

BRISTOL ORNITHOLOGICAL CLUB

Constitution and Rules



These listed below comprise the constitution and rules of the club.

1) Name. The name of the club shall be the 'Bristol Ornithological Club' (BOC).

2) The Aims Of The Club

- a. To promote, encourage and co-ordinate the study of ornithology in all its branches in the Bristol and district area.
- b. To hold regular outdoor meetings and longer holiday trips throughout the year and winter indoor meetings.
- c. To publish; a monthly bulletin *Bird News*; annually, the *Avon Bird Report* (in conjunction with Bristol Naturalists' Society); occasionally a journal *Bristol Ornithology** and other submissions deemed appropriate by the General Committee. All publications may be in an electronic format.
- d. Helping and encouraging those new to bird watching (birding) by sharing knowledge and identification skills.
- e. Supporting and assisting conservation projects through active co-operation with local organisations and national ornithological bodies e.g. Bristol Naturalists' Society, Bristol Water, Avon Wildlife Trust, BTO.
- f. Promoting field research through co-operative and individual studies.
- g. Creating and updating a Club web site to promote the Club's activities and to facilitate and widen birding activities more generally.

3) Membership.

- a) Membership shall be open to anyone interested in ornithology/birding.
- b) There shall be two classes of members:
 - Ordinary Members, who shall pay an annual subscription.
 - Honorary Life Members, who shall pay no subscription.
- c) Honorary Life Members shall be those who are considered to have rendered distinguished service to local ornithology. Nominations shall progress from the General Committee to the Annual General Meeting (AGM) where they must be elected by at least a 75 % majority. The number of Honorary Life Members shall be not more than four.
- d) Each applicant for membership shall sign an application form or the online equivalent. The General Committee shall be notified of each application.
- e) The General Committee shall have the right to terminate the membership of any person who in its opinion has acted against the interest of the Club or any person whose subscription is three months in arrears.
- f) The amount of the annual subscription shall be decided at the AGM by a simple majority vote; it shall become payable on 1st January.
- g) Any person whose subscription is in arrears shall forfeit their rights as a member until the subscription is paid.

4) Officers and Committees.

- a) The administration of the Club, including its financial affairs, shall be vested in a committee of not more than fourteen persons which shall be called the General Committee.
- b) The GENERAL COMMITTEE shall consist of the four officers mentioned below (sub-section c) and not more than ten other members.
- c) The principal officers of the club shall be:
 - The Chairperson.
 - The Secretary.
 - The Treasurer.
 - The Membership Secretary
- d) The General Committee shall have the right to create other officers from among its own members.
- e) Any two members of the General Committee shall have the right to call a General Committee meeting by giving all other members of the General Committee fourteen days notice in writing / by email.
- f) A quorum for a General Committee meeting shall be five members.

- g) The General Committee shall have the right to co-opt additional members, but these co-opted members shall NOT have any voting privileges and their appointment shall be reviewed prior to each AGM or when deemed necessary by the remainder of the General Committee.
- h) The General Committee shall have the right to appoint sub-committees from its members to be responsible to the General Committee, and to give regular reports on its actions.
- i) The General Committee shall have the power to fill such temporary vacancies as may occur among the officers and members of the General Committee between one AGM and the next.
- j) The four officers mentioned in sub-section - c above shall be elected annually at the AGM and shall be eligible for re-election.
- k) The ten other General Committee members shall be elected at the AGM for a term of three years, and these shall be eligible for re-election.
- l) Nominations for officers and for vacancies on the General Committee shall be in the hands of the Secretary at least four weeks before the AGM.

5) Business Meetings.

- a) An AGM shall be held in December each year on a date fixed by the General Committee at least six weeks beforehand; notice of any resolution shall be in the hands of the secretary at least four weeks beforehand and the agenda circulated to all members two weeks beforehand.
- b) After the close of the financial year, the accounts shall be examined by a suitably qualified person, who is independent of the officers and general committee, to verify that they represent a true and fair statement of accounts.
- c) The main business to be transacted at the AGM shall be as follows:
 - Chairperson's address.
 - Secretary's report.
 - Treasurer's report.
 - Membership Secretary's report
 - Review of the annual subscription.
 - Election of officers.
 - Election of General Committee members.
 - Election of Honorary Auditor.
- d) At least twenty five members may petition any member of the General Committee to call an Extraordinary General Meeting. All Club members must be notified in writing / by email at least six weeks before the date of such meeting.

6) Dissolution of the Club.

- a) The proposal to dissolve the club shall be put to all the membership by post in advance of an AGM or EGM. Members may vote only once *either* by postal ballot *or* attendance at the meeting. The postal votes will be counted along with the show of hands at the meeting to determine the resolution. It must be passed by at least a 75 % majority of the members that vote. A quorum shall be not less than 10% of total membership.
- b) In the event of dissolution of the Club, its assets shall be sold and all money shall be donated to such organisation(s) for the furtherance of ornithology as shall be decided by a simple majority vote at the same General Meeting.