

Constitution of Reading Sailing Club

Dated 7 January 2008

1 Name

The name of the Club is Reading Sailing Club.

2 Club Objectives

The primary purpose of the Club is to provide facilities for the amateur sport of dinghy sailing in Reading and the surrounding area. To this end the club:

- i) provides facilities for competitive and recreational sailing, and for teaching people to sail.
- ii) encourages community participation in the sport for all ages, and abilities.

The club also caters for other forms of sailing, such as sailboards and model yachts.

3 Principal means of advancing the objectives

The committee has the power to:

- a) acquire and provide sailing water and related facilities, equipment, clubhouse, and other ordinary benefits of Community Amateur Sports Clubs as provided for in the Finance Act 2002.
- b) take out appropriate insurance for the club, equipment and facilities.
- c) raise funds by subscriptions and fees.
- d) open bank accounts, invest funds, set aside funds for special purposes or as reserves.
- e) buy, lease or license property and sell, let or otherwise dispose of the same.
- f) employ and engage staff and contractors and provide services. However it is policy to not employ members to provide goods or services.
- g) provide boats and equipment, for use by members, at fees commensurate with encouraging community participation.
- h) co-operate with or affiliate to any bodies regulating or organising the Sport, any club or body involved with it and with government and related agencies;
- i) indemnify the Committee and members acting properly in the course of the running of the Club against any liability incurred in the proper running of the Club (but only to the extent of its assets).
- j) do all other things reasonably necessary to advance the purposes.

None of the above powers may be used other than to advance the purposes consistently within the rules contained in this Constitution and the law.

All surplus income or profits are reinvested in the club.

4 Membership

Membership of the Club shall be open to anyone interested in the sport on application regardless of sex, age, disability, ethnicity, nationality, sexual orientation, religion or other beliefs.

There shall be seven classes of membership:

- 1) Full single member
- 2) Family - for cohabiting couples and their children under the age of 18 years and living at the same address.
- 3) Student - for full time students or apprentices aged 18 to 24 years
- 4) Junior - for people aged 13 to 18 years
- 5) Crewing members - for those who sail only as crew with other helms
- 6) Sailors of model yachts
- 7) Affiliated organisations

Only full single members and adult members covered by a family subscription (i.e. categories 1 and 2) are eligible to hold office and vote at meetings. Members in categories 3 through to 7 are not eligible to hold office or to vote at meetings.

The committee may limit membership according to available facilities provided such limitation is not discriminatory in any way. The Committee may refuse or remove membership only for good reason, such as conduct or behaviour likely to be injurious to the interests of the Club.

5 Entrance Fees and Subscriptions

The Club shall aim to keep fees and subscriptions at levels that do not pose a significant obstacle to people participating. Entrance fees and subscriptions shall be decided each year at the annual general meeting. Subscriptions shall be due on the 1st April each year. Subscriptions not renewed by 30th April shall be deemed to have lapsed.

The committee shall have the authority to determine subscriptions for block and temporary membership, and for any circumstances not otherwise defined, provided that such membership be reviewed at the next Annual General Meeting.

The club shall have, at all times, a lien over member's or former member's boats and trailers parked or moored on the Club's premises or moorings in respect of all monies due to the Club, whether in respect of arrears of parking fees, subscriptions or otherwise

6 Officers

The officers of the Club shall comprise a Commodore, Vice-Commodore, Honorary Treasurer, General Secretary, Membership Secretary, Sailing Secretary and Bosun.

7 Committee

a) Responsibilities

Subject to this Constitution the Committee shall have responsibility for the management of the Club, its funds, property and affairs. The Committee may decide its own way of operating and shall have due regard to the law. The committee shall meet at least three times a year.

b) Composition

The Committee shall consist of the officers of the Club and a minimum of three additional persons with duties as proposed at the Annual General Meeting. The Committee may co-opt additional members during the year or delegate functions to club members outside of the committee. Any Committee member may be re-elected or co-opted without limit. Only those members entitled to vote at general meetings shall be eligible to serve as committee members.

c) Availability of records

Annual club reports, statements of accounts, and minutes of meetings and other records for the preceding two years shall be readily available for inspection by any club member.

8 General meetings

Such meetings require 14 clear days written notice to members. All members may attend all general meetings of the Club. The quorum for all general meetings is 20% of the membership which is eligible to vote. The definition of those members entitled to vote is defined in the clause of this document that describes the categories of membership. The Commodore or (in his or her absence) another member chosen at the meeting shall preside.

Except as otherwise provided in these Rules every resolution shall be decided by a simple majority of the votes cast on a show of hands. In the event of equal votes, the Chair is entitled to a casting vote.

9 Annual General Meetings

The financial year shall end on 31st October each year. The Annual General Meeting shall be held each year no later than the 31st January. At each AGM:

- i) the Members shall elect the officers and committee members to serve until the next AGM.
- ii) the Treasurer shall produce accounts of the Club for the preceding financial year.
- iii) the Committee shall present a report on the Club's activities since the previous AGM.
- iv) the Members shall approve a suitable person to examine the accounts for the presentation at the next AGM.
- v) the Members shall discuss and vote on any resolution and deal with any other business put to the meeting.

10 Changes to constitution

The constitution may be amended only at a General Meeting of the club and by two-thirds of the votes cast. The constitution shall not be changed in any way that would jeopardise the Club's status as a Community Amateur Sports Club as first provided for by the Finance Act 2002.

The Club Purposes may be changed to include another eligible sport if the Committee unanimously agree and the members also agree the change by a 75% majority of votes cast.

11 Burgee

The burgee of the club shall be a blue pennant bearing a broad vertical wavy band in gold.

12 Safety

The committee shall periodically review, and if necessary, update the safety regulations of the club. The safety regulations shall be published in the year book and displayed in the clubhouse.

13 Affiliation to the RYA

The Club shall be affiliated to and adhere to the rules of the Royal Yachting Association.

14 Abandoned Boats

If at any time the subscriptions payable to the club by any member or former member shall be three months or more in arrears:

- i) The committee shall be entitled to move the boat to another part of the premises without being liable for any loss or damage to the boat howsoever caused.
- ii) The committee shall be entitled upon giving one month's notice in writing to the owner of the boat at his last known address as shown in the register of members, to sell the boat and to deduct any monies due to the Club (whether by way of arrears of subscription or parking fees or other wise) from the net proceeds of the sale before accounting for the balance to the member or former member.
- iii) Alternatively, any boat which in the opinion of the Committee cannot be sold may, upon such notice aforesaid, be disposed of in any manner the committee thinks fit, and that the expense be recovered from the owner or the member or former member.
- iv) Any arrears as aforesaid shall be deemed to be a debt owing to the club by the member or former member.

15 Winding up the Club

The Club may be dissolved only after a resolution to this effect has been put to a General Meeting of the Club and passed. A special General Meeting of the Club must then be convened not less than one month thereafter to discuss and vote on the resolution. If, at that special General Meeting the resolution is carried by at least two thirds of the members eligible to vote and present at the meeting, the Committee shall thereupon, or at such date as shall have been specified in the resolution, be responsible for the orderly winding up of the Club.

After settling all liabilities of the Club, the Committee shall dispose of the net assets remaining to one or more of the following:

- i) to another Club with similar sports purposes which is a registered charity
- ii) to another Club with similar sports purposes which is a registered CASC
- iii) to the sport's governing body for use by them for related community sports.

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