The Constitution

1. Title

1.1 The Club will be known as Birtley ROF Angling Club (BROFAC),

2. Objectives

2.1 The objective of the Club will be as follows:  
i) To promote and protect the angling interests of the Club’s members.  
ii) To rent, lease, purchase or otherwise obtain and provide fishing rights to be enjoyed equally by all members regardless of gender, age, colour, creed, sexual preference or religion.  
iii) To make all waters available to all members of the Club and to aim to increase the facilities available for the proper pursuit of angling for those persons whom the Club is intending to benefit.  
iv) To help create and support a flourishing wildlife habitat.  
v) To encourage and assist juniors to become involved in angling.  
vi) To provide when practically possible adequate access to club waters for club members who experience mobility problems.

3. Membership

3.1 Membership of the Club shall be at the discretion of the committee with new members being considered on receipt of a correctly completed membership application with photo and payment of the relevant subscription, including joining fees or on receipt of a correctly completed downloadable application form, passport type photograph and payment of the relevant subscription, including joining fees. Annual subscriptions and joining fees determined by the annual general meeting.

3.2 The Committee reserves the right to set a maximum number of club members and create a waiting list should circumstances require this action.

3.3 Membership classification:  
i) Ordinary Member (Applies to members being over 16 years of age and under 65 on the 28th February in the relevant year of membership)  
ii) Junior member (Applies to members aged 13 to 16)  
iii) Disabled Membership will be allocated upon provision of appropriate proof of said entitlement and awarded at the discretion of the Chairman or Secretary. iv) Senior Member (Applies to members being over 65 years of age on the 28th February in the relevant year of membership) v) Honorary/Life Member. An Honorary Member shall have all the rights and privileges of an Ordinary Member, except the right to vote or be eligible for election to the Committee

3.4 Annual Subscriptions to be paid by 14th February, whereupon Membership will be offered initially to “Waiting List” applicants. Members failing to pay before the 14th February will be placed on a “Secondary Waiting List” and may after 28th February result in a re-application for membership having to made at the discretion of the Secretary.

3.5 Members shall be subject to the Club Constitution, Rules & Bye Laws.

3.6 All Members on production of their current membership card are eligible to attend and vote at any General Meeting

4. Expulsion of Members

4.1 Members of the Club whose conduct is considered to be inappropriate may be expelled or suspended from the Club by the committee.

4.2 Any member making derogatory comments, about the Club or any other member, on any social networking site or forum will be deemed to have brought the Club into disrepute and may be expelled or suspended by the Committee.

4.3 Any member whose membership is terminated by the Committee may appeal in writing to the Committee. The appeal will be organised and heard by a panel of three Committee members who, to the extent possible, have had minimal involvement with the original incident or decision.

5 Election of the Committee and Officers

5.1 The membership shall elect at the AGM a Committee and Officers. All Ordinary Club Members are entitled to vote.

5.2 The Committee shall consist of the following:  
Elected officers of the club namely the Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and Fisheries Manager.

5.3 No officer or committee member of any other angling society can be elected an officer or committee member of BROFAC. Officers and committee members of BROFAC can be an officer or committee member of another angling related body to which BROFAC is either affiliated to or is a member of that body.

5.4 Any Committee Member not attending consecutive meetings without a written apology will be liable to lose the status as Committee Member by a majority vote taken amongst the Committee Members. The Committee shall be empowered to appoint by co-option at any time Ordinary Members on to the Committee to be rectified at the next AGM.

6 Role of the Committee

6.1 To draft and display the Bye-Laws, regulations, notices and all matters concerning trophies, prizes and competitions, the time and place of all meetings, the question of Club discipline, Club membership and finance and all matters touching the Constitution and Bye-Laws of the Club.

6.1.1 The duties of the committee are:  
To determine:  
a) The relevant subscription and joining fee, as agreed by the Annual General Meeting of Club members.  
b) To control the affairs of the Club on behalf of the Members.  
c) To co-opt additional members of the Committee as the Committee feels necessary.  
d) To make decisions on the basis of a simple majority vote, with the Chairman having a casting vote.

6.1.2 The Committee will be responsible for keeping accurate accounts of the club’s affairs through the Treasurer. The accounts approved by the Treasurer will be made available at the AGM. The Committee may request the Treasurer to arrange for the accounts to be audited by an independent company of Chartered or Certified Accounts but is free to adopt the Treasurer’s accounts without an independent audit

6.1.3 The Committee will make accounts available for inspection at the AGM, The accounts will then, if deemed satisfactory, be adopted by the members at the AGM.

6.1.4 The Club will maintain a current bank account and the following officers will be authorised to sign cheques, a minimum of two from the Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer.

6.1.5 The Committee will apply all profits accruing from the Club’s activities for the benefit of the Club.

6.1.6 The Committee are responsible for keeping accurate minutes of any of the Club’s meetings.

6.1.7 The Committee will be responsible for the purchase of land or waters on behalf of the Club. The Club will remain at all times the beneficial owner.

6.1.8 The Committee shall have the power to create sub-committees who will be responsible for the supervision of particular aspects of the club’s activities and to submit any propositions to the Committee.

