



# Thames Valley Skiff Club

Application for membership

To the Honorary Secretary. I wish to become a \* **Full / Full u 25 / Student / Social** member of the Thames Valley Skiff Club. I have read the Club rules (see below) and agree to abide by them.

\*Delete as appropriate.

Title:	First Name(s):	Surname:
Address:		
Town:	County:	Postcode:
Telephone No:	Email address:	Date of Birth:
Names of any other clubs to which applicant belongs:		How far can you swim?
Have you ever won a British Rowing event? Yes / No		
Points gained from British Rowing may affect Skiff Racing Association status and should be discussed with the TVSC Captain prior to racing		

Please note: applicants are expected to be able to swim competently, and become members of the Thames Valley Skiff Club at their own risk. No applicant shall be considered for election unless a £1.00 entry fee and the first year's subscription have been paid in full.

Applicant's Signature:	
Date:.....	
<b>To be completed by the parent or guardian of applicants under the age of eighteen:</b>	
I apply for membership on behalf of my minor son /daughter and agree to indemnify the club and its officers from any claim howsoever arising during the period of my minor child's membership.	
Name: ..... Signature: ..... Date: .....	
<b>Club use only:</b>	
Proposed By:	
Name: .....	Signature: .....
Seconded By:	
Name: .....	Signature: .....
Endorsed by Captain:	Entry fee & sub paid to: Treasurer / Secretary /
	Other: .....
Date elected: .....	
Signature of Chair: ..... Date Acknowledged: .....	

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## **AN INTRODUCTION TO THE THAMES VALLEY SKIFF CLUB**

The Thames Valley Skiff Club is run on a voluntary basis by the membership and provides opportunities for people of all ages to participate in the traditional Thames sports of Skiffing and Punting.

### **Applications for Membership**

Applications for membership are accepted for the following classes of membership:

- **£252 pa / £126 pa: Full / Full-under-25** members are entitled to all facilities of the Club.
- **£84 pa: Student** members are those under 18 years or in full-time education.
- **£50 pa: Social** (also known as 'Associate') members shall be allowed to use Club boats *only* at the discretion and specific permission of the Captain. They do not have assumed access to skiffs, punts or other water craft at TVSC.

### **Subscriptions**

The first year's subscription shall be paid upon application by all prospective members. Subsequent annual subscriptions shall be due on 1st January. A new member during the course of the year will have their subscription for the first year pro-rated.

### **Skiffing and Training**

Skiffing/training sessions take place on Tuesday and Thursday evenings, Saturday mornings at 09:30 and Sunday mornings at 11:00. For new members who are also new to skiffing, the best session to join is Sunday at 11:00, or Saturday at 09:30. During those sessions crews are allocated by the captain or their representative, and crews are made up to be evenly balanced in terms of experience and competence. These are usually quite relaxed outings, and it means you will be able to access continued informal coaching after you join. Once you've been to a few Saturday and/or Sunday sessions you are likely to get to know enough people to skiff at other times too. We have a closed Facebook page which is often used to help make up crews if boats are short-handed, or if individuals are looking to skiff but don't have a pre-arranged crew. You can use a single skiff once the captain is confident in your competence in the boat and your understanding of how to stay safe on the water. The nature of skiffing/training varies dependent upon the season and river conditions. During some winters we have organised circuit training, for which there may be a charge to cover the cost of hiring a venue. The club does not prescribe that specific kit should be worn for skiffing/training but we recommend that sports clothing suitable for the prevailing weather conditions be worn. Typically, we wear clothing similar to that suitable for running, with additional layers/hats etc for when we switch into the cox's seat.

### **Competition**

If you wish to compete in skiff or punt races, regattas take place most weekends from July to October at differing locations on the Thames between Henley and Teddington. All competitors are required to wear a club racing shirt which costs about £30.00 and are available from the Treasurer. A racing fee of about £7.00 per event entered is charged by the regattas.

### **Information for applicants under the age of 18 and their parents.**

We do not run a separate section for junior members, with all members participating in an integrated group. We welcome parents to all training and competitions and value your support. We are keen to try and involve parents in the club and would like to invite you to visit the clubhouse where you can meet club members and find out more about the club. As a consequence of the active participation of parents at the club, we have not found it necessary to adopt formal practices for child protection. All members are required to make their own arrangements for travelling to and from training and regattas. We appreciate it if younger members are collected promptly if they are not accompanied by a parent or making their own way home. If you would like to talk to someone at the club about this information or your child's involvement with the club, please contact the Club Captain or Secretary.

