



THE LECONFIELD FLYFISHING CLUB

General Regulations & Information



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1. General Information

1.1 The Club shall be known as the **Leconfield Flyfishing Club**

1.2 The object of the Club is the enjoyment of flyfishing

1.3 The Club shall consist of elected members, who may be Full Rods, Weekend, Honorary, Non-Fishing, or Junior Members, and its affairs shall be governed by a Committee elected for the purpose at the Annual General Meeting.

1.4 The right to fish is granted to the Club under Licence from the Leconfield Estate who are responsible for the management of the fisheries.

1.5 Fishing is permitted from sunrise to one hour after sunset daily during the Season.

2. The Committee

2.1 The general management of the Club is vested in the Committee, which shall consist of five members of the Club elected under the Rules.

The Officers of the Club shall consist of:

- (i) The President
- (ii) Chairman
- (iii) Secretary
- (iv) Treasurer
- (v) Fishery Bailiffs
- (vi) Recorder

The Chairman should be appointed by the committee and be an active member of the club

2.2 Election of Committee members shall be at the Annual General Meeting, and shall be made in the following way:

- (i) Any two Members may nominate a Member to serve on the committee. The name of the nominee and his or her proposer and seconder shall be put, in writing, to the Secretary forty-two days before the date fixed for the Annual General Meeting.
- (ii) A list of the candidates' names and their sponsors shall be forwarded to all members entitled to vote, with the notice convening the Annual General Meeting.
- (iii) If two or more candidates tie, the Chairman shall have the casting vote at the Annual General Meeting.
- (iv) If insufficient candidates are nominated, or a vacancy occurs, the Committee may fill such a vacancy by co-option.

- (v) At every Annual General Meeting, the member of the Committee who has served the longest time shall retire and be eligible for re-election.

2.3 At least two officers and two other members of the Committee shall constitute a quorum.

3. Members and Membership

3.1 Election to membership of the Club shall be vested in the Committee. Every candidate must be proposed to membership personally by a member of the club.

3.2 Membership applications shall be made in writing on the prescribed forms, copies of which are available from the Secretary.

3.3 Every candidate shall be approved by the Committee. Following election, candidates shall become a member upon payment of the annual subscription, and entrance fee. No reason for rejection of any candidate shall be given.

3.4 Full Voting Members shall be entitled to all the rights and privileges of the Club and shall be entitled to one vote at the Annual General Meeting. Full Members may fish on all the Club waters and on the River Rother. Any historic Half Rods may only fish on Upper & Lower Figgs and Upper & Lower Little Bognor. Junior members must be accompanied by a member at all times.

3.5 Non voting members include:

- (i) Honorary Members
- (ii) Weekend Members
- (iii) Junior Members (whose age limit shall be determined by the Committee)
- (iv) Non fishing Members

3.6 The Committee has the power to permit from time to time the use of the Club to other such persons as it thinks fit.

4. General Meetings

4.1 The Annual General Meeting shall be held once in every year.

4.2 The Committee may, whenever they think fit, and shall, on requisition in writing by thirty or more members, convene an Extraordinary General Meeting.

4.3 Not less than fourteen days' notice, in writing, shall be given of any such meeting.

4.4 The Committee may appoint Sub-Committees as they think fit.

4.5 The Committee may make, reject or amend regulations (not inconsistent with these Rules) for the management of and to achieve the objectives of the Club and to manage any fishery of the Club.

5. Subscriptions

5.1 The Committee prescribes the entrance fee, annual subscriptions and non-fishing membership fee on an annual basis.

5.2 Subscriptions are payable by 31 January in each year.

5.3 The Committee has absolute discretion to expel or suspend any member who fails to comply with the Rules of the Club or who, in the opinion of the Club, conducts themselves or acts in any way injurious to the character or interests of the Club. Notice of such expulsion or suspension shall be given to such member, who is entitled to attend or make representations to the Committee at a meeting considering such expulsion or suspension, but the decision of the Committee shall be final.

6. Rod Licences

6.1 Before fishing, in any season, members must be in possession of a valid Environment Agency Rod Licence. When inviting guests, members must ensure that their guests also have a valid Environment Agency Rod Licence. Rod Licences may be purchased from any Post Office store or on-line using the following web address: **www.gov.uk/fishing-licences/buy-a-fishing-licence**.

6.2 Permits are to be carried at all times when on the Estate and must be shown upon request to any authorised person. Permits are non-transferable.

7. Notices

7.1 Neither the Club, nor any officer thereof, shall be liable to any member or guest of a member for any loss or damage to property occurring from whatever cause, nor for any injury sustained by any member or guest.

7.2 The accidental omission to give notice of a meeting to or the non-receipt of the notice of a meeting by any member shall not invalidate any proceedings or resolutions at any meeting of the Committee, or any General Meeting.

8. Rods

8.1 Carbon fibre rods should be kept well clear of power lines.

The use of carbon fibre rods is entirely at members own risk and the Club, Committee or any representative will not be held responsible for any accident resulting from the use of a carbon fibre rod.

9. Records

9.1 A fishing hut or returns box is located at each lake or pond and at each car park on the River Rother. **On arrival**, members and guests **must enter their names and membership number in BLOCK CAPITALS** in the book, along with the time of their arrival. The weight and details of all fish caught or returned should also be entered before leaving. The recording of your presence at a lake or on the river is for your own safety in case of an emergency.

10. Fishing and Stocking

10.1 Flyfishing only is permitted and spinning or the use of worms or artificial bates is prohibited at all times. The use of barbless hooks is encouraged and is **compulsory** when returning fish.

10.2 Members will pay for fish caught at the prices set by the Committee. The price for the current season is outlined in the list of subscription charges. Accounts will be rendered periodically.

