

Park Gate Royal British Legion Fly Fishing Section Constitution

The History of the Section

The Section was originally formed in 1956 by a small group of Park Gate and District (Southampton) Royal British Legion members, under the chairmanship of Mr. L Delisle. The Section took out a lease on the fishing rights of the River Meon from the then owner of Segensworth House, Mrs N B Malleson, for a period of 7 years. This lease was renewed by the second owners of Segensworth House, Mr & Mrs GA Day, for further periods of 7 years (1963 – 1970), (1970 - 1977) and finally for a 21-year period (1977 – 1998). It was during this final period that the Section purchased from Mrs Day, the fishing rights for that stretch of the Left Bank of the River Meon upstream of the railway viaduct up to the upper boundary on the northern side of the M27 motorway viaduct. The Right Bank of the same stretch was acquired also from the Portsmouth Services Fly Fishing Club. The beat referred to as Bugle Meadow was acquired also shortly afterwards from Mrs Day. Mrs Day sold the fishing rights along with Segensworth House to Mr Wally Dove.

The current 7-year lease on the Segensworth Beat was negotiated in 2017 effectively renewing one of 1998 from Mr Wally Dove, and provides the fishing rights to the Section of the waters of the River Meon from Segensworth House downstream to Titchfield Mill. New ordinance survey maps were produced to show the Section's present fishing rights and a copy is held with the current lease.

The original rent for the lease was 2 brace of trout but the most recent lease is commercial.

1. Title

- 1.1. The Section shall be called the Park Gate Royal British Legion Fly Fishing Section, hereafter referred to as “the Section” and, for convenience, can be referred to as PG RBL FFS.

2. The Section's Objective

- 2.1. The objectives of the Section remain the same as they have always been, namely:
 - 2.1.1. To provide pleasurable fly-fishing for Section members and their guests at reasonable cost.
 - 2.1.2. To ensure that the fishing rights held on leasehold by the Section are retained for the future.
- 2.2. As a Section of the Park Gate and District (Southampton) Branch of the Royal British Legion, the Section shall be governed in accordance with Legion objectives for the benefit of the members of the Section and, in the event of conflict between the Section Constitution and Legion Constitution, the latter shall take precedence.

3. Membership

- 3.1. Membership of the Section shall be only open to members of the Park Gate and District (Southampton) Branch of the Royal British Legion, hereafter referred to as “the Branch” and is in addition to such membership. The membership year shall be from 1 March to the end of the following February. Membership is not transferable.
- 3.2. Membership classes.
 - 3.2.1. There shall be two classes of membership.
 - 3.2.1.1. Full members.
 - 3.2.1.2. Honorary members
 - 3.2.2. Full and Honorary members shall have the same fishing rights but only Full members may vote at Section meetings.
- 3.3. Membership number
 - 3.3.1. 45 Full members are considered suitable to avoid over fishing.
- 3.4. Membership Subscriptions
 - 3.4.1. Subscriptions for Full members shall be decided from time to time in Annual General Meeting by a two thirds majority. These may be reduced for members joining part way through a year.
 - 3.4.2. Honorary members shall not be liable for a membership subscription.

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- 3.4.3. There shall be a joining fee which shall be decided from time to time in Annual General Meeting, payable by all new members, including any re-joining member.
- 3.4.4. Membership subscriptions are due on 1 March and payments received later than the Pre Season meeting, except by arrangement with the Secretary/Treasurer, are liable to an additional fee as decided in Annual General Meeting. Members not fully paid up within a month, except by arrangement with the Secretary/Treasurer, have forfeited membership and will have to re-apply for membership and shall pay the full year subscription and the joining fee on temporary election.
- 3.4.5. The General Committee may, in the case of hardship, remit part of a member's subscription.
- 3.5. Membership Applications.
 - 3.5.1. Applications for Full membership shall be made to the Section Secretary supported by a proposer and seconder. These applications will be placed on the Section membership waiting list. As opportunities for Section membership arise these names will be put forward in chronological order to the General Committee for temporary membership approval until being put for election to a General Meeting.
 - 3.5.2. Honorary membership may be conferred in recognition of considerable service to the Section and shall not be required to pay a membership subscription.
- 3.6. Membership Revocations.
 - 3.6.1. Failure to join or renew membership of the Branch shall result in immediate revocation of membership of the Section provided that the member concerned shall have one week to effect membership.
 - 3.6.2. Members of whatever class who breach Section Rules and Section guidance, or whose conduct is such as to give concern that the Section will be adversely affected, shall be liable to have their membership withdrawn. If the member concerned is an Official of the Section, s/he will be deemed to have stood down with immediate effect as an Official.
 - 3.6.2.1. A disciplinary subcommittee shall decide the matter and what evidence, and how presented, to consider.
 - 3.6.2.2. A member so excluded shall have the right to appeal to the General Committee against withdrawal within 14 days; the General Committee shall decide whether to take the member's representation in person or in writing, considering the nature and seriousness of the allegations.
 - 3.6.2.3. A member so excluded under this provision shall not be eligible for re-election to membership for a calendar year after their exclusion.
- 3.7. Membership terminations
 - 3.7.1. Upon termination of membership for whatever reason, the ex-member shall return any membership card and any other property of the Section in their possession, and shall not be entitled to any rebate or refund of membership subscription.
- 3.8. Members Guests day tickets are available so a member's guest may fish the Section's water provided
 - 3.8.1. they are in possession of a Guest ticket for the day, the fee for such to be as decided from time to time in Annual General Meeting,
 - 3.8.2. and they have been made aware of the Section Rules by their host.
- 3.9. Members relatives (spouses, children, grandchildren and nephews or nieces) may share a rod with their host member to fish the water to introduce them to the pleasures of fly fishing on an occasional basis, with the permission of the General Committee, provided:
 - 3.9.1. , they are in possession of the relevant Environment Agency licence,
 - 3.9.2. they are accompanied at all times by their host, and that one only fishes,

