

STEWARTBY WATER SPORTS CLUB - ANGLING SECTION
CONSTITUTION AND RULES

1. **NAME.** The Section shall be known as the 'Stewartby Water Sports Club Angling Section'.
2. **OBJECTS.** To promote the sport of 'Angling' in all its aspects.
3. **MEMBERSHIP.** Members of the Section shall be Members of the Stewartby Water Sports Club Ltd., and shall consist of Individual Members over the age of 18 years and Family Members of Husband and Wife and their children under the age of 18 years.
4. **SUBSCRIPTIONS.** The subscription for membership of the Section shall be determined by the Committee of the Section and will be additional to the subscription levied by Stewartby Water Sports Club Ltd., and will be due by the fourteenth day of February in each year. Rule 22 of Stewartby Water Sports Club applies.
5. **OFFICERS.** The Officers of the Section will consist of Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer all of whom shall be elected annually at the Annual General Meeting (AGM).
6. **COMMITTEE.** The Committee of the Section will consist of the Officers of the Section and six members elected annually at the AGM.
7. **MANAGEMENT.** The management of the Section shall be in the hands of the Committee who shall have power to co-opt and appoint sub-committees.
8. **COMMITTEE MEETINGS.** The Committee shall meet as necessary but on at least four occasions in each year and a quorum for business shall be four.
9. **GENERAL MEETINGS.**

An Annual General Meeting of the Section shall take place during the months March/April each year but the Committee shall have the power to summon a General Meeting at any time on reasonable notice.

The business of the Annual General Meeting shall be the election of the Officers and Members of the Committee and the Section's Representative to the Club Management Committee, the passing of Accounts and any other relevant business of which shall have been given to the Secretary not less than twenty-one days before such Annual General Meeting. Any proposal for a Section Member to be elected Officer or Committee Member of the Section at the AGM shall be delivered to the Secretary not less than seven days before the AGM signed by the Proposer and Secunder and endorsed with the signed consent of the person proposed.

At any General Meeting, the Chairman shall have unfettered discretion to take any other business that may be proposed to the Meeting and a right to adjourn or close the Meeting.

The persons entitled to vote at a General Meeting shall be Individual Members and one adult member of a Family Membership, and every person entitled to notice of a General Meeting shall be entitled to one vote thereat.

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The Secretary shall, at least fourteen days before any General Meeting, send every Member at his last known address a notice of such Meeting stating the time and the place where it will be held and, if known, the business that will be brought before it.

10. **FAMILY MEMBERS.** Family Members under the age of 18 years must be accompanied by, and within close proximity to, an adult Member who shall accept full responsibility.
11. **RULES ETC.** Breaking or contravening the Rules or Regulations of the Section, or conduct likely to bring the Section into disrepute, will render the Member liable to suspension by the Section Committee from the Section and expulsion from the Club in accordance with Rule 19 of Stewartby Water Sports Club Constitution.
12. **BAIT.** Roach or Roach/Rudd Hybrids weighing 8 oz. or less may be retained for use as bait in Stewartby Lake only and a maximum limit of ten such fish per day per Angler shall apply. Otherwise, all fish shall be returned to the water alive.
13. **ENVIRONMENT AGENCY (EA).** All appropriate EA Rules and Byelaws will apply.
14. **KEEP-NETS.** The minimum size of keep-nets used is to conform to EA Rules and Byelaws. Pike and zander must not be held in keep-nets or similar devices, except in officially organized matches, and must be returned to the water as soon as possible following capture. During the period 15th March to 15th June inclusive, keep-nets are not to be used and all fish are to be returned to the water as soon as possible after capture.
15. **GAFFS.** No gaffs to be used on Club Waters.
16. **WIRE TRACES.** Wire traces are to be used when fishing for Pike.
17. **LITTER.** No Member shall deposit litter, including discarded 'line', and the Member fishing a 'swim' will be responsible for any litter found in the immediate vicinity thereof.
18. **MEMBERSHIP CARDS.** These shall be carried at all times. Electronic gate access cards are non transferable and are unique to each member, please do not swap your card with anyone else, this will avoid disappointment when you are refused access by the online control system (please take note of the unique number of your card and report any loss as soon as possible. All Members are Honorary Bailiffs and may request other Anglers to show their membership card(s).
19. **RODS.** Rods with baited hooks must not be left unattended.
20. **MAXIMUM NUMBER OF RODS.** A maximum of Four rods may be used by an angler when fishing at Stewartby Lake.
21. **FIRES.** No member shall light unauthorized fires of any kind on the banks of Stewartby Lake.
22. **CLOSE SEASON.** There is no close season at Stewartby lake, but the Angling Section Committee is empowered to ban fishing at the lake at any time during the period 15th March to 15th June inclusive for conservation purposes. Members should note that keep-nets are not permitted during the period 15th March to 15th June inclusive. (Rule 14 refers)
23. **RISKS.** In joining the Stewartby Water Sports Club Angling Section, members accept that the Stewartby Water Sports Club Limited and its Officers cannot be made liable for inherent risks to the member, member's family or guests whilst participating in the activities of the Club. Neither the Stewartby Water Sports Club Directors, Stewartby Water Sports Club Angling Section Committee, Trustees or Landowners shall be responsible for any injury sustained or damage committed while members their families or guests are fishing on or travelling to and from Stewartby Water Sports Club waters.

STEWARTBY WATER SPORTS CLUB - ANGLING SECTION

Stewartby Water Sports Club (SWSC) is run by an elected Management Committee that oversees the activities performed by the four sections of the club: Angling, Sailing, Powerboat and Water Ski. Each section has its own elected committee to look after section affairs. Overall the SWSC has up to 1000 members with a maximum of 220 in the Angling Section.

