

North Herts. & East Beds. Sailing Club.

CONSTITUTION

- 1 The name of the Club shall be the North Herts. and East Beds. Sailing Club. The Club is situated to the east of the Ickleford/Arlesey unclassified road to the north of Hitchin (Ordnance Survey Ref. 197 345 on map 153). The entrance to the water known as the Blue Lagoon lies to the east of the road before reaching the village of Arlesey.
- 2 The Club's burgee is white, bordered with light blue. A light blue diagonal, bearing a defaced HB at its mid-point, runs from the heel of the hoist to the top of the fly.
- 3 The object of the Club is to promote the sport of sailing. Dinghies, sailboards and paddleboards are allowed to use the water. Except for officially appointed stand by launches which may be power driven, the use of the water leased to the Club is restricted to sailing craft. no other power boats should use the water.
- 4 The Club is open to all regardless of race, colour, creed, sex or ability.
- 5 The Club shall consist of : -
 - A President
 - Honorary Life Members
 - Full Members (age 18 years and over)
 - PLUS other categories of Members that the Management Committee shall approve from time to time.
- 6 The control and management of the Club shall be vested in a Committee consisting of : -
 - Commodore
 - Vice-Commodore
 - Rear-Commodore
 - Secretary
 - Treasurer
 - Membership Secretary
 - and not more than NINE other Full Members or the Spouse/Partner of Full Members.
- 7
 - 7.1 The Club shall have a panel of trustees of whom two or more shall enter into legal agreements on the Club's behalf and under the direction of the Management Committee as is necessary.
 - 7.2 Members of the panel of trustees shall be past Presidents, President, Commodore and any other club member nominated by the Management Committee, who accepts this position.
 - 7.3 The trustees shall have powers to enter into indemnity arrangements with Club Members as they see fit before entering into guarantee arrangements or financial commitments on behalf of the Club.
 - 7.4 The trustees shall meet as necessary to discuss matters affecting the Club's property, premises or contracts that have been entered into or intending to be entered into on behalf of the Club.
 - 7.5 The trustees shall meet with the Management Committee as necessary.
- 8 The Management Committee shall meet on all necessary occasions and at such time and place as may be convenient.

- 9 The Management Committee shall manage the affairs of the Club according to the Constitution and shall apply the funds of the Club to the objects of the Club. The Committee shall make such bye-laws, rules and regulations as they think fit as to the management of the Club and its premises. The Management Committee shall have the power to form sub-committees from their members and co-opt any Full Members and the Spouse/Partner of Full Members to assist in such sub-committees. Flag-Officers, Secretary and Treasurer shall be ex-officio members of all sub-committees and are to be advised of all sub-committee meetings.
- 10 The Quorum. Five members of the Management Committee shall form a Quorum.
- 11 The Secretary shall ensure that Management Committee meetings are properly minuted and that these minutes will be distributed to Management Committee members.
- 12 The Treasurer shall keep correct accounts and books which shall be made up to the end of September and audited within 3 months following the Annual General Meeting. The Membership Secretary shall maintain a register of Club Members.
- 13 The Annual General Meeting shall be held no later than the end of October each year.
- 14 A Special General Meeting may be called by a majority of two thirds of the Management Committee present and voting or by a request in writing signed by fifteen Members of the Club.
The Secretary shall, at least fourteen days before such meetings, notify all the members of the proposed meeting giving details of the time, place and the business to be brought forward thereat.
- 15 The Trustees may call a Special General Meeting should any decision affecting the Club's property or premises have to be made as a matter of urgency. The statutory fourteen days notice required for a General Meeting shall be waived if the trustees deem this is necessary.
- 16 Election of Officers and Members of the Management Committee. The Officers and Members of Committee for the ensuing year shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting.
- 17 Proposals for nomination to the Management Committee should normally be submitted in writing to the Secretary at least seven days before the Annual General Meeting.

Each proposal so submitted must be signed by one voting Member of the Club and seconded by another such Member and must include a conditional acceptance of the office by the Member so nominated. At the discretion of the Chairman nominations suitably proposed and seconded and having the conditional acceptance of the nominee may be accepted at the Annual General Meeting.
- 18 Each Full Member present at the Annual General Meeting or at a Special General Meeting is entitled to one vote in any decision arising during such meetings, and in addition, if the husband or wife/partner of any Full Member is serving on the Management Committee, he or she shall also be entitled to one vote. Voting on any proposal, other than the election of officers and Members of the Committee, shall normally be by the show of hands, but a secret ballot shall be held if requested by 10 (ten) voting Members.
- 19 The Officers and Members of the Management Committee shall be elected by a ballot by a simple majority of votes of all the Members present and voting at the Annual General Meeting. Where there is a single nomination for any or for each Office on the Committee, the Committee member, or members, may be elected by a show of hands in place of a ballot.
- 20 No flag officer shall hold the same office for more than two consecutive years unless exceptional circumstances dictate otherwise.
- 21 A retiring Commodore shall serve as an ex-officio member of the Committee for one year immediately following his period of office as Commodore, after which he shall be ineligible to serve in any flag capacity on the Committee for a period of one year.