6.1.9 The Committee will be responsible for implementing and maintaining the Club’s Child Protection Policy.

6.1.10 The Committee will be responsible for bringing or defending any legal actions in the courts affecting the Club.

6.1.11 The Committee will be indemnified in respect of the costs of any such proceedings out of the assets of the Club unless any action brought against the committee or a committee members is shown to be the result of their misconduct or actions in breach of the law at which point the committee or committee member concerned is individually or jointly and severally liable at their own expense.

6.1.12 In addition to the above the Committee has the power to but not restricted to:

a. Acquire and provide grounds equipment, transport, medical and related facilities;  
b. Taking out an insurance for club members, employees, contractors, guests and third parties;  
c. Raise funds by appeals, subscriptions, loans and charges;  
d. Borrow money and give security for the same, and open bank accounts;  
e. Buy, lease or licence property and sell, let or otherwise dispose of the same;  
f. Make grants and loans and give guarantees and provide other benefits;  
g. Set aside funds for special purposes or as reserves;  
h. Invest funds in any lawful manner;  
i. Employ and engage staff and others and provide services;  
j. Co-operate with or affiliate to firstly any bodies regulating or organising the Sport of Angling and secondly any club or body involved with it and thirdly with government and related agencies;  
k. Do all other things reasonably necessary to advance the purposes of the club and its members;

6.1.14 The Committee shall be the sole authority for the interpretation of this Constitution and the Bye-Laws and Regulations made there under.

The decision of the Committee upon any question of interpretation or upon any matter affecting the Club and not provided for by these rules or Bye-Laws and regulations made there under shall be final and binding on all members.

6.1.15 The Committee shall from time to time, repeal and amend all such Bye-Laws and regulations (not inconsistent with this Constitution) as it shall think expedient for the management and well being of the club.

6.1.16 The Committee shall meet on at least quartley in each year. At each meeting five Members of the Committee shall form a quorum and if there shall be an equality of votes then the Chairman, or acting Chairman of the meeting shall have the casting vote.

6.1.17 The current Club Committee have full control of all the Club’s assets. The current Committee (as may be in office at any particular time) to take all reasonable steps to obtain and maintain such full control including the ability to sell without hindrance any such asset as and when it may be deemed to be in the best interests of the Club

8. Annual General Meetings

8.1 The Annual General Meeting of the Club shall be held on such a date, time and place as the Committee shall determine, when the officers and other members of the Committee shall be elected. Notice of such a meeting shall be sent out to each member eligible to attend at least fourteen clear days prior to the date fixed.

8.2 The notice concerning the Annual General Meeting of the Club shall specify the Committee’s proposals for the ensuing year, nominations of officer and other members of the Committee and any proposition or resolutions they intend to move at the meeting. Notice of any intended additional nominations must be notified in writing to the Secretary at least ten days prior to the meeting.

8.3 The accidental omission to give notice to or the non-receipt of notice by any member shall not invalidate the proceedings at any Annual or General Meeting of the Club.

8.4 At the Annual General Meetings the Club Accounts for the preceding year will be presented for approval by the Membership.

9 The Secretary shall at the request of the Chairman upon the written requisition of fifteen of the Ordinary Members or at the request of the Committee call an Extra Ordinary General Meeting, such meeting to be convened by notice in writing sent to each Ordinary Member at least fourteen days before such a meeting.

The notice convening an Extra Ordinary General Meeting shall specify the business which is to be laid before it.

10. Financial Year

10.1 The Financial Year of the Club will be from.1st January to December 31st of the following year.

11. Alterations to the Constitution.

11.1 The Constitution, rules and regulations of the Club, all the decisions taken at the Club Meetings and all other Club activities shall at all times be in strict accordance with the conditions and spirit of the Leases governing the Club Waters

11.2 No alteration shall be made to this Constitution except by a resolution of at least two- thirds of the Ordinary Members then present at an Annual General Meeting of the Club, notice of such proposed alterations having been given in the circular convening the meeting.

12. Dissolution

12.1 If at any General Meeting of the Club a resolution be passed calling for the dissolution of the Club, the Secretary will immediately convene an Extra Ordinary General Meeting of the Club, to be held not less than one month thereafter to discuss and vote on the resolution.

12.2 If at that Extra Ordinary General Meeting, the resolution is carried by at least two thirds of the adult members present, the Management Committee shall thereupon, or at such a date as shall have been specified in the resolution, proceed to realise the assets of the Club and discharge all debts and liabilities of the Club.

12.3 After discharging all debts and liabilities of the Club, the remaining assets will not be paid or distributed amongst the members of the Club, but shall be given or transferred to some other voluntary sporting organisation, such sport being on the list of sports approved by Sport England.

12.4 In the event of a deficiency in the assets of the Club, then a meeting of the creditors shall be called and an agreement entered into for the liquidation of the Club’s assets on a pro-rata basis.

12.5 The Chairman and not more than two other Committee members shall be appointed by the Committee to act as a liquidation Committee, with full powers to act on behalf of the Committee in the dissolution proceedings.