
Constitution of the River Taw Fisheries & Conservation Association ("RTFCA" or "the Association")

(Adopted at the Annual General Meeting on 22 March 2019 and name change from River Taw Fisheries Association adopted at the Annual General Meeting on 26 March 2021)

- 1 The Association shall be known as the River Taw Fisheries & Conservation Association.
- 2 The objects of the Association:
 - 2.1 To maintain, improve and develop the indigenous fishery of the River Taw and its tributaries.
 - 2.2 To protect and enhance the status of the water quantity and quality in the River Taw and its tributaries.
 - 2.3 To protect and enhance the River Taw and its tributaries, its ecology, natural fish and dependent wildlife and habitat.
 - 2.4 To represent the interests of riparian owners and anglers of the River Taw and its tributaries.
- 3 Membership:
 - 3.1 Membership shall be open to:

People over the age of 18, on a non discriminatory basis, who are interested in the objects of the Association.
 - 3.2 Those wishing to apply for Membership should apply to the Hon. Treasurer.
- 4 Officers:
 - 4.1 The Officers of the Association shall consist of Chairman, Hon. Secretary and Hon. Treasurer. They must be Members of the Association.
 - 4.2 The Chairman shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting for a period of three years and is eligible for re-election. Nominations for election as Chairman, duly seconded, must be received by the Hon. Secretary, in writing, by 1 March or 14 days before the AGM, whichever is the later. The Member of the Association elected as Chairman may not at the same time be a member of the Committee as defined in 6.1, but may be elected from such members.
 - 4.3 The Hon. Secretary and the Hon. Treasurer shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting. If the Hon. Secretary or Hon. Treasurer is not a member of the Committee as set out in 6, he shall be co-opted to the Committee. The Hon. Secretary and Hon. Treasurer shall be elected for a period of three years and are eligible for re-election. Nominations for these offices, duly seconded, must be received by the Hon. Secretary, in writing, by the 1st March or 14 days before the AGM, whichever is the later.

5 Communication with the Association

Every member shall be under a continuing duty to notify the Hon. Secretary of their email and postal addresses.

6 Committee:

6.1 The Committee shall consist of the Chairman, the Hon. Secretary, the Hon. Treasurer and (a) 3 Members representing the Lower Taw below Junction Pool (i.e. Members owning fishing rights below Junction Pool, Members who fish regularly below Junction Pool, or Members with a particular interest in the river below Junction Pool); (b) 3 Members representing the Upper Taw and its tributaries above Junction Pool (ie Members owning fishing rights on the Upper Taw and its tributaries above Junction Pool, Members who fish regularly on the Upper Taw and its tributaries above Junction Pool or Members with a particular interest in the Upper Taw and its tributaries above Junction Pool) and (c) 3 Members representing the River Mole and its tributaries (i.e Members with fishing rights on the River Mole and its tributaries, Members who fish regularly on the River Mole and its tributaries or Members with a particular interest in the River Mole and its tributaries).

6.2 One member from each of these three groups shall retire annually and in rotation, and shall be eligible for re-election.

6.3 Members of the Committee will be elected at the Annual General Meeting. Proposals for Membership of the Committee, duly proposed and seconded, must be received by the Hon Secretary, in writing or by email, by the 1st March or 14 days before the AGM (whichever is the later).

7. Powers of the Committee

For the avoidance of doubt the Committee shall have the following specific powers:

- (i) To fill any vacancy amongst the officers until the next AGM.
- (ii) To co-opt to the Committee for any period up to three years, which may be extended at the Committee's discretion, any Member deemed by the Committee to bring valuable expertise to the workings of the Committee and the Association.
- (iii) To conduct any routine business of the Association and to make decisions in any case of emergency. When such decisions are made, a quorum of 8 members is required.
- (iv) To appoint such sub-committees as it deems necessary. A sub-committee shall conduct its business in accordance with the directions of the Committee and shall report its proceedings to the Committee for approval and ratification.

- (v) To maintain a bank account or bank accounts in the name of the Association and to arrange such facilities as may be necessary to carry on the business of the Association.
- (vi) To retain and hold as property of the Association all sums of money coming in to the Association and to bank the funds of the Association.
- (vii) To invest sums of money in any prudent manner which the Committee thinks will benefit the Association.
- (viii) To expel or refuse membership to anyone deemed by the Committee to have brought the Association into disrepute or, in the case of a membership applicant, likely to bring it into disrepute.
- (ix) To offer membership to fishing clubs and associations (but not syndicates who own or lease fishing rights), such clubs and associations to have one vote each.
- (x) To offer “club membership” to members of any club or association that is a member of RTFCA. Club members will not have voting rights unless they become Members of RTFCA in their own right but will receive newsletters and other membership information and will be welcome at the AGM.

8. Meetings:

- 8.1 The AGM shall be held on a date each year, usually in March and in any event never earlier than March, to be determined by the Committee. The business of the meeting shall be the selection of Officers and members of the Committee, the approval of the accounts and any other business decided upon by the Committee, or of which written notice has been given to the Hon Secretary,
- 8.2 Any resolution to be put to the AGM must be duly proposed and seconded and received in writing by the Hon. Secretary by the 1st March or 14 days before the AGM (whichever is the later).
- 8.3 The right to vote on resolutions is restricted to Members, each of whom has one vote.
- 8.4 Proxy and postal or email votes are admitted, provided that the Secretary disclose to Members present at the meeting the details of postal and email votes received prior to the Meeting.
- 8.5 A meeting may proceed to business if 25 members are present within 30 minutes after the time fixed for the meeting.

8.6 Resolutions of the AGM are carried by a simple majority of those voting.

8.7 The chair of the meeting shall have an additional casting vote in the event of a tied vote.

8.8 An Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM), may be convened at any time at the request of at least 20 voting Members or the Committee, provided that the specific purpose of the Meeting is clearly stated.

8.9 Notice of an EGM shall be circulated to all members, by first class post or e-mail, not less than 14 days before the EGM, stating the purpose of the meeting. At the meeting, no resolutions shall be discussed other than that for which the EGM was specifically convened.

8.10 At all meetings the chair shall be taken by the Chairman. In his absence the Hon. Secretary shall ask for Members present to nominate a member of the Committee to chair the Meeting.

9. Subscriptions:

9.1 Members shall pay an annual subscription, which shall be fixed each three years by a resolution at the AGM. The subscription is payable by 1st April and if it remains unpaid 6 months after this date the member shall cease to be a member of the Association.

10. Resignation of members:

10.1 A member may resign from the Association by notifying the Hon. Secretary in writing or by email.