- 22 Appointment of President.
A retiring Commodore, on completion of his twelve month service as ex-officio member of the Committee, shall be appointed President of the Club for a period of two years.
- 23 Members of the Club may be elected as Honorary Life Members at the Annual General Meeting, in recognition of special services rendered to the Club.
- 24 The Secretary and Treasurer shall be eligible for re-election at the end of their year of office subject to a maximum period of three years in office.
- 25 Admission to the Club shall be by written application to the Membership Secretary together with the appropriate fees.
- 26 Subscriptions shall be due on the 1st day of January each year.
- 27 Arrears.
Any Member whose subscription remains unpaid on the 1st March shall receive notice thereof from the Treasurer and should the same subscription remain unpaid on the 1st day of April, the Committee may at any subsequent meeting, remove the Member's name from the roll of the Club and notify him or her forthwith.
- 28 Any Member wishing to resign must notify the Secretary of his/her intention in writing.
- 29 Visitors.
At the discretion of the Committee visitors will be allowed on the Club premises, providing they are accompanied by a Full Member.
- 30 Every Member on joining the Club implicitly undertakes to be governed by the Constitution and to comply with the Club Rules. If any Member shall infringe any of the rules or regulations of the Club, or be guilty of conduct prejudicial to the running of the Club, the Management Committee may take cognizance of the matter and shall have the power, by a majority of not less than three-fourths of its members present and voting, to demand the resignation of, or to expel, the offending Member. Before dealing with a Member in this way the Committee shall call upon him or her for an explanation of his or her conduct.
- 31 Members of the Club, their guests, or visitors may use the Club premises and any other facilities of the Club, entirely at their own risk and implicitly accept :
- (a) The Club will not accept any liability for any damage to or loss of property belonging to Members, their guests or visitors to the Club.
 - (b) The Club will not accept liability for the personal injury arising out of the use of the Club premises or any other facilities of the Club either sustained by Members, their guests or visitors or caused by the said Members, guests or visitors, whether or not such damage or injury could have been attributed to or was occasioned by the neglect, default or negligence of any of them, the officers, Committee or servants of the Club.
 - (c) The Club does not guarantee to provide standby or rescue services.
- 32 Alterations to the Constitution.
Notice of any alteration or addition to the Constitution intended to be proposed by a Member shall be given to the Secretary in writing at least 14 days before the Annual General Meeting; or any Special General Meeting. A three-fourths majority of all Members present and voting will be required to pass such alterations or additions to the Constitution.
- 33 If at any time any dinghy park fees payable to the Club by any Member or former member shall be three months or more in arrears:

- (a) The Management Committee shall be entitled to move the boat to any part of the premises without being liable for any loss or damage to the boat howsoever caused.
 - (b) The Management Committee shall be entitled upon giving one months notice .in writing to the Member or former member, at his last known address shown in the register of Members, to sell the boat and to deduct any monies due to the Club (whether by way of arrears to subscriptions or mooring or parking fees or otherwise), from the net proceeds of the sale before accounting for the balance (if any) to the Member or former member.
 - (c) Alternatively, any boat which in the opinion of the Management Committee cannot be sold may, upon such notice of aforesaid, be disposed of in any manner the Committee think fit and the expenses recovered from the Member or former member. Further the Club shall, at all times, have in lien over Members, or former members, boats parked on the Club's premises in respect of all monies due to the Club, whether in respect of arrears of fees or subscriptions or otherwise.
34. The Club is a non profit making organization. Any surpluses accruing will be used to maintain or improve the Club's facilities. No surplus will be distributed.
35. Dissolution
If, upon the winding up or dissolution of the Club, there remains after the satisfaction of all the debts and liabilities any property whatsoever, the same shall not be paid to or distributed amongst the members of the Club but shall be given or transferred to a sailing club with CASC or charity status or the RYA.

The Constitution was revised and agreed unanimously at a Special General Meeting held on October 24th 2023 in the presence of Trustees Mike Clarke, Mark Hobbs and Paul Rose, and Commodore Adrian Goulding.