

Buckingham & District Angling Association

Minute of Annual General Meeting

Founded 1910

Thursday 31st March 2022 – held at Buckingham Athletic Function Room

Chairman - Pete Williams

Committee Members Present:

Barry Smith	Simon Bumstead	Nigel Bidwell	Richard Burdon
Mark Fenning	Walter Barnes	Richard Hutchin	Mick Powell
James Cavendish			

In addition, 8 members were present making a total of 18. Their names were recorded in the attendance book. The meeting was quorate (requires 14).

Before the meeting started a minute's silence was held in remembrance of former chairman, trustee and stalwart of the club, Bernard Lewis, who recently passed away.

- 1. Chairman's Opening Remarks** - Pete Williams thanked all those attending and thanked the committee and volunteers for all their hard work on the improvements made at Woodfields. Their work has been tremendous and we hope this year the fishing will be better because of the re-stocking.
- 2. Apologies for absence** were received from Malcolm Halliwell, Bob Lee, Dave Gillman, Mark Oakley, Darren Bird and Paul Piggott.
- 3. Acceptance of the Minutes from 2021 AGM held** on Thursday 24th June 2021.

The key items from the meeting were read by Pete Williams. No questions were tabled.

Chris Cory proposed acceptance, seconded by Mick Taylor and passed unanimously by the meeting. A full copy of these minutes is available to download from the internet or from Simon Bumstead.

4. Chairman's Annual Report – was presented by Barry Smith

- 4.1** Barry reflected on the loss of Bernard and spoke of his early memories of Bernard. Barry then summarized by saying that he had huge appreciation and respect for what Bernard did for the club and how he was instrumental in the acquisition and early development of Woodfields and how he will be sadly missed. The committee will look at what can be done at the lake to remember Bernard.
- 4.2** Barry then continued his report – Looking back, this time last year, we had stocked 6,000 silver fish, 250lb of small carp and 200 small bream following the completion of the otter fence. This has been a huge success and secures the fishery from otter predation for the future. We were concerned at the time because of the fish kills we had seen on the bank from otter predation just prior to the fence being installed. We thought the fishery had been badly damaged but there are still quite a large number of the original big carp remaining.
- 4.3** Barry also re-iterated that the fishery would never allow night fishing and it will continue to be a mixed fishery.
- 4.4** In the summer we received a donation of £5k towards buying a hut/log cabin. This is still a work in progress, The idea is to have a shelter at the venue that can be developed in becoming an integral part of the club that can be used for committee meetings and on match days, in

inclement weather, be used to reflect on the days fishing.

- 4.5 We also had successful grant application for predation control from the Angling Trust (AT) to deter essentially cormorants. We have purchased three bird scarers and established two fish refuges an important place for fish to take refuge. These are good places to fish for silver fish. The AT advised us that fish will use these when cormorants land on the lake for cover. This grant also covered the purchase of two wildlife cameras and ten crayfish traps.
- 4.6 We also need to thank those involved that spent a bank holiday weekend extending the path at the inlet which had been narrowed by the otter fence installation.
- 4.7 Weed at the lake continues to be challenging, with both Milfoil and Canadian Pond weed being present. We have purchased another 10m weed cutter blade to help with clearance work. From 14th April we plan to hold working parties every Thursday from 5.00pm to cut and clear the weed so if you wish to come along to help then please do, and a thank you to those that are involved in helping.
- 4.8 Earlier this year more fish were stocked this included 300 small crucian carp, 75lb of tench up to 1lb and 50lb of small bream to about 10oz. The good news is that both tench and skimmers have recently been caught.
- 4.9 We have also been successful with two further grant application totaling £5,300. One from Buckingham Town Council for £623 and one from the EA for £4,677 to fund further improvements.
- 4.10 Part of this money is to be used to build an accessible platform (on peg 39 for those less abled anglers), repair 10 pegs, purchase our own portaloo and oxygen meter. For using the accessible platform, members need to cognizant of those members that may have a greater need. Though there will be room for two anglers to fish.
- 4.11 Many of our pegs are collapsing. It looks like crayfish are eroding the ground underneath the sleepers. So, we plan to repair these over the next few months using some of the grant money.
- 4.12 A portaloo toilet should be in place from early in May, if not our own one, a hired one as this proved popular with members last year.
- 4.13 The rivers continue to improve from the pollution event of June 2018. It was good to see more members enjoying the river fishing, with catches reports of chub to nearly 6lb, lots of chub 2lb to 3lb range. So, a thank you to all our riparian owners. Also, the club continues to support the Buckingham River Warden group with both Simon Bumstead and Richard Burdon being river wardens and both qualified accredited River Fly monitors.
- 4.14 We have also held a working party at Roman Bridge and one at Bridge Field, Leckhampsted bridge in order to tidy-up and make some of the fishing areas more accessible.
- 4.15 Finally, I wanted to say this is **our club** and we need you all to support our club. Help can come in many ways – from simply taking a plastic bag with you when fishing to pick up any litter found at your swim, following up on the AT campaign on Keeping Britain Tidy recently launched.
- 4.16 As we come out of Covid our membership has grown from the pre-covid numbers We hope people have found us to be a friendly club, a great place to fish where members really get what they are looking for, and we hope they will invite a friend who will perhaps join us.
- 4.17 Also help with maintenance and weed clearing – it does provide an opportunity to gain enjoyment by putting something back in to the club. Making this place a more pleasant venue for all to enjoy. Just spread the word the more help we have to keep this club going forward.

