

# OLD MORTONIANS ANGLING CLUB CONSTITUTION

Clause

## A CONSTITUTION AND OBJECTS

### A1 The Club

formed under these rules shall be a branch of Old Mortonians and known as Old Mortonians Angling Club (OMAC) and will commence on 6th March 2017. Mention hereinafter of “the Committee” shall refer to Old Mortonians Committee who shall appoint one of its members as Old Mortonians Angling Club Secretary to represent the OMAC members. Mention hereinafter of AGM or EGM shall refer to the AGM or EGM of Old Mortonians.

### A2 Objectives and Aims

The objective of OMAC shall, by agreement with Canal & River Trust, owners of the fishing rights, be to: acquire, retain, maintain, improve and provide access to the stretch of the Oxford Canal from Moors Lane Bridge to Kent Road Bridge, hereafter termed Club Waters, to suit the fishing needs of Members of OMAC, as periodically determined by The Committee and ratified at an AGM or EGM.

OMAC shall aim to:

- i/ Provide facilities for, and promote participation by, all sections of the community who seek Membership.
- ii/ Offer angling coaching and competitive opportunities when required.
- iii/ In conjunction with Canal & River Trust, manage the facilities to ensure they are practical and safe to use.
- iv/ Provide all services in a way that is fair to all.
- v/ Take membership of the National Angling Trust and retain its insurance scheme.

### A3 Constitution and OMAC Rules

The Club shall be operated in accordance with the provisions of this Constitution, which becomes effective from the 6th March 2017. All members of OMAC shall abide by its rules, which shall consist of those outlined in this Constitution, plus the related Schedules of OMAC Fees and OMAC Angling Rules, both of which are made in accordance with its provisions. Changes to the OMAC Constitution can only be made in accordance with Clause D5 at an AGM or EGM. Changes to the OMAC Schedule of Fees can only be made in accordance with Clause B4 at an AGM or EGM. Changes to OMAC Angling Rules can only be made in accordance with Clause H at an AGM or EGM, and otherwise in accordance with OMAC Angling Rule 2.3 - subject to a suitable Resolution for its continuation/adoption being voted upon at the next AGM.

## B MEMBERSHIP

### B1 Eligibility

Membership of OMAC is available to all persons, irrespective of ethnicity, nationality, sexual orientation, religion, beliefs, age, sex or ability/disability and will be granted to anyone who:

- i/ satisfactorily completes a Membership application form
- ii/ pays the appropriate Membership Fee.
- iii/ abides by OMAC Rules.
- iv/ holds a valid EA Rod licence.

Or is otherwise granted Honorary or Temporary Membership under the terms of Clause B3.

However, Membership is subject to a discretionary veto by The Committee in the light of known or admitted past breaches of OMAC or Environment Agency Rules

OMAC and Old Mortonians are two separately constituted organisations and membership of OMAC does not in any way imply membership of Old Mortonians nor any right to attend or vote at its meetings. (Although this does not prevent a member of one from becoming a member of the other).

### B2 Duration

The Membership Year of OMAC shall run from the 6th March each year through to the 5th March of the following year.

### B3 Members and Membership Categories

Members of OMAC shall belong to one of four Membership Categories:

**Junior Member(s)** - Those aged 16 years old or less on 6<sup>th</sup> March in the year that they join or renew their Membership. **Full**

**Member(s)** - Those aged 17 years old or more on 6<sup>th</sup> March in the year that they join or renew their Membership.

**Honorary Member(s)** - Those persons provided with free Membership by The Committee in recognition of current or past services to The Club.

**Temporary Members(s)** - Those persons provided with Membership in accordance with an organised coaching event or OMAC Angling Rules 1.4, 1.9 or 3.4.

