

SEAVETS

The Senior and Veteran Windsurfers Association

CONSTITUTION

Revised April 2014

1. **Name.** The name of the Association is the **Senior and Veteran Windsurfers Association**, which may be abbreviated to **SEAVETS**.
2. **Aims.** The aims of SEAVETS are:
 - a. To promote responsible and sociable windsurfing for the "not so young".
 - b. To encourage Members to become qualified through RYA approved courses.
 - c. To organise events for Members and to encourage organisers of other windsurfing events to include categories and to award prizes for the "not so young".
 - d. To support the charity "Research Into Ageing" or any other charity selected by the Members as the Supported Charity.
3. **Membership.** Membership shall be open to all who support the Aims of the Association and who qualify for Membership.

Full Membership. Full Membership is open to men and ladies attaining the age of 35 by the 31st December of the current year. Each Full Member shall have the power to vote at all meetings of the Association.

Joint Membership. Joint Membership is open to men and ladies attaining the age of 35 by 31st December of the current year. Each Joint Member shall be the wife, husband or partner of a Full Member and reside in the same household. Joint Members shall have the power to vote at all meetings of the Association.

Temporary Membership. Temporary Membership may be granted to local host club members to allow them to sail with SEAVETS providing that they conform to the current requirements of both the host organisation and SEAVETS. Temporary Members shall have no vote.

Honorary Membership. Honorary Membership may be awarded in special cases by a proposal supported by a majority at the Annual General Meeting. Each Honorary Member shall have the power to vote at General meetings of the Association.
4. **Annual Subscription Fee.** The Membership Year shall be from 1st January to 31st December. The annual subscription fee for each category of Membership shall be proposed by the Committee to the Members at the Annual General Meeting in each year. Any changes shall be approved by a majority of those present and shall become operative from the 1st August following. The subscription of a Member joining the Association after 1st August shall be regarded as covering Membership for the current Membership Year and for the next full Membership Year. Membership shall lapse if the subscription is unpaid by the 1st April. Members whose payments are in arrears may not enter any SEAVETS event. No Member shall have the power to vote at any meetings of the Association if his or her subscription is in arrears at the time of the meeting.
5. **Data Protection Act.** For the purposes of the Data Protection Act 1984 membership of SEAVETS will be deemed to constitute consent to the holding of relevant personal data on computer.
6. **Conduct of Members.** Any conduct which in the opinion of the Committee is unworthy of a Member or injurious to the interests of the Association shall render a Member liable to expulsion. Before expulsion a Member shall receive a statement of the reasons in writing from the Committee and shall have the opportunity to state his or her case. A resolution to expel a Member shall be carried by a majority vote of the Committee.
7. **Limitation of Liability of the Association.** Members, their guests and visitors who participate in, assist or attend SEAVETS events do so entirely at their own risk. SEAVETS will not accept any liability for any damage to or loss of property belonging to Members, their guests or visitors. SEAVETS will not accept any liability for personal injury or death sustained by Members, their guests or visitors arising out of participation

in or attendance at a SEAVETS event, however caused and whether such damage, injury or death could have been attributed to or was occasioned by the neglect, default or negligence of any of the Officers, Committee or Servants of the Association.

- 8. Limitation of Personal Liability.** The Officers, Committee members, Members and Officials shall be indemnified by SEAVETS against any Public Liability claims arising from their activities made in good faith on behalf of SEAVETS.
- 9. Third Party Insurance.** Each Member who sails at an event organised by SEAVETS must have valid third party insurance cover for such sum as may be decided by the Committee.
- 10. Officers.** Officers of the Association shall be Full or Joint Members of the Association and shall consist of **Chairman, Vice Chairman, Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer.** Officers shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting and shall hold office for one year, retiring at the termination of the Annual General Meeting of the following year, and shall be eligible for re-election. Chairmen and Vice Chairmen shall not be eligible for re-election if they have held office for the three previous consecutive years. If a casual vacancy should occur among the Officers of the Association, the Committee shall have the power to co-opt a Full or Joint Member to fill the vacancy until the next Annual General Meeting. Nominations for the election of Officers of the Association and for the election of members of the Committee shall be made in writing and received by the Honorary Secretary at least 21 days before the date of the Annual General Meeting. Nominations shall be supported by a seconder and the consent of the proposed candidate. The election of Officers shall be completed prior to the election of further Committee members.
- 11. Presidents.** A President and/or Vice Presidents may be elected at the Annual General Meeting on an annual basis. The President and Vice Presidents shall have no executive function. The President and Vice Presidents may attend any meeting of the Committee but shall not vote at any such meeting.
- 12. Committee.** The Committee shall consist of the Officers and not more than 8 other Full or Joint Members. In addition the Committee may co-opt up to four Full or Joint Members for specific purposes or to fill a vacancy. The co-opted Members shall have a vote on the Committee. A retiring Chairman may serve as an ex-officio Member of the Committee in the year immediately following his retirement. The Committee is to meet at least 4 times per year.
A quorum for the Committee consists of at least six members of the Committee, at least two of whom must be Officers. Any motion must have at least four votes in favour to be carried. The Chairman shall not vote unless there is an equality of votes by Committee members when the Chairman shall have a casting vote. Candidates for election to the Committee (not being Officers of the Association) shall be those members of the retiring Committee eligible and consenting to be re-elected, and such other Full or Joint Members whose nominations in writing shall have been received by the Honorary Secretary at least 21 days before the date of the Annual General Meeting. Nominations must be proposed and seconded by Full or Joint Members of the Association and the consent of the proposed nominee must first have been obtained. Nominations, together with the names of the Proposer and Secunder shall be circulated by the Honorary Secretary to all Members at least 14 days before the date of the Annual General Meeting. If the number of nominations exceeds the number of vacancies then a ballot shall take place. If the number of nominations is equal to or less than the number of vacancies then all the candidates shall be deemed to be elected.
- 13. Subcommittees.** The Committee may appoint, regulate and dissolve such Subcommittees as it may from time to time deem necessary for such purposes as shall be thought fit. Each Subcommittee shall be chaired by a member of the Committee and shall report its proceedings to each meeting of the Committee. Officers of the Association shall be ex-officio members of all such Subcommittees.