Finally, we would like to thank all those volunteers and committee members that have helped the club by investing their time on the various work we have undertaken. It is much appreciated.

4.18 Questions were invited. No questions were tabled on the chairman's report.

Steve Cory proposed acceptance of the Chairman's report, seconded by Frank Thompson and passed unanimously by the meeting.

5. Treasurers Report – was presented by Simon Bumstead

Key Points from Simon Bumstead's report: -

5.1 A copy of the Income and Expenditure sheet and Balance sheet covering the 20-21- and 21-22 year's accounts was distributed.

5.2 At the last AGM the accounts for 2020-21 had not been audited – these have now and the numbers stated at the last year's AGM - were correct and are re-stated below

For 20-21 - Income - £15,269 Expenditure - £14,690 Surplus of £579. Membership at 261.

5.3 The accounts for 2021-2022 have been audited by John Rose - Signed copies held on file.

Income - £17,054 - including six donations from members totaling £7,164 and two grant awards from the Angling Trust (£1,059) and Buckingham Town Council for £355 – Totaling £1,414. In fact over the last three years we have gained £12,500 in grants from various places – which is a good achievement.

Expenditure - £10,095

Key Items - Fish Re-stocking £3,037

Woodfields Development £3,175 (Predator Protection & Peg Repair)

Income Exceed Expenditure by £6,959

Balance Sheet - Cash Assets £14,069 as of 31 January 2022

Includes £5,000 generous donation. from Pete Callow for a log cabin.

We hold the cash assets in three funds	Working Capital Fund	£2,921
	Coaching Fund	£887
	Woodfields Development	£10,260

Membership at 246 slightly down from last year.

5.4 Going forward

5.4.1 So far this year we have gained grants totalling £5,300 to help further develop Woodfields. Improving the fishery for all will ensure the lake becomes a flagship recreational amenity for the town, and encourage more local people to enjoy the outdoors and take-up angling within the Buckingham area.

5.4.2 Woodfields remains a member only venue and we are continuing with the £10 levy, however there is no increase in overall prices for permits. Guest tickets will continue to be available from committee members or email/paypal when fishing with a member.

5.4.3 All current river fisheries remain on the ticket and day tickets will continue for the rivers at £5 each.

5.4.4 We also have five outlets Tingewick PO, Browns of Buckingham, Gone Fishin Wolverton, Jakemans in Aylesbury selling our permits and day tickets.

5.5 Questions were invited by the chairman and duly answered.

Dick Hutchin proposed acceptance of the Treasures Report, seconded by Steve Cory and passed unanimously by the meeting.

6. **Appointment of auditor** – Simon Bumstead proposed that John Rose be appointed as auditor for 2022 accounts, seconded by James Cavendish and passed unanimously by the meeting.

7. **Match Secretary Report – was presented by James Cavendish**

7.1 James stated that because of the lack of participation in the inter club matches have now been scrapped though three new matches will be added to the match programme. These matches will be open to up to five non-members to fish for a peg fee. Both Wednesday Night and Friday series were well supported. We hope net weights improve with the new stocking.

8. **Resolutions – Changes to the Constitution**

8.1 Simon Bumstead proposed that the changes to constitution tabled be split in to two parts for voting purposes. He also stated that the key change concerning changes to the constitution was in response to concerns raised by Bidge Barnes in committee. The committee have discussed these changes over a number of meetings and are fully behind them. The proposed changes have been available for members to view for the last 28 days on the website.

8.2 The first vote was taken on the major change to Clause 9.1. Simon explained the rationale behind this proposal was to protect the club's constitution and purpose with a hostile takeover from an specific interest group.

