



## **THE YORKSHIRE NATURALISTS' UNION**

(Charity No 224018)

### **Constitution and Rules**

#### **The Union**

The Yorkshire Naturalists' Union (YNU), founded in 1861, is a confederation of Yorkshire-based natural history and scientific societies and of individual members.

The YNU exists to promote the scientific investigation of the fauna, flora and physical features of the county of Yorkshire and encourage their conservation. It issues publications, holds field and indoor meetings throughout Yorkshire, and provides a variety of educational and scientific resources. Members (societies or individuals) receive one copy of each of the regular publications.

The Union currently publishes and maintains the copyright in:

- i) *The Naturalist*, founded in 1875, which contains reports of the Union's meetings and papers of natural history interest relating principally to the north of England;
- ii) Bird Report; and
- iii) Butterflies and Moths Report
- iv) occasional books, guides and manuals.

Field Meetings are held mainly in the summer months, usually one in each of the five vice-counties 61-65. They normally end with a meeting, which receives sectional reports and transacts any other necessary business. A detailed programme of field meetings is issued to all members.

Sections are formed to promote and carry out research in a particular field or aspect of natural history. Membership is open only to individual members of the YNU. Minutes of formal section meetings are to be sent to the Executive.

#### **Rules**

##### **1. Title**

The Title of the Union shall be 'The Yorkshire Naturalists' Union'.

##### **2. Objects**

The Objects of the Union shall be to promote the scientific investigation of the fauna, flora and physical features of the historic county of Yorkshire (Watsonian vice-counties 61, 62, 63, 64 and 65), to encourage their conservation, and to pursue these aims through the provision of appropriate educational and scientific resources.

### 3. Powers

The Union shall have the following powers:

- i) to open bank accounts;
- ii) to lease or purchase property for its charitable purposes;
- iii) to appoint and remunerate any employee or any professional adviser considered necessary by the Executive Committee;
- iv) to apply all monies raised on behalf of the Union to further the objectives of the Union and for no other purpose, provided that nothing herein contained shall prevent the payment in good faith of reasonable and proper remuneration to any employee of the Union or repayment to members of the Executive or any other Committee of reasonable out-of-pocket expenses;
- v) to award grants to charities, organisations and individuals in furtherance of the Union's objectives; and
- vi) to hold a postal vote at the Executive's discretion.
- vii) to do other lawful things as are necessary for the achievement of its objectives.

### 4. Membership and Subscriptions

- i) Membership shall be open to any society based within the County whose Objects are judged by the Union to be consonant with the Objects of the YNU, and to individuals wherever based, on submission of a written application, together with payment of the appropriate subscription. Changes to subscription rates are to be approved at an A.G.M.
- ii) The Union shall have power to create and regulate additional classes of membership, and to set appropriate subscriptions.
- iii) Every member over the age of 18, including Affiliated Societies shall have one vote.

### 5. Investments of the Union

Investments (which may include stocks and shares, building society accounts and any property) shall be in the names of three custodian trustees, nominated by the Executive, who shall be appointed at the AGM each year.

### 6. Executive Committee

#### i) Trust and Executive Committee

There shall be an Executive Committee of nine members, to form the Trust of the Union. Each member of the Executive will be elected, from those members eligible under Charity Commission rules, for a period of three years.

#### ii) Officers

At its first meeting following the AGM the Executive shall appoint from among its members a Chairman of the Executive Committee, a Treasurer and such other officers as may be required. The Executive shall also appoint a Chairman of the Natural Sciences Forum, who is not required to be an Executive Committee Member or Trustee of the Union but may attend Executive Committee meetings.

#### iii) Quorum

A Quorum of the Executive Committee shall consist of four persons, of whom not more than three shall be Officers.

#### iv) Restrictions

An Executive Committee member, being thereby a Trustee of the Union, shall not:

- a) receive any benefit in money or in kind from the charity, except that which is available as an ordinary member;
- b) have a financial interest in the supply of goods or services to the charity;
- c) acquire or hold any interest in property of the charity (except in order to hold it as a trustee of the charity).

