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South Leicester Birdwatchers



Constitution & Rules

~ CONSTITUTION ~

1. NAME

The name of the club shall be 'South Leicester Birdwatchers'

2. AIMS

The aims of the club are:

- 1) To enjoy the hobby of bird-watching
- 2) To respect and support the conservation of birds and their habitats
- 3) To encourage the sharing of knowledge of birds amongst fellow club members
- 4) To welcome and encourage new members

3. ELIGIBILITY & TERMS OF MEMBERSHIP

1) Membership is available to anyone 18 years or over, subject to their agreeing to abide by the constitution and rules of the club. Membership is dependent on the payment of an annual subscription.

2) Types of membership are single adult and double adult (where two people share the same postal address). Prospective members must fill in an application form for submission to a Management Committee for approval and registration.

3) A subscription is payable on joining and is renewable annually on 1st September. A half year subscription is payable if the date of a member joining is after 1st March. Membership cards will be issued to paid up members as proof of membership.

4) In addition to an annual subscription, funds may be raised by other means (e.g. charging for trips and meetings) as decided by the Management Committee in accordance with the club's needs and aims.

4. MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The club will be organised on behalf of members by a Management Committee consisting of:

- 1) Chairman / Secretary;
- 2) Treasurer / Membership Secretary;
- 3) between 2 and 5 other serving Committee officers, sharing positions and tasks as required by the club.

The Committee will have the power to co-opt additional members as necessary.

All club business will be directed by this Committee. Members of the Committee shall offer themselves for re-election at an Annual General Meeting.

The Committee will meet as required to arrange future meetings, field trips and other matters to ensure smooth, sound and consistent running of the club in accordance with its aims.

The Committee will ensure that a suitable bank account is maintained for the club's funds and that proper books of account are maintained. The club's financial year shall end on 31st August and accounts shall be prepared by the Treasurer within three months of the year end for approval at the Annual General Meeting.

The Committee shall maintain a list of members, approve the admission of members and agree any disciplinary action necessary.

5. CLUB MEETINGS

Club meetings will normally be held monthly (except for July and August where no meeting will be held) at a suitable pre-booked venue.

An Annual General Meeting shall be held within 3 months of the end of each financial year. The date, time and agenda of the Annual General Meeting shall be notified to each member at least 14 days in advance of the meeting.

Special meetings may be called by one third of paid up club members applying to the Management Committee to discuss any amendments to the constitution or rules. Any amendment must be approved by two thirds of the club members.

All paid up members shall be entitled to vote at general meetings of the club.

6. DISSOLUTION

The club can be dissolved with the agreement of two-thirds of paid-up members at a special meeting. Upon dissolution, an appointed Trustee for the club shall take appropriate action to convert any assets into money and pay off debts. The use of the remaining finances should be indicated by the members.

~ RULES ~

1. Members shall abide by the constitution and rules of the club and all relevant law and codes of practice issued by government, organisations or societies.

2. Members shall show care and respect for landowners, the public and other club members whenever taking part in club activities. On field trips the birds' interest shall always come first.

3. A member may be suspended or expelled from the club at the decision of the Committee, if they feel the member has discredited the club in any way or has failed to abide by the rules or constitution of the club or appropriate codes of conduct. Failure to pay a subscription or other fees required will result in loss of membership.

4. All members taking part in activities organised by the club do so entirely at their own risk. South Leicester Birdwatchers will not be liable for loss, damage or injury whatsoever directly or indirectly occasioned by, or resulting from, the negligence, wrongful act or default of its officials, members or Committee or from any other cause including acts of God.