

Buckingham & District Angling Association

DRAFT - Minutes of Annual General Meeting

Founded 1910

Thursday 25th May 2023 – held at Woodfields

Chairman - Pete Williams

Committee Members Present:

Barry Smith

Simon Bumstead

Nigel Bidwell

Mark Fenning

Walter Barnes

Richard Hutchin

James Cavendish

In total 17 members attended, including 7 committee members. Their names were recorded in the attendance book. The meeting was quorate (requires 14).

1. **President's Opening Remarks** - Pete Williams thanked the committee and volunteers for all their hard work on the improvements made at Woodfields.

2. **Apologies for absence** were received from David Powell and Mick Powell.

3. **Acceptance of the Minutes from 2022 AGM held** on Thursday 31st March 2022.

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

Mick Harvey proposed acceptance, seconded by James Cavendish 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 I echo the comments made by the president and thank the committee and volunteers that have put so much work into the venue to improve the fishery.

4.2 **Stocking** - In 2022, we stocked skimmers and tench which have proved to be a huge success. Although we have lost a few and had a few damaged by pike. It is however good that both tench and bream are currently showing which is encouraging. Unfortunately, delivery of our recent re- stocking order of more tench and bream has been delayed to the autumn. The aim is still to make this an all-round fishery where juniors are welcome.

4.3 **Log Cabin** - The log cabin recently built was funded by a donation from Pete Callow and provides a good place to meet during working parties. On match days it is used for the draw and makes a good place to generate a community atmosphere after the match especially at those matches where refreshments are served. We are going to look at other ways we can use the facility for the benefit of members. Also, it is good to see members making use of the picnic table.

4.4 **Portaloo** - Using the grant money from the Angling Improvement Fund we have now purchased our own toilet rather than lease one. We plan to keep this open all year round.

4.5 **Swim repairs** – Amazing work done by the volunteers to repair those damaged by crayfish activity. Many had sunk and have now been lifted using new sleepers and back filling with aggregate. We have had good feedback from lots of members on these repairs.

4.6 **River fisheries** - There have been improvements in some areas this last year. Although not on our ticket the stretch through Buckingham has been good. The Padbury Brook has been very good for chub and in my opinion the chub have seen the otter – they know the sound of the otter and know when to disappear. I doubt whether we will ever see the really large chub again however from his own experience catches of up to 10 fish can be caught in a session.

The lower sections of the main river on our ticket were not fishing that well, especially during the winter. Though some really nice perch were caught in the Mugs Mug match in the early autumn. I am concerned about this and will keep an eye on how it fishes this year.

The work on the river has not progressed as I would have liked. We have had some great volunteers here at Woodfields but as I have had so much on, we have been unable to make much progress on the rivers. We could do with some more volunteers with perhaps someone else leading this activity on the rivers and liaise with the respective riparian owners.

- 4.7 **Absent Friends** - Sadly, we have lost a few more members this year. The one that hit me hard was Bryan Bedward who passed away earlier this year. To remember him, the Wednesday night series trophy has been renamed the Alan and Bryan Bedward Memorial Trophy.
- 4.8 **Accessibility** – We have made a big step forward with the toilet as mentioned earlier and also the accessible platform which is now in place. This platform is there to make fishing possible. Of course, if there is someone with a greater need then by all means give way or share the platform.
- 4.9 **Carp Fishing** - The carp fishing is improving with previous years 12 pounders now weighing in 16 to 18lb – the biggest last year I recall was 28lb.
- 4.10 **Summary** - The club has really strengthened over the last few years making us a strong and welcoming club - with Woodfields becoming something to be proud of, though I know we have more work to do on the river with improving certain venues from an accessibility perspective. Finally, I would like to thank again all those who have helped and contributed.

Questions were invited.

- 4.11 Mick Harvey raised the question regarding planning permission for the log cabin. He noticed there was no planning permission on the gate and asked how the club got round the local Buckingham Town Council conveyance which states that any commercial or agricultural building over 15m square or 2.4m high requires permission. Barry stated that planning permission was a concern of ours and that we did our due diligence on this and that planning permission was not required. However, if the council were to find that we were in breach of planning then we would have to submit a retrospective application to cover ourselves.
- 4.12 Adam Gibbard raised the issue of parking for access to the Poor Charity field venue. Barry stated the problems started with losing the fishing rights to Clive Pullen stretch known as the Pump House field and then losing access to Staleys car park when Embryo took over Hye Lane. The club need to look at this again. Mick asked if it was viable to keep the fishery on the ticket, however the stretch only costs £60 to have the riparian rights. Frank Thompson stated that we shouldn't give up any more river venues. This will be reviewed by the committee.
- 4.13 Adam Gibbard raised the issue concerning Club Records as many of the club records are for fish caught at Hyde Lane which is no longer on the ticket. Adam suggested we should have a second list for records on the waters we have at the moment on the ticket. Barry is also keen to have a more up to date Hall of Fame board, like the one currently in the lodge. Though how we substantiate entries to either the record book or this Hall of fame board needs to be thought through. This will be reviewed by the committee.

Jack Robinson proposed acceptance of the Chairman's report, seconded by Dick Hutchin and passed unanimously by the meeting.

5. Treasurers Report – was presented by Simon Bumstead

5.1 A copy of the Income and Expenditure sheet and Balance sheet for 2022 was distributed. The sheets for 20-21- and 21-22 are also listed to allow a comparison.