### B4 Membership Fees and Fee Categories

Other than in respect of *Honorary* Members, a Schedule of Membership Fee Charges for the following Categories shall be maintained by The Committee, with any changes proposed and voted upon at the AGM – any revised charges to apply during the following Membership Year: All are obtainable from the Membership Secretary or other members of The Committee, or any other person/outlet, as authorised by The Committee,

Category 1 - **Junior Members** £10

Category 2 - **Full Members** £25

Category 3 - **Day Tickets** – £5

Category 4 - **Special** – Available at the discretion of: The Committee or the Secretary

a) for those using Club Waters for special day/period events/matches, etc.

b) for new membership commencing between 1<sup>st</sup> January and 6<sup>th</sup> March each year where payment for the next full Membership Year is made at the same time.

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## B6 Membership Cards:

Other than in respect of *Temporary Members*, the issue of an OMAC Membership Card shall confirm Membership. Membership Cards remain the property of The Club and must be surrendered on demand of a member of The Committee. The Membership Card shall describe Club Waters and list main Club Officers. Information on the Committee, date of the next AGM, any OMAC Angling Rules and any other information deemed appropriate by The Committee, may also be provided on the Membership Card, or separately.

## B7 Refunds

Membership Fees will only be refunded in full or in part in exceptional circumstances as defined by the Committee.

## B8 Disciplinary Action

Members found, after a suitable hearing, by The Committee to be in breach of OMAC Rules shall be subject to disciplinary action. If as a result of disciplinary action it is decided to terminate Membership, the Member shall surrender their Membership Card on request. In the event of a failure to do so, Membership shall be deemed to have formally ceased upon delivery by recorded mail of written notification to this effect, sent to the Members last recorded address.

Where Membership is terminated as a result of disciplinary action, no refund of Membership Fees shall be made.

## C **THE COMMITTEE, CLUB OFFICERS, CLUB BAILIFFS**

### C1 Operation:

The overall management and control of OMAC shall be vested in the Committee of Old Mortonians.

### C2 The OMAC Secretary:

Shall be appointed by the Old Mortonians Committee and shall be the sole representative of OMAC on The Committee other than by Clause C3.

### C3 Co-option:

The Committee shall have powers to fill by co-option any vacancy arising on The Committee or of a Club Officer position, at or after the AGM - those persons assuming the rights and responsibilities of the position they fill.

The Committee shall also be able to co-opt onto The Committee at any time up to three Additional *Full Members* for specific purposes. Co-opted Additional *Full Members* shall have no voting rights at committee meetings, nor automatically become a Club Bailiff.

### C4 Club Bailiffs:

All members of The Committee, excluding any co-opted Additional *Full Members*, shall automatically be Club Bailiffs. In addition The Committee may appoint, at or after the AGM any other *Full Member* or *Honorary Member* to act as a Club Bailiff. The role of Club Bailiffs shall be to enforce the OMAC Angling Rules and to ask for and inspect Membership Cards or Day Tickets, or other documents or licenses relevant to Membership of The Club. It is envisaged that in practice all OMAC members shall act as a Bailiffs to police the area and ensure the Rules are followed. Any breach of Rules is to be reported to the OMAC Secretary.

### C5 Resolutions:

Any changes to OMAC Rules can only be made after a suitable Resolution is proposed and voted for at an AGM or EGM of Old Mortonians. The tabled Resolution must outline the proposals for change in a form that can be voted upon by those present.

Resolutions may be proposed by:

a/ The Committee or

b/ A *Full Member* who has provided a written copy of a proposed Resolution to The Committee, seconded by two other *Full Members*, at least 14 days prior to the meeting.

## E **CLUB FINANCES**

### E1 The Club Financial Year:

The Club Financial Year shall run from 1<sup>st</sup> January to 31<sup>st</sup> December.

### E2 The Club Accounts:

Income and Expenditure shall be recorded by the OMAC Secretary and given to the Old Mortonians Treasurer prior to any meeting.

The Club Accounts for the preceding Club Financial Year shall be prepared annually by the Treasurer and presented to Members at each AGM. The Club Accounts shall take the form of a summary balance sheet, showing income received and expenditure incurred for the OMAC Financial Year. The OMAC Accounts shall be signed by the Treasurer, and countersigned by the OMAC Club Secretary, to indicate that, to the best of their knowledge and belief, they are a true representation of the financial affairs of OMAC.

