

THE EPPING FOREST AND COUNTY OF ESSEX

NATURALISTS' FIELD CLUB.

RULES.

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I.—The Society shall be called “THE EPPING FOREST AND COUNTY OF ESSEX NATURALISTS' FIELD CLUB;” its Head-quarters shall be at Buckhurst Hill, in the County of Essex; and its objects shall be the study and investigation of the Natural History, Geology, and Archæology of the COUNTY OF ESSEX (special attention being given to the Fauna, Flora, Geology, and Antiquities of EPPING FOREST); the publication of the results of such investigations; the formation of a Library of Works of Local Interest and other publications; the formation of a Museum; and the dissemination of information on Natural Science and Antiquities. **Objects.**

II.—The Club shall consist of Ordinary and Honorary Members, including Ladies; the number of Ordinary Members being unlimited, and the number of Honorary Members being limited to twenty. **Constitution.**

III.—The management of the Club shall be vested in a Council, consisting of a President, Treasurer, Secretary, **Management.**

Retirement
of Officers.

Librarian, and twenty-five other Members, all of whom must be Ordinary Members of the Club; seven to form a quorum. The President shall nominate four Members of the Council to act as Vice-Presidents during his year of office. The President, Treasurer, Secretary, Librarian, and those four of the other Members of the Council who shall have been longest in office (reckoning from their original appointment or election if they shall not have been re-elected, or from their last re-election when they shall have been re-elected) shall retire annually, but shall be eligible for re-election. If, in consequence of several Members having been elected or appointed at the same time, there shall be any difficulty in determining which four Members ought to retire under this rule, those Members who have been elected or appointed at the same time shall decide such question by mutual arrangement between themselves, or, in default of such arrangement, by lot.

Nomination
of Officers.

IV.—At the Ordinary Meeting in December nominations shall be made of Candidates to fill the offices of President, Treasurer, Secretary, and Librarian, and vacancies on the Council. Such nominations as regards Members of the Council other than the President, Treasurer, Secretary, and Librarian shall be made by Resolutions, duly moved and seconded, no Member being entitled to propose more than one Candidate. The President, Treasurer, Secretary, and Librarian shall be nominated by the Council. A list of all nominations made as above shall be printed in alphabetical order upon the ballot-paper. At the Annual General Meeting in January all the above Officers and Members of Council shall be elected by ballot from the Candidates; but any Member shall be at liberty to substitute on his or her ballot-paper any other name or names in lieu of those nominated for the offices of President, Treasurer, Secretary and Librarian.

Election of
Officers.

Chairman.

V.—In the absence of the President and Vice-Presidents the Members present at any Meeting of the Club shall elect a Chairman for that Meeting.

VI.—Every Candidate for Membership, other than Original Members of the Club; shall be proposed by two or more Members, who shall sign a Certificate (*see Appendix*) in recommendation of him or her, one at least of the proposers so certifying from personal knowledge. The Certificate shall be read from the Chair at the Ordinary Meeting following its receipt by the Secretary, and the Candidate balloted for at the next following Meeting (not being a Field Meeting), one black ball in six to exclude. [Persons joining the Club upon or within two Calendar months from its establishment shall thereupon be considered Original Members.]

Election of
Members.

VII.—The Annual Subscription for Ordinary Members shall be ten shillings and sixpence, payable immediately after their election, and afterwards becoming due in advance on the first day of January in each year; but Members elected within two months before the thirty-first day of December shall be exempt from the payment of subscription for the year in which they are elected. (Members residing beyond a radius of fifteen miles from the Head-quarters of the Club shall not be called upon to pay more than an Annual Subscription of seven shillings and sixpence.) No Member shall be entitled to any of the privileges of the Club whose subscription is twelve months in arrear; and any Member whose subscription is two years in arrear may be excluded from the Club by the Council.

Subscription.

VIII.—The Honorary Members shall be ladies or gentlemen of eminence in Natural Science or Archæology, or who shall have done special service to the Club, and whose usual place of residence is not in the County of Essex; and they shall be elected only at a General Meeting by the Members upon the recommendation of the Council, not more than five to be elected in any one year. No subscription or other payment shall be required from the Honorary Members.

Honorary
Members.

IX.—Any Ordinary Member may compound for his or her Annual Subscription by a single payment of £5 5s. : all

Compounding
for
Subscription.

such sums to be dealt with in such manner as the Council shall think fit.

Privileges of
Members.

X.—Every Member, whether Ordinary or Honorary, shall have the privilege of attending all the Annual, Ordinary and Field Meetings of the Club, and of introducing one visitor at any such meeting (who shall enter his or her name, with that of the Member by whom he or she is introduced, in a book kept for that purpose) and shall be entitled to receive a copy of all publications of the Club during his or her membership, and to the use of the Library and Museum in accordance with the regulations.

Resignation
of Members.

XI.—Members wishing to resign at the termination of any year are required to inform the Secretary, in writing, of their intention to do so, on or before the first day of November in that year.

Meetings.