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

5.3 Accounts for 2022 Highlights

Income **£13,444**

Key items Membership £7,435 , Donations £422, Grants £5,300

Expenditure **£17,982**

Key Items - Fish Re-stocking £3,237, Woodfields Development £9,754 -Includes Log Cabin, Base, Accessible Platform, Accessible toilet, Dissolved Oxygen Meter, and Peg repairs in the main funded by donations and grants.

The Junior Prizes, Engraving, Gifts entry includes the purchase and installation of the memorial bench for Bernard Lewis.

Expenditure Exceeded by £4,539

Balance Sheet - Cash Assets £9,530 as of 31 December 2022

5.5 Membership at 260 – up from 247 from 2021-22.

Going forward

5.6 We have increased Adult and Concession Permit prices by £5 to £50 and £40 respectively but held the Junior price at £10.

5.7 Day tickets / Guest Tickets increased by £1 to £6

5.8 All current river fisheries remain on the ticket.

5.9 Woodfields remains a member only venue.

5.10 Four outlets selling permits and day tickets Tingewick Post Office, Gone Fishin , Jakemans and Tackle Tavern

5.11 So far this year we have gained grants totaling £250 from Buckingham Town Council.

5.12 As Barry stated - unfortunately, we had our fish stock order delayed until the autumn. We have committed £2,450 for more tench and bream in the 10in plus range.

5.13 The club are supporting the Buckingham River Wardens, both from my involvement as the acting co-ordinator and financially the club are funding the group until we can obtain grants to cover their on-going costs (less £100) which is not significant.

Early conversations with BTC have been encouraging about future funding for this group.

5.14 To sum up - I think as a committee and our small group of hard-working volunteers have, over the last twelve months, really improved Woodfields,

5.15 Looking at the numbers so far membership is looking good for 2023.

Questions were invited.

5.16 Dick raised the issue of access points on the river and which stretches are covered by the ticket having been a member for a number of years. Simon suggested that we could perhaps use the What Three Words app for the start of section and end of section. We could consider using Google maps – we need to see what we can do to help members with this.

Mark Fenning proposed acceptance of the Treasures Report, seconded by Frank Thompson and passed unanimously by the meeting.

6. Appointment of auditor

We have recently been advised that John Rose is retiring from Johnsons Chartered Accountants. However, going forward he is happy to continue auditing our accounts

Mick Harvey proposed that John Rose be appointed as auditor for 2023 accounts, seconded by James Cavendish and passed unanimously by the meeting.

7. Match Secretary Report – was presented by James Cavendish

7.1 James thanked Barry for running the Wednesday night match series and Simon for running the Friday cup series matches.

7.2 We did run a few test Saturday Open Matches last year with various degrees of success. For this year we have changed the format, following the success of the match format used earlier this year. We have now added seven Saturday Open matches, with a £5 peg fee for non-members. We have also added a Carp Match due to the increase in the number of carp fishing members. Running these matches is helped by the use of our Facebook page to allow pre-registering.

7.3 Also, if anyone has input, new ideas or suggestions on what would make them fish a match then please contact James.

7.4 For those that already fish our matches, if they have any other suggestions on different types of matches, formats, timings, the way we conduct the matches, how we can improve our match fishing experience or anything like this then also please contact James.

7.5 Finally, I like to thank everyone who has entered match and thank them for their continued support.

Questions were invited

7.6 Mick Harvey asked the question how many Roach were caught in the Roach Only match. Unfortunately, this is one of the matches that wasn't well supported so there were no numbers available

7.7 Mick also followed by suggesting that perhaps the committee should re-visit our re-stocking plans and perhaps consider stocking either more Roach, or perhaps introduce Ide.

7.8 Facebook page – we now have over 100 people following us on our Facebook page which is helping us promote our match programme.

Jack Robinson proposed acceptance of the Match Secretary's report, seconded by Barry Smith and passed unanimously by the meeting.

8. Resolutions - None this year

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

9.1 Re-election of Nigel Bidwell and James Cavendish as Match Secretary. Both to serve for three years.

Proposed by Simon Bumstead and seconded by Dick Hutchin and passed unanimously.

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

10. Next AGM – Thursday 30th May 2024 at 7.30. Venue Woodfields.

11. AOB

- 11.1 Life Members – at the last AGM we introduced life memberships as a replacement to the vice-president role.

At the 2022 AGM this was amended to the committee being able to only recommend Life Memberships and for these to be ratified by an AGM vote. So, this year we are playing catch to put things in order.

So, the proposal is to make those people who were previously appointed vice presidents or had life memberships bestowed on them under Bernard Lewis's reign as Chairman to be formerly be bestowed Life Membership by an AGM vote.

Simon Bumstead proposed that those affected by this change Derek Paxton, Mick Cadd, Pete Callow and Nigel Bidwell are made Life Members, seconded by Barry Smith and passed unanimously by the meeting.

- 11.2 Mike Harvey asked how has the committee addressed the issue he raised at the last AGM concerning the work required on the river. Barry stated he thought he had covered this point previously and agrees that we have not done enough work parties on the river and some clearance work needs to be done. The key thing is how to resource this work.

- 11.3 Mike Harvey suggested that we need to do clearance work in August and has found it difficult to get this work organized while he was serving on the committee. James suggested that one in three work parties perhaps should be on the river.

Barry stated that he would try as chairman, to address this going forward.

- 11.4 Jack Robinson asked if there is anything can be done with the padlock on the gate at Woodfields to make it more visible. One idea is to change to a more visible padlock arrangement. This is to be discussed at the next committee meeting on 1st June 2023.

- 12. Closure of Meeting by the President** Pete Williams at 8.40pm.