

Constitution for The Fisher Owners' Association

The Fisher Owners' Association is an unincorporated membership organisation providing sailing and social opportunities for people who love and take great pride in owning, or who are simply just interested in, the legendary classic Fisher motor sailer.

1. Title & Insignia

The title of the Association shall be the Fisher Owners Association (“FOA”). The insignia adopted by the FOA is a pennant horizontally coloured red in the upper half and blue in the lower half and overlaid in the centre with the letters FOA in blue inside a white oval.

2. Objects

The objects of the FOA are to promote and further the interests of the classical Fisher class motor sailer (hereinafter referred to as a “Fisher” as defined in the Schedule attached hereto) and to represent the interest of Members of the FOA as follows:-

- a) To keep Members informed of developments concerning the FOA, including via the FOA Website, newsletter, informal and informative meetings.
- b) To provide mutual help and assistance and to share information between Members of the FOA via the FOA Website’s Forum and Library, especially on technical matters and Fisher data.
- c) To organise rallies and similar events for Members and their Fishers in the British Isles and abroad.
- d) To provide a notice board for Members of the FOA via the FOA Website's Classifieds section for the selling and purchasing of Fishers.

3. Terms

- a) “Owner” and “Joint Owner” shall mean any persons, corporation or association entered on a certificate as owner or joint owner of a Fisher.
- b) “FOA Register” shall mean the register of paid up Full Members and Associate Members as well as Honorary Members and Partners of the FOA listed in the membership database on the FOA Website.
- c) “Member” and “Members” shall be interpreted to include any and all those persons whose names appear in the FOA Register.
- d) “FOA Rules” shall mean any and all terms & conditions, bye-laws or regulations approved by the Committee from time to time. These shall be promulgated on the FOA Website.
- e) “FOA Website” shall mean the website of the FOA to be found at <http://www.fisherowners.org> or any other successor website address approved by the Committee.

4. Membership and Voting Rights

a) The following classes of membership shall be recognised:

- (i) Full membership
- (ii) Associate membership
- (iii) Honorary membership
- (iv) Partner

b) Full Membership, upon payment of the prescribed annual subscription, is open to any individual who is an Owner or Joint Owner of a Fisher and, in the case of a Fisher owned by a corporation or association, to any individual who is a nominated representative of that organisation (herein called a "Full Member"). It is a principle of FOA membership that there shall be only one Full Member per Fisher.

c) Associate Membership, upon payment of the prescribed annual subscription, is open to any individual who is a Joint Owner of a Fisher not being a Full Member and to any individual who is intending to become an Owner or Joint Owner of a Fisher or who is friends with an Owner or Joint Owner of a Fisher or who is simply just interested in Fishers (herein called an "Associate Member"). On becoming an Owner or Joint Owner of a Fisher an Associate Member is expected to upgrade to Full Membership, except in the case of Joint Owners when only one Associate Member can become a Full Member. Should it come to the Committee's attention that an Associate Member has not so upgraded upon acquiring a Fisher or, as determined by the Committee in its absolute discretion, has otherwise abused this concessionary class of membership, the Committee may decline to renew that individual's Associate Membership.

d) Honorary Membership is by exception. He/she is proposed by the Commodore with the unanimous backing of the Committee and is elected by any General Meeting (herein called an "Honorary Member").

e) Each Full Member, Associate Member or Honorary Member may nominate his/her spouse, partner, relative or any other individual to be listed in the FOA Register as an additional name (herein called a "Partner").

f) Once a Member's application for membership of the FOA has been made and he/she has paid the appropriate subscription, or a Member's annual renewal subscription has been received, he/she will be able to access the Members' area of the FOA Website. Notwithstanding this, the Committee may refuse applications for or the continuation of membership should an individual be considered to be likely to bring the FOA into disrepute and the Committee is under no obligation to give any reasons for such refusal. In such a case, the Member in question will be removed from the FOA Register.

g) Members shall be bound by the FOA Rules and any Member who is in breach of the FOA Rules may have their membership suspended or rescinded by the Committee. Before taking such action against a Member, the Committee shall call upon such Member for a written explanation of the his/her conduct and shall give the Member full opportunity of making explanation to the Committee or of resigning.

h) Full Members and Honorary Members only shall be entitled to vote at a General Meeting, or in a postal ballot (hereinafter also called "Voting Members"). Associate Members and Partners shall be entitled to attend and speak at any General Meeting, but are not entitled to vote.

i) Annual subscriptions for the coming year as promulgated on the FOA Website shall become due on the 1st January. Subscriptions shall be collected by direct debit, standing order, Paypal, credit card, BACS payment, bank transfer or cheque.