XII.—No fewer than eight Ordinary Meetings of the Club shall be held in each year, at such places and at such times as the Council may appoint; the Council shall also have power to appoint Bye-meetings for study or other purposes. Field Meetings shall also be held at such places and times as the Council may direct.

Field
Meetings.

Business at
Ordinary
Meetings.

XIII.—At the Ordinary Meetings the following business shall be transacted:—The Minutes of the last Meeting shall be read and, if approved, confirmed; contributions to the Club since the last Meeting announced, and, if consisting of anything but money, exhibited; Certificates for new Members read; Ballots for new Members taken; specimens exhibited and remarks made on the same; communications and papers read and discussed, and any other business which the Chairman or Secretary may think it desirable to bring before the Meeting, transacted. After which the Meeting shall resolve itself into a *Conversazione*.

Field
Meetings.

XIV.—The Field Meetings shall be under the entire control of the Council, who may appoint Lecturers, and make

such other arrangements as they may deem best for the comfort of the Members and their friends.

XV.—The Annual General Meeting shall be held on the second Saturday in January, at which the Report of the Council on the affairs of the Club, and the Balance-sheet duly signed by the Auditors (to be appointed as provided by *Rule XVII.*) shall be read. Printed lists of Members nominated for election as President, Treasurer, Secretary, Librarian, and members of the Council having been distributed, and the Chairman having appointed two or more Members to act as Scrutineers, the Meeting shall then proceed to ballot for such elections. If from any cause these elections, or any of them, do not take place at this Meeting, they shall be made at the next Ordinary Meeting of the Club.

Annual
General
Meeting.

XVI.—Minutes shall be kept of the proceedings at all Meetings of the Club, and of those at all Meetings of the Council, and the Minutes of each Meeting of the Club (except Field Meetings) shall be read as the first business at the next Meeting (other than a Field Meeting), whether Annual or Ordinary, of the Club. And in like manner the Minutes of each Meeting of the Council shall be read at the next Meeting of the Council.

Minutes.

XVII.—The accounts of the Club shall be audited by two Members, one to be appointed by the Council and one by the Members at the Ordinary Meeting in November.

Accounts.

XVIII.—The Club, on the recommendation of the Council, shall undertake the investigation of any subject of a scientific nature, relating to Epping Forest or the County of Essex, which the Council shall think it desirable to investigate, and shall, if the Council shall so recommend, publish the results of such investigations.

Investiga-
tions, and
Publication
of results
of same.

XIX.—The publications of the Club shall be printed at such times and in such manner as the Council shall direct.

Publications.

Preservation
of Natural
Objects and
Antiquities.

XX.—The Club shall strongly discourage the practice of removing rare plants from the localities where they are to be found or of which they are characteristic, and of risking the extermination of birds and other animals by wanton persecution; and shall use its influence with landowners and others for the protection of the same, and to dispel the prejudices which are leading to their destruction. The rarer botanical specimens collected at the Field Meetings shall be such as can be gathered without disturbing the roots of the plants, and notes of the habits of birds shall be recorded instead of collecting specimens either of the birds or of their eggs. In like manner the Club shall endeavour to cultivate a fuller knowledge of local antiquities, historical, popular, and idiomatic, and to promote a taste for carefully preserving the monuments of the past from wanton injury. [This rule is not intended to restrict the judicious collecting of specimens by individual members *necessary* for their studies.]

Judicious
collecting.

Copyright of
Papers.

XXI.—The copyright in, and the original copy of every paper, after having been read before the Club, shall be considered as the property of the Club, if there shall be no engagement with its author to the contrary. But if the Club shall decline or omit to publish any paper for six Calendar months after it shall have been read before the Club, such paper and the copyright therein shall remain and be the property of the author, the Club, however, having the right to take and retain for its own use one or more copy or copies of such paper. And the non-publication by the Club of any such paper for the period above mentioned shall constitute or be sufficient evidence of an engagement to the effect above mentioned with the author of the paper.

MS. of
Papers.

[It is *recommended* that every paper which is to be read before the Club should be written on foolscap paper, on one side only, with a margin of one inch on each side of the MS.]

Repeal or
Alteration of
Rules.

XXII.—No rule shall be repealed or altered, nor shall any addition be made to these rules, except by a majority of votes of the Members present at an Ordinary or Special Meeting

held at the head-quarters of the Club. Notice of the intention to move such repeal, alteration or addition having been given at the Ordinary Meeting immediately preceding the meeting at which such repeal, alteration or addition shall be moved, if such Meeting be an Ordinary Meeting, or by printed notice sent by post in manner hereinafter mentioned, when such Meeting shall be a Special Meeting. The Council may at any time, and shall, upon a requisition signed by not less than twelve members, convene a Special Meeting; and a printed notice stating the purpose for which the Meeting is convened shall be sent by post to each Member not less than ten days before the date fixed for such Meeting.

Special
Meeting.

XXIII.—A copy of these Rules shall be sent by the Secretary to each Member upon election to membership of the Club, but no Member shall be excused from their operation on the plea of not having received or read the said Rules.

Copy of
Rules to
Members.