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# Thames Valley Skiff Club Rules



## **1.Name, Object and Headquarters**

The Club shall be called THE THAMES VALLEY SKIFF CLUB. Its objects are the development of skiffing and punting and the promotion of skiff and punt racing. The headquarters shall be situated until further notice at OFF DUDLEY ROAD, WALTON ON THAMES, SURREY, KT12 2JY (Telephone No. 01932 224215) and all communications shall be addressed thereto or to the email address of the Secretary (TVSCsec@gmail.com).

## **2.Colours**

The colours of the Club shall be black and yellow and shall be worn by members when competing in any skiffing or punting events.

## **3.SRA and TPC Rules of Racing**

The Club shall affiliate to and shall observe the Rules of Racing of the Skiff Racing Association (SRA) and the Thames Punting Club (TPC).

## **4.Membership**

The Club shall consist of the following categories of membership, of whom there shall be not less than 25 in aggregate: Affiliate, Social, Full, Honorary Life, Student, Temporary and Vice President.

The total number of Honorary Life members and Temporary members shall not be significant in proportion to the total membership.

Full, Student, Temporary and Vice President members are entitled to all facilities of the Club.

Student members are those under 18 years or in full-time education.

Social members are entitled to all facilities of the Club except that they shall only be allowed to use Club boats at the discretion of the Captain and then only on an occasional basis and are not eligible to race for the club.

Affiliate members are the children under the age of 18 years and the spouse/partner of any member. Affiliate members are not required to pay subscriptions and may not use

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Club boats. Reference to members in Rules 5, 6, 8, 11, 14, 17, 20 and 21 shall exclude Affiliate members.

Honorary Life members shall be elected at the discretion of the Committee in recognition of services to the sports of skiffing and punting. Honorary Life members, who do not have to have been a member of the Club prior to their election, are not obliged to pay a subscription. Honorary Life members shall only be allowed to use Club boats at the discretion of the Captain.

Temporary members may be elected for a maximum period of seven days at the discretion of the Committee and are admitted to the privileges of full membership (provided at least two days have elapsed between their becoming temporary members and their admission) except those of receiving notice of, attending and voting at, meetings. References to members in rules 5, 6, 8, 11, 14, 17 and 20 shall exclude Temporary members.

Vice Presidencies are conferred at Annual General Meetings on members for exceptional services to the Club, but such proposal must first be placed before, and ratified by, the Club Committee not later than its meeting prior to the Annual General Meeting. A Vice Presidency is for life and carries the status of a Full member but payment of a subscription is at the discretion of the individual.

#### **5. Register of Members**

The Secretary shall keep, or cause to be kept, a register of the names and addresses of the members.

#### **6. Application for Membership**

Any person who wishes to be a member except Honorary Life and Temporary Members must apply on the Membership Application Form and submit it to the Club.

Applications for membership will be reviewed and granted or refused by the Club committee. If it is considered by the Club committee that the granting of membership would be detrimental to the aims and objectives of the Club, by virtue of conduct or character likely to bring the Club or the sport into disrepute or for some other similar good cause, the Club committee shall be entitled to refuse such membership. In doing so the committee shall not be required to give a reason for their decision.

Applicants granted membership shall be notified in writing by the Secretary and shall, at the same time, be given a link to the Rules and Bye-Laws as published on the club website.

#### **7. Observance of Club Rules**

All members will abide by the Rules, Regulations and Bye-Laws of the Club and observe the Rules of Racing of the Skiff Racing Association and the Thames Punting Club.

#### **8. Subscription**

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The first year's subscription shall be paid upon application by all prospective members. For the first year of membership only, the subscription shall be pro-rated to reflect the month in which the prospective member joins. All such monies shall be returned in full to any applicant not elected to membership. Once elected, subscriptions are non-refundable. Subsequent annual subscriptions shall be due on 1<sup>st</sup> January each year. Any member who has not paid their current subscription or has debts outstanding at 1st May shall not be entitled to the privileges of membership. Any member who has not paid their subscription by 1st September and who fails to respond to a written request from the Secretary or Treasurer shall cease to be a member unless he can justify the delay to the satisfaction of the Committee.

Any changes to rates of subscription shall be the subject of a proposal from the Committee and shall be ratified by a General Meeting. From time to time on proposal by the committee a discounted subscription rate may be offered to a defined subset or category of member and this shall be ratified by a General Meeting.

#### **9. Expulsion of Members**

The Committee may at any time and at its absolute discretion terminate the membership of any member who in its opinion has violated any of the rules, bye-laws or regulations of the Club and/or been adjudged guilty of unsatisfactory conduct and/or acted contrary to the interests of the Club, providing such a member has been warned in writing of this impending action and allowed the opportunity to present their case to the Committee.

