

RAE Angling Club

Introduction

The RAE Angling Club (RAE AC) was started around 1926 as a part of the RAE Sports Association. The Royal Aircraft Establishment (RAE) was based in Farnborough Hampshire and part of the War Department / Ministry of Defence. The RAE Angling Club split from the Civil Service Sports and Social Club at around the time that the RAE evolved into an MoD Research Agency. At the separation, the name was changed to the Riseley Angling Enthusiasts Angling Club, in recognition that throughout its existence the club had fished on the River Blackwater at Riseley Farm in Swallowfield. Further details on the club can be found on the club's Facebook page.

The purpose of the club is to facilitate and promote angling for its members. The conduct of the club shall be governed by the Rule Book and by an Annual General Meeting. The rules can only be amended at the Annual General Meeting of the Club or at a Special General Meeting called for that purpose. Proposed amendments must be submitted in writing to the Secretary at least fourteen days prior to the date fixed for the meeting.

RAE Angling Club Rule Book

1. The club shall be known as the Riseley Angling Enthusiasts Angling Club (RAE Angling Club) hereinafter known as the 'Club'. Membership shall be open to anglers of good standing.
2. The existing members at the Annual General Meeting shall decide the limit to total membership of the club.
3. The entrance fees and subscription fees shall be decided at the Annual General Meeting. Junior membership (16 years & under) is free. There are no other concessionary rates.
4. Members allowing their subscription to fall more than one year in arrears shall have deemed to have resigned their membership and will be treated as new members should they wish to rejoin.
5. The Club shall hold an Annual General Meeting prior to the commencement of the coarse fishing season for the purposes of electing the Officers and Committee members. The Officers elected shall be Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, and a Committee consisting of the Officers and five other members. In other than exceptional circumstances an Officer wishing to relinquish his post shall give the Club one year's notice at an A.G.M.
6. The Club's accounts shall be audited by two persons who are not officers of the club, or members of the committee.
7. All monies collected shall be banked without undue delay and any substantial or unusual withdrawals shall be notified to the committee.
8. A statement of Accounts, certified by the Auditors, shall be produced and approved by the members at the Annual General Meeting.
9. Data protection - Email is the club's main means of communication and a list of member's contact details is maintained by the club in electronic and hard copy format. This list will only ever be used for the management of the club and to provide information about the RAE AC and its activities. Group mails are sent out as a blind copy so personal details will not be disclosed.

10. Membership confers the right to fish all waters rented by or otherwise available to the Club and the opportunity to take part in competitions organised by the Club. Members must always carry their membership cards and environment agency rod licence when fishing, and should produce them at the request of other members (Bailiffs or Keepers) or University of Reading staff. Members must permit examination of their catch by other members (Bailiffs or Keepers), when requested. In accordance with the above, members should challenge unknown persons and examine passes etc.
11. Members may introduce visitors to Club waters only by prior purchase of Guest Day Tickets from the Secretary or committee members. A member must always accompany visitors. Tickets will not be issued for unaccompanied visitors. Guest tickets may be purchased from the secretary either in person or on-line.
12. FISHING SEASON DATES
 - Coarse Fishing from June 16th to March 14th (all dates inclusive)
 - Trout from April 1st to September 30th. Between April 1st and June 15th members may only fish for sea trout, trout or rainbow trout with an artificial fly or lure during the coarse fish close season.
13. Do not cause damage to growing crops, gates or fences and treat all farm animals with respect.
14. Leave gates and property as you find them unless it is apparent that a gate has been accidentally left open and should be closed. Gates providing access to the fishery from the road are secured with a combination padlock. It is essential that these gates be secured immediately after use.
15. The club operates a ZERO TOLERANCE policy with regard to LITTER. Please take your litter and waste of all types home with you & dispose of it responsibly.
16. Do not take dogs onto the fishery.
17. No fires, cooking stoves, barbecues or bivvy heaters are permitted.
18. Tents are not allowed at Swallowfield but brollies are permitted, provided they are fully within the river side of any cattle fence.
19. No consumption of alcohol or illicit substances allowed.
20. When on pleasure fishing trips, two rods may be used, provided those rods are no more than two metres apart.
21. Members may not remove any fish from the fishery for any purpose. Neither may members introduce any fish to the fishery without authorisation from the committee and the Environment Agency.
22. At no time shall a baited hook and line be left unattended in the water. Always remove any unused bait from a rod and line not in immediate use.
23. The use of unsportsmanlike and illegal appliances is forbidden.
24. Members may not bring any weapon, including firearms, air guns or crossbows to Swallowfield.
25. Anglers shall not interfere with crayfish nets placed by operators approved by the University of Reading and licensed by the Environment Agency. If the placement of nets interferes with members' fishing it should be reported to the secretary who will liaise with the crayfish operator.