### E3 Bank Accounts:

All moneys received are to be paid in to the Old Mortonians Account or such other account as decided by the Committee.

### E4 Insurance:

The Committee shall maintain suitable insurance(s) to protect the legal liabilities of The Club and its Members/

## F **CLUB WATERS**

F1 A Schedule of Club Waters shall be maintained by The Committee.

F2 Details of Club Waters shall be included on Membership Cards, with further details shown on the OMAC website.

F3 Addition of Club Waters – New Club Water(s) may be added at The Committee's discretion.

F4 Removal of Club Waters - Other than in exceptional circumstances, e.g. termination of fishing rights, non-renewal of a lease, unreasonable rent increases, etc, by the owner of a Club Water; or the effective destruction of a fishery, e.g. through fish kills, environmental degradation or changes to access arrangements, Club Waters shall not be relinquished or disposed of by The Committee without a suitable Resolution being proposed and voted for at an AGM or EGM.

## G **TERMINATION AND MERGER**

### G1 Dissolution:

Unless OMAC ceases to exist by virtue of an agreed merger/transfer under the terms of Clause G2, OMAC will continue to exist

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unless there are insufficient Old Mortonians prepared to act as The Committee following the AGM or an EGM. In such circumstances the outgoing members of The Committee shall have their terms of office extended for 60 days, during which time they must arrange and notify in writing all Members of the date of an EGM, at which meeting they will either attempt to form a new Committee or propose a suitable resolution for dissolution of The Club. Should it be resolved at the EGM that OMAC be dissolved, an emergency Dissolution Committee of at least 3 *Full Members* shall be voted into temporary office by those *Full Members* present. From within their number the Dissolution Committee shall elect a Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer whose tasks shall be to trace, realise and account for all the due or held monies, assets and effects of The Club and, after settlement of any debts and charges, donate any balance to a charity that exists to protect or promote freshwater angling. The intended recipient charity shall be voted for at the EGM at which the Dissolution Committee is formed, after nominations made by those Members present are proposed and voted upon.

G2 Merger/Transfer of The Club or Club Waters:

Any proposal to merge The Club with another angling organisation/club, or transfer any of the Club Waters, assets or effects to another angling organisation/club shall only proceed if agreed by The Committee and a suitable Resolution being proposed and voted for at an AGM or EGM.

G3 Voting:

Resolutions on dissolution, merger or transfer will only be valid if proposed and then voted for by at least 75% of those members present and voting at an AGM or EGM, including any recorded abstentions.

## OLD MORTONIANS ANGLING CLUB (OMAC) RULES

EFFECTIVE FROM 6th March 2017

A Schedule of OMAC Angling Rules shall be maintained by The Committee in accordance with this section. At each AGM The Committee shall propose, Members be asked to approve, any changes to the Schedule of OMAC Angling Rules for the forthcoming Membership Year. The OMAC Angling Rules shall be included on Membership Cards and shown on the Old Mortonians website. All Members must abide by the adopted OMAC Angling Rules when attending or fishing Club Waters, plus any related notices or additional rules displayed. Members found by The Committee to be in breach of OMAC Angling Rules shall be liable to disciplinary action by The Club, which may, if judged to be serious, result in a life ban on Membership.

Rule No.