#### **10. Officers and Committee**

The Officers of the Club shall be a President, Captain, Vice Captains, Secretary, Treasurer, Regatta Secretary, Social Secretary, House Steward, Bar Steward and Assistant Bar Steward.

The general management and the funds of the Club shall be in the hands of the Committee which shall consist of the Officers, Voting Vice Presidents and not more than five other members. Any committee member absenting themselves for three consecutive regular Committee meetings without reasonable cause given to the Secretary shall be liable to expulsion from the Committee.

The member of the Club elected to act as Bar Steward, on behalf of the elected committee, shall be responsible for the management of the purchase for the Club, and the supply by the Club of intoxicating liquor to members and their guests.

#### **11. Election of Officers and Committee**

The officers and other members of the Committee (but excluding Vice Captains) shall be elected by ballot at the Annual General Meeting. Those elected will take office from 1st November that year for a period of 12 months with the exception of the Treasurer who will take office from 1st April of the following year for a period of 12 months. No member shall be eligible for these offices, unless their nomination, proposed and seconded, has been received by the Secretary in writing before commencement of a general meeting.

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Only Full, Social, Vice President and Student members over the age of eighteen are eligible to hold office

In all instances a member so proposed and seconded must have indicated their willingness to stand.

Vice Captains, not exceeding three in number, of whom one shall have special responsibility for punting, shall be selected by the incoming Captain, ratified by the Committee and elected by ballot at a general meeting.

Voting Vice Presidents, not exceeding five in number, may be elected to the committee. Only members previously elected a Vice President may be elected as a Voting Vice President.

The office of President will be held no longer than five consecutive years by any one member. A member may be re-elected President for further terms provided they have not held the office for at least one year prior to their election.

#### **12. Supplementation and Vacancies**

The Annual General Meeting shall have power to supplement the officers. The Committee shall have the power to fill any vacancy arising during the current year other than President, Captain, Secretary, Treasurer and Bar Steward, who must be elected by ballot at a General Meeting. The Committee may also co-opt additional members who shall be non-voting unless elected by ballot at a General Meeting.

#### **13. Appointment of Trustees**

The property of the club shall be vested in trustees, of which there will be not more than four or less than two, to be dealt with by them as the Committee shall from time to time direct by a resolution (of which an entry in the Minutes Book shall be conclusive evidence). The trustees shall hold office until death or resignation and shall be indemnified against risk and expense out of Club property. Where by reason of such death or resignation it is necessary that a new Trustee or Trustees be appointed, the committee shall nominate the person or persons to be appointed new Trustee or Trustees. For the purpose of giving effect to such nominations, the Secretary of the Club is hereby nominated as the person to appoint new Trustees within the meaning of The Trustee Act 1925, and he/she shall be deemed duly to appoint the person or persons so nominated by the Committee.

#### **14. General Meetings**

The Annual General Meeting shall be held in October each year. The Annual Finance Meeting shall be held in March each year. In each case the Committee shall appoint the day and the Secretary shall give 14 day's notice to members. At any general meeting 15 members shall form a quorum.

Special General Meetings may be called by the Committee, or on a written request (signed by at least 10 members or one fifth of the total membership, whichever is the lesser) being

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made to the Secretary. At least seven day's notice of the time, place and object of such meeting shall be given by the Secretary.

Full, Social, Vice President, Honorary Life and Student members over the age of eighteen are eligible to vote at General Meetings. Affiliate, Student members under the age of eighteen and Temporary members are excluded from voting at General Meetings.

#### **15. Committee Meetings**

At least nine Committee Meetings shall be held each year. Nine members shall form a quorum.

#### **16. Quorum**

If at any Committee or General Meeting duly summoned a quorum shall not be present within 30 minutes after the appointed time, the meeting shall be adjourned to the same day the next week at the same time and place. Members shall be notified of such an adjourned meeting by the Secretary via email and by the placing of a notice on the Club Notice Board the day following the adjournment. If again a quorum shall not be present within 30 minutes after the appointed time, the members present at such adjourned meeting shall form a quorum.

#### **17. Minutes**

The Secretary shall make and preserve correct minutes of the proceedings at all General and Committee Meetings. These minutes shall be produced at the next appropriate meeting and duly certified as a true record.

#### **18. Annual Accounts**

A copy of independently examined financial accounts shall be supplied to all members. The Independent Financial Examiner will be elected each year following a proposal from the committee ratified by General Meeting.

#### **19. Licensing**

The club holds a Club Premises Certificate under the terms of the Licensing Act 2003. The terms of this act together with any subsequent amendments and local licensing authority regulations prevail. The Hon Secretary shall give notice to the local licensing authority should there be any change in name, location or objectives of the club.

