

A Future With Falconry

Constitution

1. NAME

The name of the group shall be **A Future With Falconry**. Also referred to as **AFWF**.

2. AIMS

The aims of AFWF will be:

- To actively promote falconry and its growth in the UK; through the AFWF website, social media channels and in person at public events - in order to educate and engage the general public with information and resources.
- To publish up to date, relevant articles and news about the work of individual falconers, falconry conservationists, raptor rehabilitators and raptor charities.
- To provide free resources on falconry & bird of prey conservation that are easily accessible to all, through a variety of channels to support and educate both falconers and general public looking to learn more.
- To promote best practice welfare and husbandry standards in UK falconry.

3. MEMBERSHIP

Supporter membership is open to anyone who:

- lives worldwide, and;
- supports the aims and work of AFWF

Supporter membership will begin as soon as the sign-up form and first payment have been received.

There will be the option for annual and monthly membership – with a minimum annual fee which will be agreed at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) and will be payable by all supporters.

A list of all members will be kept by the secretary.

Ceasing to be a member

Members may resign at any time in writing to the secretary.

Any member who has not paid their membership fee for one year will be contacted by the committee, who will then decide whether that member is deemed to have resigned.

Any offensive behaviour, including racist, sexist or inflammatory remarks, will not be permitted.

Any member found to be bringing falconry into disrepute, will not be permitted.

Anyone behaving in an offensive way or breaking the equal opportunities policy may be asked not to attend further meetings or to resign from the group if an apology is not given or the behaviour is repeated. The individual concerned shall have the right to be heard by the management committee, accompanied by a friend, before a final decision is made.

4. EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

AFWF will not discriminate on the grounds of gender, race, colour, ethnic or national origin, sexuality, disability, religious or political belief, marital status or age.

5. OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE

The business of the group will be carried out by a Committee elected at the Annual General Meeting. The Committee will meet as necessary and not less than three times a year.

The Committee will consist of 9 members and be composed of 5 officers and 4 committee members.

The officers' roles are as follows:

- Chair - who shall chair both general and committee meetings
- Secretary - who shall be responsible for the taking of minutes and the distribution of all papers
- Treasurer - who shall be responsible for maintaining accounts in the event of an officer standing down during the year a replacement will be elected by the next General Meeting of members.
- Events co-ordinator – who shall be responsible for planning and coordinating events that AFWF attend.
- Veterinary advisor – who shall be the representative vet, helping to give AFWF accurate information and advice, and relaying information to other avian vets when AFWF is asking for veterinary opinion.

Any committee member not attending a meeting without apology for three months will be contacted by the committee and asked if they wish to resign.

The Committee meetings will be open to any member of AFWF wishing to attend, who may speak but not vote.

6. Meetings

6.1. Annual General Meetings

An Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held within fifteen months of the previous AGM. All members will be notified in writing at least 3 weeks before the date of the meeting, giving the venue, date and time. Nominations for the committee may be made to the Secretary before the meeting, or at the meeting.

The quorum for the AGM will be 10% of the membership or 10 members, whichever is the greater number.

At the AGM:

- The Committee will present a report of the work of AFWF over the year.
- The Committee will present the accounts of AFWF for the previous year.
(Every four years the officers and committee for the next four years will be elected)

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Any proposals given to the Secretary (in writing or via email) at least 7 days in advance of the meeting will be discussed.

6.2 Special General Meetings

The Secretary will call a Special General Meeting at the request of the majority of the committee or at least five other members giving a written request to the Chair or Secretary, stating the reason for their request.

The meeting will take place within twenty-one days of the request. All members will be given two weeks' notice of such a meeting, giving the venue, date, time and agenda, and notice may be by telephone, email or post. The quorum for the Special General Meeting will be 10% of the membership or 10 members, whichever is the greater number.

6.3 Committee Meetings

Committee meetings may be called by the Chair or Secretary. Committee members must receive notice of meetings at least 14 days before the meeting. The quorum for Committee meetings is three Committee members. These meetings can be held through skype style calls or in person.

7. Rules of Procedure for meetings

All questions that arise at any meeting will be discussed openly and the meeting will seek to find general agreement that everyone present can agree to.

If a consensus cannot be reached a vote will be taken and a decision will be made by a simple majority of members present.

If the number of votes cast on each side is equal, the chair of the meeting shall have an additional casting vote.

8. Finances

An account will be maintained on behalf of the Association at a bank agreed by the committee.

Three cheque signatories will be nominated by the Committee (one to be the Treasurer). The signatories must not be related nor members of the same household.

All payments will be signed by two of the signatories.

- For cheque payments, the signatories will sign the cheque.
- For other payments (such as BACS payments, cash withdrawals, debit card payments or cash payments), a requisition note will be signed by two signatories, and held by the treasurer.
- Records of income and expenditure will be maintained by the Treasurer and a financial statement given at each meeting.
- All money raised by or on behalf of AFWF is only to be used to further the aims of the group, as specified in item 2 of this constitution.

9. Amendments to the Constitution

Amendments to the constitution may only be made at the Annual General Meeting or a Special General Meeting.

Any proposal to amend the constitution must be given to the Secretary in writing. The proposal must then be circulated with the notice of meeting.


Any proposal to amend the constitution will require a two thirds majority of those present and entitled to vote.

10. Dissolution

If a meeting, by simple majority, decides that it is necessary to close down AFWF, it may call a Special General Meeting to do so.

The sole business of this meeting will be to dissolve the group. If it is agreed to dissolve the group, all remaining money and other assets, once outstanding debts have been paid, will be donated to another charitable organisation. The organisation will be agreed at the meeting which agrees the dissolution.

This constitution was agreed at the Inaugural General Meeting of
A Future With Falconry on 12th January 2020.

Name & position in group Amy Wallace Chair Signed 

Name & position in group GENNA BAREWELL SECRETARY Signed 