5. Management

- a) The affairs of the FOA shall be managed by the Committee.
- b) The Committee shall consist of not less than six and not more than twelve Members, of which at least 70% must be Full Members, elected at a General Meeting, or by postal vote, as elected Committee members. The Committee shall have powers to co-opt any person to assist it, whether a Member or not, as a co-opted Committee member, but such persons shall have no vote in Committee.
- c) No Member shall serve on the Committee for more than three years, at the end of which period he/she shall retire, but shall be eligible for re-election or may be co-opted.
- d) The Committee need not fill a vacancy arising in the Committee unless the total number of Committee members has dropped below the minimum of six. Committee members appointed to fill vacancies shall remain in office until the expiry of the term of office of the person whose position they have filled.
- e) At its first meeting to be held immediately after the Annual General Meeting (“AGM”) of the FOA, each year the Committee shall elect or appoint a number of officers and managers as follows (any person may be allocated more than one role):-
- (i) Elect one of its members to act as Commodore of the FOA for the following year.
 - (ii) Elect one of its members to act as Honorary Secretary who shall keep correct minutes and records of all Committee meetings and General Meetings together with managing the FOA Register, executing general communications with Members by email, post or via the FOA Website as necessary, maintaining the FOA Website in conjunction with the Commodore and the service provider and being first point of contact for general enquiries to the FOA.
 - (iii) Elect one of its members to act as an Honorary Treasurer who shall control the funds of the FOA, make such disbursements as the Committee shall direct, and present an annual financial statement at each AGM. The Honorary Secretary may also act as Treasurer if the Committee so decides.
 - (iv) Appoint a reviewer or other party who in the opinion of the Committee is considered sufficiently competent to independently review the accounts and who shall make any comments thereon to the Committee and the AGM where he/she feels it is appropriate.
 - (v) Elect from its members such flag officers as it deems appropriate including, but not restricted to, Vice Commodore and regional Rear Commodores. In this connection, the Committee shall determine from time to time how many regional areas there should be and which ones should be entitled to a flag officer. Prior to any election of a regional flag officer the Committee will consult Members in the region to determine whether there are any nominations or volunteers.
 - (vi) Elect from its members a Social Secretary, Website Manager, Newsletter Editor, Merchandising Manager, Rally Co-ordinator and Technical Information Secretary.

(vii) Appoint such other officers or managers, who need not be chosen from its members, as the Committee deems necessary.

f) At meetings of the Committee, four of its elected members shall form a quorum.

g) The Committee shall have the power to make recommendations to the Members in General Meeting, or by post or via electronic means such as the FOA Website and to make alterations or additions to the FOA Rules.

h) At least one weeks notice of the date, place and agenda for any Committee meeting must be given in writing, by the Secretary, to each Committee member unless otherwise agreed save that the Committee, with the consent of every Committee member, may conduct Committee business and make Committee decisions by correspondence or email communication. Any business conducted by correspondence or email shall always be sent to all Committee members and any Committee member not answering a motion communicated to him/her in writing within three weeks of the date of sending shall have been deemed to have agreed to the motion.

6. Power of the Committee

a) Subject to the provisions of this Constitution and in particular to the objects of the FOA as expressed in section 2 above, the Committee shall be empowered to perform all functions of management and administration.

b) The making of payments and receipt of monies shall be validly evidenced only by the signature of the Treasurer, or his/her deputy if appointed by the Committee, and payments of monies shall require the signature of the Treasurer and one other elected Committee member.

