whose conduct (or the conduct of their guests) is inappropriate or who decline to abide by any of the Rules or Bylaws may be expelled or suspended by a resolution passed at a meeting of the committee where their entrance fee and subscriptions may be forfeited.
- 2) The Member will be given 7 days notice of the Committee meeting in order to allow him/her to make representations for consideration by the Committee.
- 3) Members shall have the right to appeal in person to the committee with regard to any decision affecting them, provided that notice of such appeal is submitted to the Honorary Secretary, in writing, within seven days of notification of the decision.

5. OFFICERS

- 1) The Officers of the Club shall be honorary and as follows:
 - President
 - Secretary
 - Treasurer
 - Safety Officer

6. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

- 1) All Officers shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting of the Club from and by the Members of the Club.
- 2) All Officers are elected for a period of one year, but may be re-elected to the same office or another office the following year.

7. COMMITTEE

- 1) The affairs of the Club shall be controlled by a Committee comprising of the Officers of the Club and four other Members

elected from, and by, the Full Members of the Club. The Committee shall meet at agreed intervals and not less than once per year.

The duties of the Committee shall be:

- 2) To control the affairs of the Club on behalf of the Members.
- 3) To keep accurate accounts of the finances of the Club through the Treasurer. These should be available for reasonable inspection by Members and should be audited before every Annual General Meeting.
- 4) The Club shall maintain a bank current account and the following Officers shall be authorised to sign Club cheques

2) Treasurer

3) Secretary

- 1) To co-opt additional members of the Committee as the Committee feels this is necessary. Co-opted members shall be entitled to a vote on the Committee.
- 2) To make decisions on the basis of a simple majority vote. In the case of equal votes, the President shall be entitled to an additional casting vote.
- 3) A minimum of four members of the Committee are required to form a quorum.

8. GENERAL MEETINGS

- 1) The Annual General Meeting of the Club shall be held not later than the end of January each year.
- 2) Twenty-one clear days written notice shall be given to Members of the Annual General Meeting by circulating a copy of the notice to every member at their home/e-mail address.
- 3) Members must advise the Secretary in writing of any business to be moved at the Annual General Meeting at least fourteen days before a meeting.
- 4) The Secretary shall circulate or give notice of the agenda for the meeting to Members not less than seven days before the meeting.

The business of the Annual General Meeting shall be to:

- 5) Confirm the minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting and any General Meetings held since the last Annual General Meeting.
- 6) Receive the audited accounts for the year from the Treasurer.
- 7) Receive the annual report of the Committee from the Secretary.
- 8) Appoint an auditor.
- 9) Elect the Officers of the Club (i.e. President; Secretary; Treasurer and other Committee Members).
- 10) Review Club subscription rates and guest fees and agree them for the forthcoming year.
- 11) Transact such other business as is received in writing by the Secretary from Members fourteen days prior to the meeting and included on the agenda.
- 12) Special General Meetings may be convened by the Committee, or on receipt by the Secretary of a request in writing from not less than ten Full Members of the Club.
- 13) At least 21 days notice of the meeting shall be given.
- 14) Nominations for candidates for election as Officers can only be made by Full Members and must be seconded by another Full Member.
- 15) At all General Meetings, the chair will be taken by the President or, in their absence, by a deputy appointed by the Club or by Full Members attending the meeting.
- 16) Decisions made at a General Meeting shall be by a simple majority of votes from those Full Members attending the meeting. In the event of equal votes, the President shall be entitled to an additional casting vote.
- 17) A quorum for a General Meeting shall be four Full Members and three Officers of the Club including either the President, Secretary or Treasurer.
- 18) Each Full Member of the Club shall be entitled to one vote at General Meetings.

9. ALTERATIONS TO THE CONSTITUTION, RULES OR BYE LAWS

- 1) Any Member's request for proposed alterations to the Club Constitution may only be considered at an Annual or Special General Meeting, convened with the required written notice of the proposal.
- 2) Any alteration or amendment must be proposed by a Full Member of the Club and seconded by another Full Member. Such alterations shall be passed if supported by not less than two-thirds of those Full Members present at the meeting, assuming that a quorum has been achieved.
- 3) The Committee will have power to make alterations to rules for the direction and management of the Club and its waters.

10. DISSOLUTION

- 1) If at any General Meeting of the Club, a resolution be passed calling for the dissolution of the Club, the Secretary shall immediately convene a Special General Meeting of the Club to be held not less than one month thereafter to discuss and vote on the resolution.
- 2) If at that Special General Meeting, the resolution is carried by at least two-thirds of the Full Members present at the meeting, the 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 Club.
- 3) After discharging all debts and liabilities of the Club, the remaining assets shall not be paid to or distributed amongst the Full Members of the Club, but shall be given or transferred to some other voluntary organisation having objects similar to those of the Club as the majority of Members deem fit.

CLUB RULES

1. Membership Cards, Guest Tickets, etc.

- 1) Members must carry an Environment Agency fishing licence together with their membership card when fishing and must produce them when requested to do so by officials, Members, the club's River Watcher or Riparian Owners.
- 2) Members will be allowed to invite four guests only during any one season, subject to a limit of one guest on any one day.
- 3) The Honorary Secretary must be notified in advance of the dates when guests are to fish.
- 4) Members will be required to pay the guest fees with their annual subscription to the Honorary Treasurer, for each guest they invite.
- 5) During the trout close season, members continuing to fish for grayling may be accompanied by one guest at any time.
- 6) Each Riparian Owner or Farmer allowing access over his land to the clubs water may at the discretion of the committee be allotted a guest ticket for occasional use by himself/herself, a member of his/her family, or a houseguest, on their water only.
- 7) Prospective members of the Club may fish as guests without charge if accompanied by an officer of the Club.
- 8) Each member will be supplied with a copy of the current risk assessment, a map of Club waters and a copy of the Club Constitution and rules.

2. Season

- 1) Trout fishing will not be permitted before 16th April or after 30th September in each year.
- 2) Fishing for grayling by artificial fly only is allowed during the Environment Agency season for coarse fishing.

3. Catch limits

- 1) No trout or grayling under ten inches (25.5cms) in length from snout to fork of tail may be taken and no member may take more than four fish in any one day. These limits may be varied at the

discretion of the committee with due regard to national and regional byelaws.

- 2) All other fish caught will be dealt with in accordance with limits imposed by national or regional byelaws.

4. Fishing Returns

- 1) Members will complete and return the Club's annual catch return form to the Honorary Secretary before the end of October giving details of all fish taken and all visits to club waters. All fish over one pound in weight must be specially noted.
- 2) In the event of a member not fishing, a nil return will be completed.

5. Access

- 1) Members will keep to footpaths and banks, will do no damage to woods, plantings, crops or fences and must not be accompanied by dogs when fishing.
- 2) When using the farm road access to the north bank, all gates must be securely fastened and cars must not be driven on the field grass/crops except in the bottom field, when all cars must follow the same track over the field to the enclosure.
- 3) The entrances to the enclosure must be kept closed at all times