26. CLUB OUTINGS AND MATCH RULES

- a. Details of competitions and times and Match Calendar is generally included in the membership card.
 - b. For all competitions, one rod and one hook only may be used, although there is no limit to the number of rods made up and ready to use.
 - c. At outings, all fish must be weighed at the waterside at the conclusion of fishing.
 - d. Members are to wait at their fishing stations for the scalesman to come to them.
 - e. The use of unsportsmanlike and illegal appliances is forbidden.
 - f. When fishing 'pegged matches' the angler must remain within 1 rod's length of his peg.
 - g. In matches, pike may be weighed only if they were not fished for i.e. they were caught accidentally and not using wire or braid traces.
 - h. Trout may only be weighed in during the trout-fishing season.
27. The committee shall have power independent of these rules to deal with any occurrence unprovided for and to fix the condition under which any prizes shall be competed for.

28. RAE AC – NIGHTFISHING RULES

- a. Night fishing is restricted to a single night in one session.
- b. Junior Members may night fish if they are accompanied & supervised by their parent or legal guardian who must be a member and over 18 years of age. They must occupy the same swim as their parent or legal guardian. The parent or legal guardian accompanying them while night fishing shall be solely responsible for the conduct, welfare and safety of the Junior Member.

Note: Non-observance of club rules may entail expulsion from the Club.

RECOMMENDATIONS - FISH SAFETY AND FISH CARE

1. The club urges members to put fish safety and welfare at the top of their agenda when fishing the River Blackwater and any other venues. It not only makes sense to preserve our fish for the greater good but to preserve fishing for future generations.
2. The use of barbless hooks is strongly recommended at Swallowfield.
3. Members must ensure that all nets, weigh slings, and similar must be dry when brought to Swallowfield and that wet nets are sun dried whenever possible.
4. Please equip yourselves with adequate unhooking mats, unhooking aids [disgorgers, forceps and pliers], adequate or larger size nets appropriately strong enough, and balanced tackle, to enable you to land fish with the minimum of stress to the fish.
5. Members should consider carefully the use of keepnets, and when used, to ensure the net is well positioned in suitable depth of water. This is particularly important in warm weather.
6. Members are urged to acquaint themselves with and follow the recommendations of specialist angling organisations when targeting specimen fish including:-

Barbel Society handling code when fishing for Barbel

<https://thebarbelsociety.co.uk/research-conservation/handling-code/>

and The Pike Anglers Club <https://pacgb.com/fishing-for-pike/>

7. Care must be taken to ensure that all fish but especially Barbel are 'ready' to swim when they are released.

8. In very warm weather, it is recommended that fish, Barbel especially, are weighed when caught and released forthwith.
9. Any fish photography is to be carried out as quickly as possible with the fish returned to the water with the minimum of handling.
10. Anglers catching non-native signal crayfish and other invasive species should be aware that it is illegal to return them to the water or to take them away. They should be killed on the bankside immediately on capture.