7. Conduct of Meetings of the Fisher Owners Association

a) The AGM shall be held annually most usually in October or November, but no later than four calendar months from the FOA's financial year end (31st August) at such time and place decided by the Committee. In deciding the venue for the AGM the Committee will change the location from year to year in an endeavour to make attendance reasonably accessible to most Members over time. The AGM will normally be held in the British Isles but may occasionally by way of exception be held abroad. The AGM shall receive reports on key areas of activity from the Committee.

b) A special General Meeting shall be called by the Commodore, or Secretary, upon receipt by the Secretary of a written request signed by not fewer than fifteen Full Members of the FOA.

c) The Committee may, at its discretion, delay or suspend the holding of any General Meeting, if they consider that, due to circumstances beyond their control, holding the General Meeting would pose significant safety or other risks to the FOA, the Committee and/or the Members or would be in breach of any relevant laws or regulations. The Committee must keep any such delay or suspension under regular review and must endeavour to arrange the affected General Meeting for a later date once they consider it to be safe and practicable to do so. If they do not consider it to be safe and practicable to rearrange the affected General Meeting, the Committee may decide to either (i) hold the meeting virtually by webcast or other electronic means or (ii) to conduct the relevant business remotely without a virtual meeting by email, post or other electronic means. In so doing the Committee must make such arrangements as they think fit to deal with any business ordinarily dealt

with at the General Meeting in question. At least three weeks' written notice shall be given to Members of any General Meeting including, where appropriate, any details for holding a virtual meeting and/or for voting remotely.

d) At any General Meeting or Committee meeting decisions shall be limited to matters on the agenda, and shall be carried by a majority vote. The result of a resolution duly proposed and passed at a General Meeting, including any motion to effect any change to this Constitution, shall be on the basis of a majority consisting of those Voting Members present in person or by proxy and voting by post. Voting shall be by a show of hands unless a poll is demanded by not fewer than six of the Full Members present. At any meeting the Commodore shall have a casting vote. The Secretary shall be responsible for circulating all Members or, in the case of Committee meetings, all Committee members, with the result of any voting. In the event of a postal ballot, all returns shall be made to the Secretary within three weeks of posting the ballot paper.

e) At a General Meeting of the FOA, twelve Full Members shall form a quorum.

8. Subscriptions

a) Subscriptions payable for Full Members and Associate Members shall be paid annually, amounts due to be decided at the AGM upon recommendation of the Committee, and will become due on 1st January of the following year. A Member joining the FOA after 30 September, whose subscription has been paid for that year, shall not be liable to pay his/her subscription for the ensuing calendar year.

b) Applicable subscription rates shall be posted on the FOA Website. Any Member whose subscription has not been paid within three months of the date due may have his/her name removed from the FOA Register by the Secretary.

9. Accounts

a) The Committee shall cause true accounts to be kept giving full particulars of:-

(i) All monies, assets and liabilities of the FOA.

(ii) All monies received and expended by the FOA and the reasons for such receipts and expenditure.

(iii) All sales and purchases by the FOA.

b) The Committee shall cause the annual financial statement to be prepared and presented at every AGM.

c) A copy of the annual financial statement, duly inspected by the reviewer appointed by the Committee and prepared for presentation at the AGM, shall, not less than seven days prior to such AGM, be posted in the Members' area of the FOA Website.

10. Communications with Members

All communications to Members required by this Constitution and the FOA Rules may be

conducted via the Members' area of the FOA Website or by email thereby reducing postal and administration costs. Any Member who is not electronically enabled to use the FOA Website or email may make a special written request to the Secretary to receive such communications by first class post. Members' email and postal addresses as shown in the FOA Register shall be used for such communications. All Members are required to keep their profiles on the FOA Website up to date as it is the details in these profiles that are used in the FOA Register.

SCHEDULE

A Fisher class motor sailer shall for all purposes, including qualification as to membership of the FOA, be defined as including the following listed craft or any other craft the characteristics of which are readily recognisable as true derivatives of the Fisher class motor sailer as determined by the Committee.

<u>Description</u>	Designer
Fisher Potter 25	Wyatt & Freeman
Fisher Freeward 25	Wyatt & Freeman
Fisher 25	Wyatt & Freeman
Fisher Freeward 30	Wyatt & Freeman
Fisher 30	Wyatt & Freeman
Fisher Northeaster 30	Wyatt & Freeman
Fisher 31	Wyatt & Freeman
Fisher 32 (Australia)	Wyatt & Freeman
Fisher 34	Wyatt & Freeman
Fisher 37	Wyatt & Freeman
Fisher 46	Wyatt & Freeman
Catfisher 28	Terry Compton
Catfisher 32	Terry Compton

*Approved by the AGM on Saturday 31st October 2015
(as amended on 29th October 2016 and on 6th December 2021)*