#### 7. Responsibilities of the Executive Committee.

The Executive Committee, as the Trust of the Union, shall meet not less than three times during the year and shall have the following powers and responsibilities:

- i) to appoint any necessary standing committees and to determine their terms of reference and budget and receive their minutes;
- ii) to open a bank account in the name of the charity, all authorisations to that account dependent on the signature of two unrelated trustees from a group of five trustees appointed to hold this responsibility;
- iii) to keep proper accounts and prepare an annual report and financial statement to be sent to all members prior to the AGM, and to the Charity Commission following approval by the AGM;
- iv) to invest surplus funds of the Union in accordance with statute;
- v) to apply for grants and raise funds in pursuit of the Union's objectives;
- vi) to appoint annually an External Examiner;
- vii) to co-opt not more than three additional members;
- viii) to call for the attendance, without the right to vote, of other persons to advise on and take part in its business; and
- ix) to fill a place which has been vacated, the appointment to run until the next Annual Meeting of the Union.
- x) It shall have power to set up such Sections as may seem best fitted to promote the Union's objects.

#### 8. Natural Sciences Forum

The Natural Sciences Forum exists to ensure that the YNU achieves its charitable objectives of studying and recording the natural history of Yorkshire and disseminating its knowledge to others.

- i) The Forum will meet at least twice a year. Meetings will be open to any YNU members and guests wishing to contribute ideas for the development of the YNU and willing to take action to deliver them. Representatives of YNU Sections, VC Divisional Secretaries and Affiliated Societies are encouraged to attend to ensure that the YNU is meeting their requirements.
- ii) The Executive will delegate detailed consideration of most issues relating to promoting the Union's objectives by appropriate means, such as co-ordinating field work, arranging field meetings, workshops and conferences, supporting approved publications, appropriate research and other desirable tasks. The Executive will expect policy recommendations from the Forum and receive minutes.
- iii) The Forum will recommend to the Executive the names of such officers as it wishes to appoint to do its work.

#### 9. Sections

A Section shall have power to appoint officers from among the members of the Union, hold meetings and arrange such representation as is desirable at full meetings of the Natural Sciences

Forum and of the Union.

#### 10. Presidency

The Natural Sciences Forum shall nominate to the Annual Meeting a President-Elect to succeed to the Presidency in one year's time, the nomination having regard to the scientific standing of the nominee or his or her position within Yorkshire (whether by birth, training, residence, or other association). The President shall hold office for one year and deliver an address to members at the Annual General Meeting. At the close of his or her term of office, a President shall become a Vice-President for Life.

#### 11. Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting shall elect the Officers and Executive Committee (Trustees) in accordance with Rule 6 (i) and (ii), receive a report from the Executive Committee and the accounts of the Union, and shall have power to consider changes in the management of the Union's affairs which may require alteration to the modes of administration of the Union or to its Rules, in accordance with Rule 12. A quorum for the Annual Meeting shall be twenty members. 21 days notice of the meeting shall be given to each member.

#### 12. Alterations to the Rules

Alterations to the Rules shall be made only at the Annual Meeting or at a Special General Meeting convened for the purpose, provided that the alteration is proposed by the Executive, or that a request has been received from at least twelve full members. Members wishing to propose an alteration shall notify the Executive in writing at least twelve weeks before the date set for the appropriate meeting, so that it may be considered by the Executive and included in the Agenda. The quorum for a meeting held under this Rule shall consist of twenty members. 21 days notice of the meeting shall be given to each member.

#### 13. Dissolution

If the Executive Committee resolves that it is necessary or advisable to dissolve the Union it shall call a meeting of the Union, of which not less than twenty-one days notice shall be given to all members, stating the terms of the resolution to be proposed. If the proposal should be confirmed by a two-thirds majority of those present and voting, the Executive shall have power to realise any assets held by or on behalf of the Union. Any assets remaining after the satisfaction of any proper debts and liabilities shall be given or transferred to such other charitable institution or institutions having objects similar to the objects of the Union as the members of the Union may determine, or, failing that, shall be applied to some other charitable body or purpose. A copy of the statement of accounts, or account and statement, for the final accounting period of the Union shall be sent to the Charity Commissioners.

March 23<sup>rd</sup> 2013