#### **20. Hours of Opening and Closing**

The premises of the Club may be opened and closed at such hours as the Committee shall from time to time determine, being not earlier than 0600 for opening and not later than 2300 for closing or 2400 for closing on the occasion of a club organised event. Such members, however, as may happen to be on the premises of the Club shall not be compelled to leave until one hour after the above prescribed closing times.

Members shall be responsible for the behaviour of their connected Affiliate members and no Affiliate member shall remain on the premises of the Club after the member to whom they are connected has left.

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The bar may be open for the sale of intoxicating liquor at such times as shall be determined by the Committee and decreed by the Licensing Justices and any changes thereto shall be notified in advance to the Clerk to the Justices.

Intoxicating liquor may only be sold or supplied on the Club premises by or on behalf of the Club to members and their guests and to members of visiting clubs attending a function held on the premises and organised by the Club.

Intoxicating liquor will not be sold or supplied to any person under 18 years of age.

No intoxicating liquor shall be supplied by or on behalf of the Club for consumption off the premises except to a member in person. Members may only purchase intoxicating liquor for consumption off the premises in a sealed container and purchases may only be made at times when the bar is open for sales to the general membership.

No person shall receive at the expense of the Club any commission, percentage or similar payment on or with reference to purchases of intoxicating liquor by or on behalf of the Club; nor shall any person directly or indirectly derive any pecuniary benefit from the supply of intoxicating liquor by or on behalf of the Club to members or guests, apart from any benefit accruing to the Club as a whole and apart from any benefit which a person derives indirectly by reason of the supply giving rise, or contributing, to a general gain from the carrying on of the Club.

#### **21. Admission of Guests**

Members shall be allowed to introduce guests, for whose behaviour they shall be responsible, into the Club premises and no guest shall remain on the premises of the Club after the member by whom they have been introduced has left.

On each occasion that a member brings a guest into the Clubhouse, the member shall fill in the particulars in the book provided for the purpose. No guest shall be introduced for more than six days in any one year.

#### **22. Alteration of Rules**

Any of these rules may be repealed or altered, or new rules may be made provided that at least two-thirds of the members present at any general meeting are in favour. A copy of the current rules shall be posted in the Club premises.

#### **23. Bye-Laws**

The Committee shall have the power to frame and alter the Bye-Laws as to racing and management of the boats and Club quarters which shall be binding as if incorporated with these rules. A copy of the current Bye-Laws shall be posted on the Club website.

#### **24. Equal Opportunities Statement**

The Club will ensure that all members have the opportunity to utilise their talents and resources to the full and that no member receives less favourable treatment on the grounds of sex, disability, marital status, creed, social class, ethnic group, age or sexual

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orientation or is disadvantaged by conditions or requirements which cannot be shown to be relevant to performance.

#### 25. Dissolution

If, upon winding up or dissolution of the Thames Valley Skiff Club, there remains, after the satisfaction of all its debts and liabilities, any property whatsoever, that property shall be given to some charitable or sporting organisation or organisations, such organisation or organisations to be determined at a Special General Meeting called at or before the time of dissolution.

## BYE-LAWS

1. All crew members shall be jointly responsible for the safety of the crew and care of the boat.
2. The use of Club boats shall be subject to the control of the Captain or their deputies.
3. Members shall assist in care of the boats including launching and returning boats to the boathouse and in maintaining boats and club premises and equipment in a clean and tidy state.
4. Dress/clothing worn in the clubhouse shall be appropriate for the occasion. Particular regard should be given to the comfort and acceptance of other club members and to the care of the club premises.
5. All expenses incurred by members for meals or other refreshment shall be paid by them before they leave the Club premises and no account shall be opened or allowed with any member.
6. No dogs, except registered assistance dogs, will be permitted in the Clubhouse.
7. Guidance for the membership will be provided by the committee for the use of boats in various river conditions and displayed on the club notice board, but primary responsibility remains with each member to ensure their own safety and that of their crew as per byelaw 1. No club boats are to be used during the hours of darkness whilst Environment Agency red river warnings are in force.
8. In the interests of safety, no member or prospective member under the age of 14 shall be allowed to boat after dark.
9. No club boats are to be used at times of poor visibility or between sunset and sunrise without a white light which is visible through 360 degrees and an additional forward facing white light fixed to the bows
10. All Members must make themselves aware of the Club's Fire Safety and Emergency Plan which is available on the Club website. Any member who knowingly acts in breach of this plan may be expelled in accordance with Rule 10.

In the Rules and Bye Laws words importing the masculine gender include the feminine gender and words importing the singular only include the plural and vice versa.

**September 2024**