- 14. Annual General Meeting.** An Annual General Meeting of the Association shall be held in March, April or May each year. The Honorary Secretary shall give at least 14 days clear notice of such meeting to all Members and shall include the date, time and place of the meeting, the Agenda for the meeting and any formal Resolutions proposed and seconded for the meeting.. A quorum for a General Meeting shall consist of at least fifteen voting Members personally present. If there are insufficient members to form a quorum then the Annual General Meeting shall be rescheduled for a later date and due notices shall be given by the Honorary Secretary.

The Annual General Meeting shall:-

- a. Receive the Chairman's report, the Honorary Treasurer's report and the audited or examined accounts.
 - b. Elect the Officers, Committee members and the Honorary Auditor.
 - c. Discuss items on the Agenda and vote on the written Resolutions.
 - d. Allow other topics to be raised as "Any Other Business" at the discretion of the Chairman for the purpose of obtaining opinions, criticisms and suggestions from Members.
- 15. Extraordinary General Meeting.** Occasionally the Committee may call an Extraordinary General Meeting which follows the general rules of the Annual General Meeting but is convened to discuss items of special importance which may not wait for the next Annual General Meeting. The Honorary Secretary shall give at least 14 days clear notice of such meeting to all Members and shall include the date, time and place of the meeting, the Agenda for the meeting and any formal Resolutions proposed and seconded for the meeting. The minutes of such an Extraordinary General Meeting shall be made known at the next Annual General Meeting.
- 16. Special General Meeting.** A Special General Meeting may be held at the written request of 15 Full or Joint Members or 10% of Full or Joint Members, whichever number is the smaller. The Honorary Secretary shall give at least 14 days clear notice of such a meeting to all Members and shall include the date, time and place of the meeting, the Agenda for the meeting and any formal Resolutions proposed and seconded for the meeting.
- 17. Finance.** The accounting year shall run from 1st January to the 31st December. Proper accounts of income and expenditure shall be kept and presented at the Annual General Meeting and such information as the Officers or the Honorary Auditor may require shall be provided. All expense payments shall conform to the "Expense Guidelines" document drawn up and approved by the Committee. The Honorary Treasurer shall if requested by four Members produce to those Members the books of accounts together with the records and vouchers to prove the accuracy of the books of accounts.
- 18. Supported Charity.** The choice of Charity to be supported by SEAVETS shall be reviewed by the Annual General Meeting every five years, commencing in 1995, or at the first Annual General Meeting following the winding up of the currently Supported Charity. To assist this process the Supported Charity, and any other invited Charity, may be invited to address Members at the Annual General Meeting. A proposal to change the Supported Charity shall require a ballot of all Full or Joint Members of the Association and be agreed by a majority vote of those returning their ballot forms.
- 19. Amendments.** This Constitution, or any part of it, shall only be amended, created, repealed or dissolved by a resolution properly put to a General Meeting of the Association and passed by a majority vote of at least two thirds of those present and entitled to vote.
- 20. Notices.** Any notice required to be given by this Constitution shall be deemed to be duly given if left at or sent by prepaid post, or sent by email, to the address or email address of that Member last notified in writing or by email to the Membership Secretary.
- 21. Dissolution.** The Association may be wound up or dissolved at a properly convened General Meeting of the Association and confirmed at a further General Meeting held not less than 21 days after the previous meeting by a simple majority of those present and entitled to vote. Upon the winding up or dissolution of the Association, and after the expenses of Officers have been reimbursed, and after the satisfaction of all its debts and liabilities, any funds or property whatsoever that remain, shall be transferred to the Supported Charity.