### Membership & Access Rules

- 1.1 OMAC accepts no liability for loss of or damage to Member's property.
- 1.2 Membership Cards only become valid once Members have affixed a passport sized photograph of themselves to it - in the space provided.
- 1.3 For insurance reasons *Junior and Temporary Members* aged below 16 years old must be 'Directly Supervised' by an accompanying adult aged 21 years old or over when fishing Club Waters; that adult, if not a *Full Member*, being regarded as a non-fishing *Temporary Member* whilst at Club Waters.  
**Note.** *'Directly Supervised' shall mean that the accompanying adult is located in the same, or an adjoining, swim.*
- 1.4 Where named on the Membership Card at its time of issue, a *Full Member* can take **one** accompanying person, at a time, from their own 'Family' fishing on Club Waters without further charge – as a *Temporary Member*. **Note.** *'Family' shall mean the Full Member's married, civil or co-habiting partner or any of their children aged up to 16 years old (inclusive).*
- 1.5.1 Access to Club Waters is available for the whole Membership Year, except as per:  
Canal and River Trust (CRT) rules on non-fishing from time to time and in any arm leading off the main canal.
- 1.6 Vehicle parking signs must be observed. Members parking on private land without permission will be required to cease fishing until the vehicle is removed to an authorised parking area.
- 1.7 Subject to payment of the appropriate fee, Day Tickets and membership forms must be obtained from canalchef café before fishing commences.  
All Day Tickets are valid only on the date shown upon the ticket. **Note.** *A Day Ticket holder is regarded as a Temporary Member of OMAC for the duration of the ticket, and must comply with relevant OMAC Rules.*
- 1.8 All Members issued with a Membership Card or Day Ticket must be in possession of it when fishing, and show their card or ticket on request to a Club Bailiff, or other Member who produces their card. Failure to do so, and/or produce other acceptable identification, will result in you being asked to cease fishing and leave the Club Water.
- 2.1 The Committee may take whatever emergency or temporary measures they deem fit to restrict access, angling or angling methods on any Club Waters - to protect the welfare\* of fish, wildlife or the safety of Members. Members must comply with any such measures.  
**Note.** *\* It is recommended that unhooking mats are used for larger fish, and that unused bait is not thrown into Club Waters at the end of a fishing session.*
- 2.2 No litter is to be left at any Club Water.
- 2.3 Poles/rods/equipment, etc, must not be passed through/rested on garden hedges/fences, etc.
- 2.4 Members must show consideration to Canal and River Trust, and their customers, tenants, and their respective land and property. Members should follow the 'country code' and in particular keep dogs under control, not light fires, stray from designated paths or damage crops, fences, hedges, gates nor any canal infrastructure.
- 2.5 No bait cans are to be left open and visible on the bank when fishing.
- 2.6 Any dead, dying or distressed fish should be reported as soon as possible to a Club Bailiff or member of The Committee.
- 2.7 No fish, whether dead or alive, are to be brought to, placed in, or removed from Club Waters without the permission of The Committee.
- 2.8 No fishing is permitted between 30 minutes after sunset and 30 minutes before sunrise.

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- 2.9 All fish caught that weigh 3lb or more, are to be returned to the water as soon as possible after landing. On no account are they to be kept in keep nets, sacks, bags or any other fish holding device, except in Club Matches when a '2 net rule' is being applied.
- 2.10 All canal boaters and towing path users must be treated in a civil and friendly manner whatever the situation.
- 2.11 No fishing is allowed between areas marked with electricity warning signs/marker posts.
- 2.12 Fishing from a boat is not permitted.

## Match Rules

- 3.1 All matches will be fished in accordance with Angling Trust rules.
- 3.2 Dates for Club or Open Matches for the forthcoming Membership Year will be supplied with Membership Cards or displayed on The Club website.
- 3.3 Entry to Club Matches is restricted to Members.
- 3.4 Entry to Open Matches is available to Members and non-members. Non-members must pay an entry fee to the Match Secretary or other Club Officer, and after payment shall be deemed to be a *Temporary Member* of OMAC for the duration of that match.
- 3.5 All fishing where a daytime Club or Open Match is due to be held must cease by 30 minutes after sunset of the day before. Where an evening Club Match is due to be held all fishing must cease by 1500 hours the same day.
- 3.6 At the organiser's discretion, other rules may apply if published in advance of the competition start and made available to all contestants.
- 3.7 At the organiser's discretion, Members not taking part in a match may fish any unallocated swims within the Club Water's match length, subject to obtaining the organiser's consent.