

# Buckingham & District Angling Association

## Minute of Annual General Meeting

Founded 1910

Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2019 – at Buckingham Athletic Function Room

### Chairman of AGM

Pete Williams

### Committee Members Present:

Barry Smith (Chair)	Simon Bumstead	Nigel Bidwell	Richard Burdon
Mark Fenning	Mick Powell	John Hewison	

In addition, four members were present making a total of 12. Their names were recorded in the attendance book. The meeting was not quorate.

### 1. Chairman's Opening Remarks

Pete Williams opened the meeting by thanking all those in attendance.

### 2. Apologies for absence

James Cavendish, David Powel, Nicola Powell and Walter Barnes have sent their apologies.

### 3. Reading and Acceptance of Minutes from 2018 AGM

The minutes of the AGM held on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2018 were read. Nigel Bidwell proposed the minutes be accepted, seconded by David Sangster and passed unanimously by the meeting.

### 4. Chairman's Annual Report

#### Key Points from Barry Smith's report: -

- 4.1 Barry thanked all for attending the meeting.
- 4.2 For the club, 2018 has been dominated by the devastating pollution event that occurred in June affecting 25km of the Great Ouse between Brackley and Thornton. This event will have a long-lasting effect on the quality of river fishing on this section of the river and also on the club's membership levels and finances going forward.
- 4.3 The committee have taken a number of steps to mitigate the impact on the club which includes working with the various interested stakeholders, the EA, Buckingham Town Council and riparian owners to ensure the event does not fall off the radar and to continue to support the recovery and restoration phases. We did write to the two local MPs Andrea Leadsom and Speaker John Bercow. We had no reply from Andrea Leadsom however John Bercow did write to the head of the EA to raise the issue and hopefully raise the priority of the restoration work.
- 4.4 From the polluter should pay perspective both Simon and Barry have been asked to prepare witness statements for the EA to be used in any likely prosecutions.
- 4.5 The Town Council with other stakeholders are also pursuing setting up a charitable trust so any grants and improvement funds awarded can be channeled through, for the work to be done. This work may include fish passages and weir removal to allow fish populations to move.
- 4.6 There is some good news in that the EA has recently stocked 8,000 chub at various points along the affected stretch and more restocking is planned later in the year.
- 4.7 Remember that Lenborough, The Coombs and Roman Bridge were all unaffected by the

pollution with Lenborough fishing particularly well. The club have also done some work to improve access to the swims downstream at Roman Bridge. Barry also reported that he made a couple of one-minute films to promote the venues – these can be viewed via the website.

- 4.8 Further restocking of Woodfields has been put on hold because of the uncertainty on future income. Following a visit to Biggleswade and Hitchin Angling club, by Barry and Simon, some preparatory work on plans to install an otter fence at Woodfields have been made. Initial estimates have been prepared which will enable us to apply for a grant, later in the year, to help fund this investment.
- 4.9 To tackle any potential weed issues at Woodfields we also plan to add a dye early in spring to reduce weed growth.
- 4.10 On the coaching side the club had a very successful 2018 with over 50 youngsters attending a “taster” session with eight juniors further developing their skills by attending the Structured Coaching sessions based on the Angling Trust CAST Award scheme. Barry thanked the coaches for all their hard work particularly over the summer months.
- 4.11 Finally, Barry thanked the riparian owners, the committee, those that helped with BBQ and the team that maintain Woodfields.
- 4.12 Questions were invited. No questions were tabled on the chairman’s report.

## **5. Treasurers Report – Key Points from Simon Bumstead’s report**

- 5.1 The accounts for 2018-2019 have been audited by John Rose.
- 5.2 **Income** was £4,210 down by £837 from the previous year
- 5.3 **Membership** - Total 156 decrease of 25. Adult 56, Concessions 58, Juniors 9, Complimentary 33.  
The lower numbers have likely been driven by the pollution incident – though many members had already re-joined before the event occurred so the full impact may not be felt until this year
- 5.4 **Expenditure** – was 5,084 down by £1,387 from previous year.  
Though the previous year included £1,500 restocking at Woodfields.  
Largest expenditure item is river rentals at £3,220.  
We do wish to thank Chris James for waiving the £200 rental for the Coombes venue because of the pollution event affecting the club.

5.5 **Accumulated Fund** - Cash Assets stand at £4,966 as of 31 January 2019

### **5.6 Going Forward**

- 5.6.1 To address the impact of the river pollution we have negotiated with our riparian owners a reduction in the rentals paid– the affected ones have all taken a haircut. All current river fisheries remain on the ticket.
- 5.6.2 Because of the effect on the quality of fishing on some of our river venues we have also taken the decision to reduce our membership tariffs for adults and concessions, £35 and £25 respectively Junior remains at £10.
- 5.6.3 Reduced Day Tickets and Guest Tickets to £5 – Juniors to £3.
- 5.6.4 Woodfields remains a membership venue only.
- 5.6.5 We have four outlets Tingewick PO, Gone Fishin Wolverton, Jakemans in Aylesbury, Fishing Republic (Stacey Bushes)

5.6.6 As stated by the chairman earlier – the committee is making plans to install an Otter fence for Woodfields – To fund this we plan to apply for a grant in the autumn.

Indicative costs for this are circa £12,600 - (Cost of materials £6,650, Cost of labour to install £5,940)

Cost of clearing the fence line and for the covering of a groundskirt are not included which will be costed and included as our part of the contribution in the application

5.7 Questions were invited - No other questions were tabled on the treasurer's report.

## **6 Appointment of auditor**

6.1 John Hewison proposed that John Rose be appointed as auditor for 2019-20 accounts, seconded by Mick Grace and passed unanimously by the meeting.

## **7 Resolution.**

There were no resolutions tabled.

## **8. Election / Re-election of Officers and Committee members**

Pete Williams was re-elected as President unanimously. Proposed by Mark Fenning and seconded by Nigel Bidwell.

Our constitution requires four committee members to stand down each year. No new applications have been received. Therefore, Simon Bumstead and John Hewison were re-elected to the committee. Proposed by Mick Grace and seconded by David Sangster.

All elections were passed unanimously.

Two positions still remain vacant. Both Secretary and Match Secretary are still to be filled.

## **9. AOB**

None tabled.

## **10. Agree date for next AGM**

The date of 19<sup>th</sup> March 2020 at 7.30 – venue Buckingham Athletic was proposed and accepted as the date for the next AGM.

## **11. Closure of Meeting by the Chairman**

Pete Williams again thanked all members for attending and closed the meeting at 8.20pm.