

# Buckingham & District Angling Association

## Minutes of Annual General Meeting

Founded 1910

Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> May 2025 – held at Woodfields

**AGM Chairman -** President - Pete Williams.

**Committee Members Present:**

Barry Smith	Simon Bumstead	Richard Burdon	Bidge Barnes
David Powell	Mick Powell	Pete Callow	Andy Ward

In total 22 members attended the AGM, including 8 committee members. All attendees were recorded in the attendance book.

The meeting was quorate.

- 1. President's Opening Remarks** - Pete Williams informed the meeting that he would not be standing for re-election this year and therefore will stand down as president with effect 1<sup>st</sup> June 2025. Pete stated that it has been a privilege to serve the club and that he has really enjoyed the role. Pete said he has held the post for more years than he could remember.
- 2. Apologies for absence** were received from Nigel Bidwell, James Cavendish, and Charlie Green.
- 3. Acceptance of the Minutes from 2024 AGM** held on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> May 2024 at Woodfields.

A summary of the agenda items covered by the meeting was read by Pete Williams. No questions were tabled.

Mick Taylor proposed acceptance, seconded by Frank Thompson 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**

Firstly, Barry thanked the angling coaches, led by Fran Smith, for the sessions they have recently held and stressed the importance of encouraging youngsters to participate in the sport and get involved with the club to ensure the future of fishing and the association.

Barry also thanked the volunteers for their hard work over the last twelve months especially the work done in improving the path, building the accessible platform on peg 2 and extending the car park. He also stated he regularly receives complimentary comments from members on how well the lake looks and is maintained.

Barry also thanked the committee for their hard work and the difficult decisions they have had to make. He then went on to thank our out-going president Pete Williams for such amazing service over a such a long time.

Barry then wished Dick Hutchin on a big **Get Well** - as he is currently in hospital after a fall at the lake, he then thanked all those who helped at the time before the emergency services arrived.

On fish stocking side, 100 tench and 200 crucian carp have been introduced. The fishery is becoming a very different lake to the one of ten years ago with the quality of tench fishing really improving the fishery.

Last year it was decided to re-start our fish records, The old records will always be there however many are for fish caught on venues no longer on our ticket. Barry read out the new record holders – these are listed on the website.

Match Fishing is now run by a sub-committee, as James's time for the role is limited, so a thank you to all those that help, especially Pat Dunkley and Dick Hutchin, for officiating and helping with the matches. Our Match fishing popularity has really grown, with the friendly atmosphere created we now have 20+ members regularly fishing our extended match programme.

The club is trying to create a balanced fishery, with no one species dominating, this will be a venue with something for everyone. The club will keep the stocking policy under review and will continue to stock the fishery in a balanced manner.

The venue should be a "Well Being" place – somewhere where members can meet up or fish alone in the peace and quiet of the countryside to re-charge. It is well documented that fishing can improve mental health and well-being.

There have been some issues with young anglers, with litter, bad language, noise and the leaving of rods out unattended. This, when observed is being addressed using "persuasive dialogue" to explain the behavior expected when angling. On the positive side the club now has 59 juniors with only a handful causing issues.

Regarding pike removal, the committee took the difficult decision last autumn to reduce the number of pike in the lake. This is something we have done previously a few years ago. The method of electro-fishing never fully removes all - so some remain. Anyway, seven fish, some of a good size were removed. The fish were moved to another water under an appropriate license.

Looking forward - the club was left a legacy of £5,000 from the estate of Bernard Lewis our former chairman. So, the club is looking at how best to use this money. A new boat is under consideration to help with maintenance and possibly some aeration equipment to improve dissolved oxygen levels.

We also have mink still visiting the lake so we are looking at ways of trapping using more modern traps that alert with a message to a mobile phone when they are triggered ensuring a rapid and humane response. Mink removal in the Anglia region is led by the conservation charity the Waterlife Recovery Trust (WRT) and its partners. This initiative aims to protect native wildlife, such as the endangered water vole, by eradicating the non-native American mink from the region.

Barry also thanked the River Warden group for their work carrying out Walkdown Surveys, Riverfly Invertebrate Surveys and regularly checking Water Quality on both the local river and Woodfields lake. A special thanks to Simon who co-ordinates this group.

The other things the club are looking at is establishing an "Honours Board" to record match winners and club record holders and also we are looking at opportunities for using Solar Power for the cabin and also a provision of a sink for the cabin.

**Questions were invited.** None raised.

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**

- 5.1 A copy of the Income and Expenditure sheet for 2024 was distributed.
- 5.2 The accounts for 2024 have been audited by John Rose - Signed copies held on file.