The SWSC Angling Section has a single water - Stewartby lake. The Marston Vale Trust (MVT) runs the site, which includes the lake and adjacent wetlands, and leases part of the Southern (or 'Club') bank of the lake to the SWSC. The remaining banks and wetlands are under MVT management as a Country Park. Fishing is not allowed in the wetlands lakes.

The SWSC clubhouse, where anglers are welcome, is usually open on Wednesday evenings during the summer and on most weekends – particularly Sundays - throughout the year. The clubhouse has a bar and kitchen and it also has good shower and toilet facilities. Several social events are held in the clubhouse over the course of a year. Notice of such events is given in the clubhouse, in Section newsletters, and in Club or Section newsletters. (Members may wish to note that the Country Park Visitor Centre also includes an excellent restaurant. The Visitor Centre is open on most days between 10 am and 4 pm. – and often longer in summer.)

The Angling Section has two types of membership: individual and family. Family members under the age of 18 years must be accompanied by an adult member of the Section when fishing. Sons and daughters must apply for individual membership in their own right on attaining the age of 18.

Fees are charged annually and can be expected to vary from year to year. The absolute deadline for renewal is 14th February each year, and reminders stating the revised fees are usually sent out about two months in advance.

Fishing rights for Stewartby Lake are granted solely to the SWSC Angling Section. Apart from one stretch of the South West bank, there are no restrictions on angling from any bank. Prudence dictates, however, that one should avoid the areas infested by boats, for example, the slipways.

On the South West bank of the lake, many years ago, angling restrictions were introduced by pegging the bank to protect new bank-side plants and to encourage them to grow. These plants have matured and most of the old pegs have disappeared through natural decay or bank erosion. The pegs will not be replaced, but the Section numbers are retained on the map mainly for reference purposes. The current restrictions on fishing from the South West bank are:

- (1) No angling is permitted in the nature reserve area of the South West corner of the lake between Sections 8 and 9 as shown on the attached map. This includes the lagoon. Members violating this rule will be suspended from the SWSC for life.
- (2) Members wishing to fish from the South West bank should approach by using the hard footpath - and should not walk along the bank by the water's edge.
- (3) Members should remove their litter at the end of an angling session and should exercise the greatest care so as to avoid disturbance to plants and wildlife at any place along the bank.
- (4) No angling is permitted from sections 2 and 3 between 1300 hours and 1800 hours on a Saturday, and 1100 hours and 1800 hours on a Sunday. (This is to avoid conflicts between anglers and sailors.)

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Please treat the foregoing arrangements with the utmost respect. It took 10 years to obtain the right to fish from the South West bank. Abuse of the agreement will lead to the loss of MVT permission to fish from these sections.

A limited amount of boat fishing is permitted on Stewartby Lake subject to additional boat fishing fees, rules and time restrictions. Further details and boat fishing application forms can be obtained from the Angling Section Membership secretary.(Tony Crofts 01234 765218 or 07769503194)

The lake contains roach, roach/rudd hybrids, rudd, bream, tench, perch, pike and zander. There are also a few carp and eels, but these are caught rarely. Please report any signs of fish disease or water pollution to a committee member or club official as soon as possible.

Restocking is carried out when deemed necessary by the Angling Section committee. Under no circumstances should fish be transferred to the lake as a private venture since this is illegal and could introduce diseases.

Environment Agency licences are required. The number of rods permitted is given in the Section's Constitution and Rules.

Each individual or family membership is entitled to three guest permits per year. A separate permit is required for each guest and the permit is issued for fishing on a stated day. To obtain a permit, send a written request to the Section secretary seven days in advance of the requirement. State the name and address of the guest, the date that you wish to fish, and enclose a stamped and addressed envelope for the return of the permit. No s.a.e means no permit. Also note that a particular guest may only take part in the club's sporting activities up to a maximum of three times per year.

Anglers may obtain access to the club bank during quiet hours via the SWSC main gate using a proximity card that is issued on joining the SWSC. There is a gate beyond the clubhouse which gives access to pegged section 9 from the club's premises; members are advised of the lock combination after joining the SWSC. The cardinal rule for the use of this gate is to re-lock it after both entry and exit. Although there are two parking slots beyond the gate – between the four posts shown on the attached map – members are advised that this is a public area and it is not secure. It is recommended that cars are parked within the SWSC's premises.

The proximity card issued to members on joining the SWSC also gives access to the clubhouse toilets and showers. One card is issued per individual or family membership. Extra cards for family members or replacement cards can be obtained from the SWSC Membership Secretary for an additional fee.

Turning to car parking, please keep off the boat slipways on the club bank. For the Northern bank, use the dead-end road running parallel to the A421 dual carriageway. This is accessed via the first Marston Moretaine turn-off travelling west along the A421 from Bedford. Cars are not permitted on any of the Country Park banks.

Please abide by the Section's Constitution and Rules, and remember that all members are honorary bailiffs and should do their bit to protect and preserve our fishery. Carry your membership card at all times. You may be asked to show it - and will be asked to leave if you can't produce it! Treat the hedges, vegetation and wildlife with respect - and clear your litter at the end of a fishing session, taking particular care to remove all line and weights.

Finally, should you have cause for complaint about the antics of members of other sections, go to the clubhouse or relevant Officer-of-the-Day and complain as soon as possible. Take the number of the boat involved and report it - and try to use a reasonable tone even if it hurts! This is effective and helps to preserve the current goodwill between sections - none of the sections tolerate cowboys who ignore the rules.

Welcome to the SWSC - and 'Tight Lines'!

