

The Ottery Fly Fishing Club
RULES

1. **AIMS**

The general promotion of fly fishing and the acquisition of fishing rights on the River Otter for Club members.

2. **MEMBERSHIP**

- 2.1. Membership of the Club shall consist of the members of the Club as at the date of the adoption of this Rule.
- 2.2. The classes of membership of the Club shall be designated as follows: Resident members and non-resident members, the President (Honorary), Honorary life members and Honorary members.
- 2.3. Resident members are those who reside within the area of the Ottery Parish Council. Non-residents are those who do not so qualify.
- 2.4. Honorary life members and Honorary members are those elected at an Annual Meeting for some special reason, such as "Services rendered to the Club"
- 2.5. The Executive Committee shall decide the number of resident and non-resident members for each season, which for the time being shall be forty five (45) in total, divided equally as far as possible but dependent upon applications between resident and non-resident members.
- 2.6. Every candidate for new membership must be proposed by two sponsors who are paid up members of the Club at the time of sponsorship and both vouching for the candidate's fitness for membership. Every candidate for membership must submit his/her application to the Honorary Secretary of the Club in writing by 31st December of the preceding year. Applications must be renewed annually. Each application must include the candidate's name and address and the names of the two sponsoring members.

3. **FEES**

- 3.1. Membership fees shall be determined by the Executive Committee for each of the classes of membership and shall be paid and renewed on an annual basis as at 2nd January each year. These subscriptions shall be fixed within three calendar months of becoming due and the Honorary Secretary shall communicate the Executive Committee's decision to the members.
- 3.2. Subscriptions are due on 2nd January each year, and no member will be allowed to fish before obtaining the Club membership ticket and an Environment Agency licence. Any member who has not paid the subscription before 31st January will be liable to disqualification without notice and membership will cease automatically if payment has not been made prior to the Annual Meeting.
- 3.3. Honorary life members and Honorary members shall not pay an annual subscription but must obtain an Environment Agency licence before fishing.
- 3.4. New members shall pay an additional Joining fee which is set by the Executive Committee.

4. **THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

- 4.1. The Executive Committee shall consist of the Executive Officers (President, Chairman, Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer) and other members to a total of ten (10) with a quorum to consist of three (3).
- 4.2. Members of the Committee will retire annually but, if eligible, may stand for re-election.
- 4.3. The Executive Committee shall have power to act.
- 4.4. The Executive Committee shall meet at least once each year.

5. **ANNUAL MEETINGS**

- 5.1. Annual meetings shall be convened to be held in the last two weeks in February of each year as far as possible. Due notice of not less than eight (8) days shall be given to all members.
- 5.2. Any proposed amendments to the Rules must be submitted to the Honorary Secretary by 31st December prior to the Annual Meeting.

6. COMPLAINTS

- 6.1. Any member having cause for complaint shall report in writing to the Honorary Secretary.

7. FISHING

- 7.1. Fishing for brown trout shall commence on 1st April, continuing until 30th September each year.
- 7.2. Fishing for migratory fish shall commence on 15th April, continuing until 31st October. Any salmon caught before 16th June must be returned to the river.
- 7.3. Fishing for brown trout with dry fly and upstream nymph is permitted on all Club waters.
- 7.4. Downstream wet fly fishing for migratory fish is allowed on all waters controlled by the Club, providing a migratory fishing licence is held.
- 7.5. Fishing for brown trout later than one hour after sunset is prohibited.
- 7.6. Members (and their guests) may fish for sea trout during the day and throughout the night.
- 7.7. The basket is strictly limited to two (2) brace per day and not more than four (4) brace in any one week.
- 7.8. No trout under ten (10) inches measured from snout to fork of tail may be kept. Fish below this size must be carefully handled and returned to the river.
- 7.9. Wading is permitted on all waters controlled by the Club.

8. RESTRICTIONS

- 8.1. Between 1st April and 30th September and save where there is a Public Footpath or right of way near the river, members and other persons accompanying them are forbidden to bring or exercise dogs when proceeding along or using the Club waters.
- 8.2. A member may not sub-let his rod but can share it with a friend, provided the member is present and that only one rod is used. The friend must hold a current Environment Agency licence.
- 8.3. Honorary life members and honorary members may give the odd day's fishing on Club waters free of charge to a personal friend, subject to the friend obtaining the requisite Environment Agency licence.
- 8.4. No Honorary Life Member, Honorary Member, Member or day ticket holder shall make use of the facilities and/or fishing rights owned or leased by the Club for personal financial gain.

9. DAY TICKETS

- 9.1. Subscribing members and honorary members may purchase up to six (6) day tickets each year at a cost of £2 each or such other amount as may from time to time be agreed.
- 9.2. Tickets are for the use of personal friends only and are not transferable.
- 9.3. Tickets should, where possible, be obtained from the Honorary Secretary before 1st April each year. Members must specify the number of tickets they are likely to require and enclose a remittance for the total amount
- 9.4. No refund will be made for tickets issued and not used.
- 9.5. Where a member does not take up his/her allocation of day tickets, this entitlement will be pooled to enable the Honorary Secretary to issue such remaining tickets to other members who apply for an additional allocation.
- 9.6. A member who issues a ticket need not be present when the friend is fishing although it will be the member's responsibility to ensure that the friend has an Environment Agency licence.

10. NON-COMPLIANCE

- 10.1. Any member alleged to be in breach of the Rules of the Club shall be notified of the breaches being alleged against him or her, and the basis for such allegations, in writing by the Honorary Secretary. The member shall then be invited to submit any written defence or explanation for the facts alleged within 14 days of the notification.
- 10.2. In the event of a finding of wilful breach by the disciplinary sub-committee (consisting of one executive committee member and one other member) and a decision to expel the member from the Club, the member concerned shall have the right to appeal in person to the Executive Committee, provided that notice of such appeal, setting out the grounds of the appeal, be submitted to the Honorary Secretary within 7 days of the decision.
- 10.3. The Executive Committee considering such an appeal shall not include any member of the disciplinary sub-committee concerned in the first decision. The Executive Committee shall convene a meeting and notify the member concerned in writing of the date, time and location of the meeting. At the meeting the Executive Committee shall re-consider all the evidence available to the disciplinary sub-committee and any further representations from the member concerned.

11. DISSOLUTION

- 11.1. 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.
- 11.2. If at that Special General Meeting, at least 50% of the total club membership attend and vote, and upon such a vote the resolution is carried by at least two-thirds of those voting, the Executive 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.
- 11.3. After discharging all debts and liabilities of the Club, the remaining assets shall not be paid or distributed amongst the members of the Club, but shall be given to The Angling Trust or such other voluntary or charitable angling organisation as may be nominated by the Executive Committee and approved at the Annual Meeting of the club from time to time.

10 Dec 2018