GENERAL BEHAVIOR and ETIQUETTE

1. Members fishing on other clubs' waters must observe the rules of those Clubs.
2. Be courteous, polite & sociable at all times to other anglers and members of the Public.
3. Park sensibly allowing room for other Anglers and users of the Church Car Park.
4. When approaching other anglers be quiet and give a wide berth so as not to disturb their fishing and if approaching another angler for a "chat", keep off the Skyline and generally approach from a low and upstream direction and take every precaution not to disturb their fishing.
5. Do not leave any litter in any circumstances no matter how insignificant you may believe this to be, for example small off cuts of line, cigarette butts and left over bait are still litter.
6. Do not fish so close to another angler that it would affect his or her fishing, if you have any doubt as to whether you are too near, then you probably are. If there is still any doubt discuss with the other Angler and agree on what is reasonable.
7. If carrying out and pruning of bank side vegetation to aid your angling you must keep this to a minimum and only prune what is necessary, or consider tying any vegetation back and untying at the end of your fishing.
8. Members visiting Swallowfield to undertake bankside maintenance during the close season shall inform the secretary of their plans.
9. Noise Levels: Keep noise levels to a minimum to avoid startling wildlife and disturbing other anglers or residents in the area. Bite alarms & mobile phones are to be set to low volume only, and members may only use radios etc. with the use of headphones.
10. Torches & lights etc. are to be used discretely so as not to cause a nuisance to other members or neighbouring residents.
11. Discarding of excess bait at the end of a session should be reasonable and of a quantity so as not to overfeed fish, so that fishing is not affected for an Angler that may be visiting the river after you have left.

PERSONAL CARE AND SAFETY

1. Dress appropriate to the weather conditions. Warm, waterproof and windproof attire if the forecast suggests inclement weather. Lightweight loose UV opaque tops and hats and use of Sun block in the warmer months.
2. Fishing Shoes & boots: Sturdy, comfortable footwear with good traction is essential, especially if you will be navigating slippery surfaces near water.
3. Essential Safety Gear: Carry a first aid kit, a fully charged mobile phone and a fishing night light with spare batteries if staying into dark.
4. Know the Area: Learn the fishing location during daylight hours before attempting night fishing. Recognise potential hazards, such as snags, steep banks, or underwater obstacles. These may be harder to identify in the dark. The banks at Swallowfield can be muddy and slippery with deep-

water close in, so please consider placing a securely fixed safety rope to help in the event of becoming stuck.

5. Take great care in the areas near to overhead power lines and avoid fishing close to power lines.
6. Tell Someone: Always inform a friend or family member about your fishing plans, including your intended location and estimated return time.
7. Stay Hydrated, warm and nourished: Fishing in the dark can be physically demanding. Bring sufficient hot drinks, water and food to stay hydrated and maintain energy levels.
8. Be Mindful of Wildlife: Night time is when many creatures are active, both in the water and on land. Try to avoid disturbing local wildlife and their habits. Take great care to avoid miscasting into bushes, trees and snags to avoid loss of tackle with consequent risk to wildlife.
9. Be Cautious Near Water: Approach the water's edge carefully. Be cautious with steep banks or uneven terrain. Slippery surfaces and sudden drops can also pose an added danger when fishing in the dark.
10. Be aware of the infection dangers posed while fishing including Weill's disease, the likelihood of the river being contaminated with sewage and the risk of Lyme's disease from tick bites.
11. If you do have an accident at Swallowfield you should report it to the secretary, by email, as quickly as possible so that measures can be taken to prevent recurrence. The secretary will record all such reports in an Accident Book.

Bank side

Please report any trees fallen into the water or damage to gates or fences promptly to the secretary, ideally with a photograph and details of location.

Guest Tickets

Members may bring up to 2 guests to fish the club's water on any day providing they have purchased guest tickets in advance from the secretary. The guest ticket may be delivered either as hard copy or by email.

Exchange Permits

The club has exchange permit arrangements in place with a number of local clubs. These are provided to enable members to try out new waters or to accompany friends on occasional visits. They are not intended for members to avoid joining other clubs, therefore the use of exchange tickets is restricted to single sessions. Exchange permits shall be obtained from the secretary by submitting your RAE AC membership card. The member's card will be returned on return of the exchange ticket. Members using exchange permits shall comply with the host club's rules.

If any member has concerns regarding these rules, recommendations, and guidance, they should contact the Secretary –robert.west@ntlworld.com