The change is

First paragraph remains the same – “Any proposed changes to the Association’s Constitution may only be considered at an Annual or Special General Meeting convened with the required written notice of the proposal. Any alteration or amendment must be proposed by a Member of the Association and seconded by another Member.”

Second paragraph has been changed to “Such alterations if voted for by two-thirds majority of those members present at the meeting, assuming that a quorum has been achieved, will need to be ratified / agreed by a majority vote of the General Committee and Trustees before being accepted and the constitution being changed. Once accepted the revised constitution will be published on the association’s website”.

This will make it more difficult for the club constitution to be changed in the future and deter a takeover that could move the club away from its history, a club that promotes all types of fishing.

This will hopefully deter any hostile takeover or at least slow one down. Also, these changes should protect the investment made (as Woodfields is becoming a more valuable asset) by past and present committee members, volunteers and members over the years and ensure the principles of the club's founders and forefathers are not eroded.

Bidge Barnes proposed the change be accepted and seconded by Nigel Bidwell and passed unanimously.

8.3 The second vote covered the following proposed changes

8.3.1 Change to clause 3.1 – removed the need to complete an application form.

- 8.3.2 Change to clause 4.2 and new clause 6.35 – removing the role of vice president – though being replaced with a life membership - after a concern raised by Mick Harvey the proposed change was modified with any Life Membership nominated by the committee being confirmed instead by a vote at the AGM.

New Clause 6.35 *“The association may bestow Life Membership on past members who have served the association. Life Memberships shall be nominated by the committee and confirmed by a vote at the AGM. Such Life Memberships shall be recorded in the association’s Schedule of Trustees, President, General Committee Members and Life Members”*

Also making it clear that Chairman and Vice Chairman roles are officers of the club and making their terms three years rather than one year previously. Three-year term for a chairman is sensible. Both chair and vice chair plus the Treasurer are currently Bank Account signatories and therefore should be classified as officers.

- 8.3.3 Change to clause 5.1 – to allow committee members to hold more than one role until such time the position can be filled. This is what we do currently to function.
- 8.3.4 Change to clause 5.2 – changing the number of committee members that need to resign each year from 4 to 3. We have had vacant positions now for a number of years. A 25% change is also reasonable
- 8.3.5 New clause 5.4 - Confirming *“The President role is an honorary role nominated by the committee and confirmed by a vote at the AGM serving for a three-year term”*.
- 8.3.6 Change to clause 6.3.2 – Change to FY end date to a calendar year – to 31st December from 31 January - no impact as very few transactions occur during January. Allows longer period for the accounts to be audited.
- 8.3.7 Change to clause 7.1 – date of AGM to before the end of May – This is to make use of proposed log cabin that should be situ by then. Needs to be held before the end of May as that’s when the membership year ends.
- 8.3.8 Change to clause 7.3.7 – Simplification to align with clause 4.2
- 8.3.9 Change clause 7.3.8 – and Clause 7.6 to refer to the revised clause 9.1 covered in minute 8.2.
- 8.3.10 Change to clause 7.7. Clarifies that other matters considered and voted by the AGM – apart from Resolutions to change the constitution can be passed by AGM without the AGM being quorate. Allows the business of the club to continue when low numbers of members attend the AGM.

Proposed by Bidge Barnes and seconded by Nigel Bidwell and passed unanimously

The revised constitution will now be duly adopted and published on the association’s website.

9. Election / Re-election of Officers and Committee members

- 9.1 Election of Barry Smith as Chairman, Walter Barnes as Vice-Chairman as per the constitution change described above and the re-election of Pete Williams as President and Simon Bumstead as Treasurer. All to serve for three years.

Proposed by Steve Cory and seconded by Walter Davies and passed unanimously.

- 9.2 One nomination received from Mick Harvey.

Proposed by Simon Bumstead and seconded by Barry Smith and passed unanimously.

- 9.3 No other nominations from the floor came forward to stand on the committee.

10. Next AGM – Thursday 25th May 2023 at 7.30. Venue Woodfields.

11 AOB

11.1 Mick Harvey raised his concern about the lack of Working Parties for river venues. Many of the river venues have swims that are difficult to fish. After some discussion it was agreed to take this issue back to the committee to address.

11.2 Vincent Riley raised his concern about the inclusion of carp (at 1lb each) in last year's Wednesday Night match series. Carp were excluded from being placed in keepnets from a welfare perspective. After some discussion it was agreed to take this issue back to the committee to address.

12. Closure of Meeting by the Chairman by Pete Williams at 8.40pm.

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