4. Section Rules and Responsibilities of members

- 4.1. Fishing is by fly only, (except Bugle meadow, see 4.5) and Environment Agency seasons and size limits are to be observed.
- 4.2. All members shall behave responsibly whilst fishing and on Section business, that they use land others rely on for income and to be fully aware their safety is in their hands, recognizing fishing and the river bank has potential hazards.
- 4.3. All members shall observe the Rules of the Section which shall be agreed and amended in General Meeting.

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- 4.4. Work parties will be held on a regular basis and members are encouraged to attend. Membership subscriptions may be remitted in part as agreed at an Annual General Meetings for attendance at work parties.
- 4.5. Coarse fishing may be carried out by members subject to conditions in the rules.

5. Trustees

- 5.1.1. Ownership of the Section's assets shall be vested in two Trustees, who shall act in regard to their stewardship of the Section's assets only as directed by the Section in General Meeting or the General committee exercising its delegated powers and shall, so far as possible, be indemnified by the Section in the discharge of their duties as Trustees. In particular, the Trustees shall be the signatories on any Lease the Section may enter into.
- 5.2. Any Full or Honorary member may be elected a Section Trustee, and a Trustee may resign by giving the Section Secretary written notice,
- 5.3. Upon there being a vacancy for a Trustee, there shall be an election at the next General Meeting, nominations being from a Full member, seconded by another Full member and by a simple majority of those voting.

6. Officers

- 6.1. The Officers of the Section shall be:
 - 6.1.1. Chairman, who shall chair meetings and have a second and casting vote in the event of a tied vote.
 - 6.1.2. Secretary and Treasurer, who shall deal with the correspondence and finances of the Section, including giving due notice of meetings, recording minutes of meetings, keep a record of membership, receive monies and arrange payments, make returns to the Branch, keep account of all income and expenditure and make forecasts, with recommendations for change, of future income and expenditure.
 - 6.1.3. Bailiff, who shall keep records of catches, stockings, sightings of poachers, pollution, and other matters affecting the Section's waters.
 - 6.1.4. River Keeper who shall oversee the maintenance of the river, the bank and access to facilitate fishing insofar as the Section is responsible and liable, and with the Bailiff deal with appropriate authorities regarding pollution and poachers.
 - 6.1.5. An assistant River Keeper or assistant bailiff may be elected to the committee as required.
 - 6.1.6. A Communications officer responsible for the upkeep of the web.
 - 6.1.7. The task descriptions above are not exclusive nor exhaustive.
- 6.2. Election of Officers.
 - 6.2.1. All Officers shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting, being proposed by a Full member and seconded by another Full member.
 - 6.2.2. Casual vacancies due to resignations or similar shall be filled until the next election by nomination and co-option by the General Committee.
 - 6.2.3. A member may not participate in his/her election. to any official position within the Section.
- 6.3. The services of the Chair, Secretary, Bailiff, River Keeper, assistant Bailiff/Keeper and Communications Officer shall be deemed equivalent to 50% their annual subscription; replacement for casual vacancies shall not be entitled to any remission of subscriptions.
- 6.4. Officers may also be paid a fixed sum to cover expenses for the coming year, any amount to be agreed by vote at the Annual General Meeting.

7. General Committee

- 7.1. The General Committee, hereafter referred to as "the committee", shall comprise the elected Officers of the Section.
 - 7.1.1. The committee is authorized to co-opt non-voting members at any time to support them in their duties.
- 7.2. The Committee shall be responsible for the day to day management of the Section as guided by the membership in General Meeting and shall endeavour to inform itself of the members' views when coming to any decision.

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- 7.2.1. Only the Committee, or Officers in the discharge of their duties, can commit the Section.
- 7.3. The Committee shall meet as required by the Committee but at least three times in any year.
- 7.4. A quorum shall be two thirds of the committee voting strength.
- 7.5. A Disciplinary sub-committee shall be comprised of the Chairman and one other, nominated by the committee.
- 7.6. An Accounts Examination sub-committee shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting, comprising at least one Full member other than the Secretary and Treasurer.
- 7.7. The Committee may set up sub-committees or work groups to examine and report on particular issues, but may not delegate its powers.