### 5.3 Accounts for 2024 Highlights

<b>Income</b>	<b>£18,964</b> up by 33% from £12,631 in 2023.
Key items	Membership income £12,805, up by 26% Donations totalling £3,010 with the main contribution from Barry and Mark Smith for the Gazebo. Grants of £2,390 from the AT/EA Fishery Improvement fund and £271 from the BTC to support River Warden activities.
<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>£21,389</b> – which included deferred spending from 2023.
Key Items -	Fish Restocking - £6,789 and Woodfields Improvements £7,215 – though it should be noted that 75% of this expenditure was covered by donations and grant money.  Woodfield Improvements were Pathway - £2.8k, Platform £2k and Gazebo £2.3k. and big thank you to the volunteers that helped with those projects.

#### **Accumulated Fund as of 31 December 2024 was £10,591**

5.4 Membership for 2024-25 season - 400 members– an increase of 84 from the previous year. Made up of 172 Adults, 123 Concessions, 59 Juniors, 46 Comp (includes 9 RW)

5.5 The club's finances are in a pretty good position.

#### **5.5 Going forward**

- a) There is going to be no Increase in Permit prices Guest Tickets or River Day tickets.
- b) Guest Tickets for Woodfields remain at £8 - weekend and £6 for weekday.
- c) All current river fisheries remain on the ticket. – Plus, we have a new river venue -at Water Stratford – Map available on Website.
- d) Woodfields remains a member only venue.
- e) Four outlets selling permits and day tickets -Tingewick PO, Gone Fishin, Jakemans, Tackle Tavern.
- f) So far this year we have gained grants Totalling £1,881  
£294 for replacement equipment from the AT Get Fishing Fund to support our Coaching activities  
£300 from Buckingham Town Council which supports our RW activities with replacement equipment  
£1,287 from EA which will go towards the cost of the car park extension and further extending the path.
- g) We also plan to spend £3K on new Fish for Woodfields later in the year.
- h) Looking at a new boat and possibly an Aerator to improve Oxygen levels using Bernard's legacy he left us.
- i) Club continue to support the Buckingham RWs and the club remains a partner of the Upper Bedford Ouse Catchment Partnership. They have provided us with Water Quality meters that measure Phosphate and Ammonia levels.
- j) We have 9 RW's and carry out Monthly Riverfly invertebrate surveys at two sites in Buckingham – Chandos Park and Bourton Park as well as quarterly walk down surveys on a number of stretches on the river. So, a big thank you to volunteers who support us in looking after the river.

**Questions were invited.** None raised

Pete Callow proposed acceptance of the Treasures Report, seconded by Mick Taylor and passed unanimously by the meeting.

## **6. Appointment of auditor**

Richard Burdon proposed that John Rose be appointed as auditor for the 2025 accounts, seconded by John Harris and passed unanimously by the meeting.

## **7. Match Secretary Report – was covered in the Chairman’s report.**

## **8. Resolutions**

None tabled.

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

9.1 James Cavendish would stand down as Match Secretary if anyone else wishes to put themselves forward for the position. As no one stepped forward James will continue as the Match Secretary.

9.2 **President Position** –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. However, the committee has not had time to nominate anyone. After some discussion, Pete Williams proposed that instead of waiting until the next AGM to ratify and elect a new president that the decision and subsequent appointment be given to the committee to make.

Proposed by Richard Burdon seconded by David Powell and passed unanimously by the meeting.

9.2 **Re-Elections** - we have four members all standing for re-election to the committee for a three-year term.

Barry Smith, - Chairman,

Bidge Barnes - Vice-chairman

Simon Bumstead - Treasurer and Membership Secretary

Richard Burdon.

Proposed by Steve Cory and seconded by Pete Callow and passed unanimously.

9.3 Adam Gibbard has recently resigned from the committee - so a big Thank You to Adam for his contribution while serving on the committee.

9.4 Andrew Ward, has put his name forward to serve on the committee to serve for three years.

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

9.5 **Life Membership** – Given Dick’s contribution in recent years to the club and given the difficult health problems he is enduring the club wish to show our gratitude so the Committee proposes that the AGM ratifies the committee’s nomination of Dick Hutchin to be made Life Member.

Proposed by Barry Smith on behalf of the committee and seconded by Simon Bumstead and passed unanimously.

**10. Next AGM** – Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> May 2026 at 7.30. Venue Woodfields.

**11. AOB** - None raised

**12. Closure of Meeting by the President.**

12.1 Pete closed the meeting by thanking the committee, volunteers and helpers for all their hard work because without them there wouldn’t be a club – so many thanks again for their hard work.

12.2 Pete Williams closed the meeting at 8.45pm.