10.3 Water will be re-stocked from time to time with trout of suitable species and size.

10.4 The Committee may close or limit fishing on any or all Club waters whenever it is deemed necessary for the good management of the fishery. Notices as to such intentions will be posted in each hut in advance.

11. Catch and Release

11.1 Sea Trout and Wild Brown Trout that are caught on the river must be returned wherever possible.

11.2 Wild Brown Trout caught in Upper and Lower Little Bognor must be returned wherever possible.

11.3 Members may return healthy stocked Brown Trout to the river or Little Bognor ponds at any point during the season, provided they have used barbless hooks and follow the clubs advice on the careful handling of fish (see 12 below).

11.4 Members may return stocked Rainbow Trout before 17th May 2020 provided water temperatures do not exceed 20°C; they have followed the clubs guidance on fish handling (See 12 Below) and use barbless hooks.

11.5 The club's policy on catch and release may be reviewed at any time during a season. Members will be informed of any changes through notices in the fishing hut and return boxes.

12. Fish Handling

12.1 Avoid handling fish wherever possible and try to keep it inside a net, in the water.

12.2 If you have to touch a fish, please wet your hands first to reduce your skin temperature as fish are cold blooded.

12.3 Keep fish upright and submerged in your net until they are fully recovered and able to swim away unaided. This may take several minutes.

13. Car Parking

- 13.1 Cars are parked at the members own risk and only in the areas set aside for that purpose, as shown green on the lakes and River Rother maps provided. Vehicles are to be parked off the road or track so as not to obstruct traffic.
- 13.2 Car stickers should be clearly displayed in members vehicles at all times
- 13.3 Parking is restricted to daylight hours and up to two hours after sunset.
- 13.4 When going to and from the parking areas, members are requested to drive slowly and carefully at all times along Estate roads and particularly when passing through Stag Park and Kilsham Farm homestead, where speeds should not exceed 10 mph.
- 13.5 Members must close all gates and ensure that fences are not damaged. Members are not to trespass on any adjoining Estate land or structures and should keep to the banks of the river, except where they become impassable.

14. Access

14.1 **Vehicular access** may be gained by way of:

- (i) **The Hoad's Common Lodge Entrance**, which is situated on the main A283 Petworth to Northchapel road. From here, cars must be driven directly to either Great Springs and Little Springs car park, or Luff's car park along the Estate road shaded yellow on the map.
- (ii) **The Little Bognor Ponds** are situated approximately two miles to the south east of the town of Petworth. Access and car parking facilities are available via the forestry track shaded yellow on the map.
- (iii) **River Rother** car parks are shown shaded green on the map. The most northern car park is located along Rotherbridge Lane while the other four car parks are accessed off Kilsham Lane or through Kilsham Farm. Access for both lanes is directly from the A285, south of Petworth.

14.2 **Pedestrian access** is allowed to:

- (i) **Lower Figg's and Upper Figg's Ponds** through the door in the wall opposite the property known as Westlands, cars being parked only in the car park by this door shaded green on the map.

15. Use

- 15.1 Members may bring dogs, except to the River Rother. Dogs must be kept under strict control and remain within a few yards of their owners at all times or on a lead.
- 15.2 No fires or camping are permitted and no litter is to be left.
- 15.3 The Fishery bailiff will help and advise members to ensure that the rules are kept.
- 15.4 Members are prohibited from using boats or any other method of floatation to fish from while enjoying the club's facilities. Members are however encouraged to use life jackets at their own discretion.

16. Guests

- 16.1 Members are allowed to bring guests to fish, and must enter their names in the visitors' book. Fees for guests are outlined annually in the subscription charges.
- 16.2 Members must accompany their guests at all times. No more than two guests may be brought on any one day.
- 16.3 No guest may fish on more than three days in a season.
- 16.4 Members may be accompanied by the same junior guest (under the age of 16), on up to three occasions during the season at no charge. The age of junior guests must be recorded on the record sheets.
- 16.5 £50 will be paid to any member introducing a new Full Rod member.
- 16.6 Members who introduce guests shall be responsible for ensuring that their guests observe the Rules and Regulations of the club.

17. Health and Safety

- 17.1 Members use the Clubs facilities at their own risk and are responsible for their own safety. The Club, its committee or any representative will not be held responsible for any accident. The Estate shall not be liable for damages or otherwise for any accidental giving way of any banks or any defect or lack of repair of paths, roadways, gates, stiles and footbridges.
- 17.2 The Estate shall not be liable or responsible in any way for any injury or damage suffered by members or their guests, either personally or to their property. Members and their guests shall keep the Estate fully indemnified against any such liability or responsibility.
- 17.3 Overhead high voltage electricity lines cross some lakes and the river at several points. The dangers of fishing under or close to them are widely reported. Detailed guidance is provided by the Energy Networks Association. A copy can be viewed at the Estate Office or the club's website.
- 17.4 No responsibility will be taken for any event that may befall the waters or the trout, such as flood, drought, pollution or disease, whereby the fishing is adversely affected or rendered impossible.
- 17.5 Junior Members must be accompanied by an adult at all time whilst flyfishing.

18. Animal Welfare

- 18.1 Members should retrieve snagged flies wherever possible and report irretrievable flies to estate.office@leconfieldstates.co.uk.
- 18.2 Snapped or knotted leaders should be cleared away to avoid detrimental impact on wildlife.

Data Protection:

Please note that any personal information you have supplied will only be used in line with your membership of the Leconfield Fly Fishing Club and will not be disclosed to a third party without your prior permission or unless we are required to do so by law. Should you at any time wish your details to be removed from our records please do contact us.

21st December 2021