8. General Meetings

- 8.1. All members of the Section are eligible to attend any General Meeting of the Section.
- 8.2. The Secretary will distribute to the members an agenda for any General Meeting, giving at least fourteen days' notice of the meeting.
- 8.3. In addition to the Annual General Meeting the Section may hold one or more General Meetings as decided by the membership.
- 8.4. Communication with the membership may be by post or electronic means to the last notified contact detail given, and shall be deemed to have been sent as the circumstances so indicate.
- 8.5. The primary business of a General Meeting shall be as circulated to the membership; members wishing to have a matter decided upon at any meeting shall give notice to the Secretary twenty-one days before the date of the meeting. Other business may be discussed by the agreement of the meeting but no significant matter may be decided without notice.
- 8.6. Decisions made at a General Meeting shall be by a simple majority of those voting, except as otherwise defined.
- 8.7. In the absence of the Chairman, the Secretary shall open the meeting to allow the members present to select a Chairman for that meeting.
- 8.8. Members not able to attend a General Meetings may give a proxy vote with or without directions to the Chairman or another Officer.
- 8.9.** Any General Meeting shall be quorate with one quarter of the paid up members either present or having given the Chairman (or another Officer) their proxy vote.

9. Annual General Meeting

- 9.1. The annual General Meeting is a General Meeting of the Section and subject, except as below, to the provisions governing any General Meeting.
- 9.2. The Annual General Meeting of the Section shall be held in November.
- 9.3. The minimum agenda for the Annual General Meeting shall be
 - 9.3.1. Apologies for Absence.
 - 9.3.2. Reports from the Section Officers.
 - 9.3.3. Adoption of the Accounts for the past year.
 - 9.3.4. Election of Officers.
 - 9.3.5. Election of the disciplinary and Examination sub-committees.
 - 9.3.6. Decision on the expenses to be given to the Committee members.
- 9.4. Additionally, an Annual General Meeting only will decide upon:
 - 9.4.1. the subscriptions,
 - 9.4.2. the joining fee,
 - 9.4.3. any rebate for members joining part way through the membership year,
 - 9.4.4. any rebate for work parties,
 - 9.4.5. the fee for late payment of a subscription
 - 9.4.6. the fee for a members Guest Day Ticket.

10. Extra-ordinary General Meetings

- 10.1. Any Extra-ordinary General Meeting of the Section is a General Meeting of the Section and subject, except as below, to the provisions governing any General Meeting.

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- 10.2. The business of an Extra-ordinary General Meeting shall be only that as notified to the membership.
- 10.3. Upon the request of the General Committee or at least five members of the Section, the Secretary shall summons an Extra-ordinary General Meeting within one month, giving fourteen days notice to the members.

11. Section finances

- 11.1. The Section's financial year shall be from 1 November to the end of the following October.
- 11.2. The Section Secretary and Treasurer shall keep records of all income and expenditure by year which shall be open to inspection by any member with notice any reasonable time.
- 11.3. The General committee shall be empowered to open, manage, and close Bank Accounts as required and as suitable for the convenient management of the Section's finances Signatories on any such account shall be the Chairman, Secretary & Treasurer, Bailiff, and Keeper and any cheque shall be signed by any two from these.
- 11.4. The Examination sub-committee shall examine the books to check that all transactions are recorded and in accordance with Section Policy, and shall report their findings to the Annual General Meeting.
- 11.5. A summary of the Books of the Section shall be presented to the Annual General Meeting.

12. Changing the Constitution

- 12.1. The Constitution may be changed only by an Extra-Ordinary General Meeting summonsed for that purpose and governed by the provisions for Extra-Ordinary General Meetings above and any change shall only come into effect at the close of that meeting.
- 12.2. Any change to the Constitution must be passed by a majority of two thirds of those eligible to vote.

13. Dissolution

- 13.1. Upon the request of the General Committee or at least ten members or half the full membership if a lesser number of the Section for the dissolution of the Section, the Secretary shall summons an Extra-Ordinary General Meeting within one month, giving fourteen days' notice to the members.
- 13.2. A two thirds majority of those entitled to vote shall be necessary to carry any resolution to dissolve the Section.
- 13.3. After discharging all debts and liabilities of the Section, the remaining assets shall pass to the Park Gate and District (Southampton) Branch of the Royal British Legion.

This Constitution was adopted at the AGM held on 18 March 2025.

Notes & interpretations subsequent to the adoption of the Constitution.

There is to be no rod sharing except where junior family members fish as guest of their family member.
Members may be allowed to suspend their membership for one year if their circumstances so dictate.
Members at the top of the waiting list may delay taking up membership for two seasons.
Ex-members wishing to re-join do not have any special privileges; they join the waiting list at the bottom.