

Buckingham & District Angling Association

Preliminary Minutes of Annual General Meeting

Founded 1910

Thursday 21st May 2026 – held at Woodfields

AGM Chairman - President – Pat Dunkley

Committee Members Present:

Barry Smith	Bidge Barnes	Simon Bumstead	Alan Green
Andy Ward	Nigel Bidwell	James Cavendish	Richard Burdon

In total 21 members attended the AGM, including 8 committee members. All attendees were recorded in the attendance book. The meeting was quorate.

1. Opening Remarks

Barry Smith opened the meeting with a minute's silence before paying tribute to Pete Callow, who recently passed away. Pete's daughter, Rachel, was in attendance representing the family. Barry described Pete as an amazing friend of the club, whose generous donation, which paid for the log cabin, has made a significant and lasting difference to the Association.

2. Apologies for absence were received from Mark Fenning, David Powell and Mick Powell.

3. Acceptance of the Minutes from 2025 AGM held on Thursday 29th May 2025 at Woodfields.

Before a summary was read, the new club President Pat Dunkley, who chairs the meeting, was introduced.

A summary of the meeting's minutes was read by Pat Dunkley. No questions were tabled.

Jack Robinson proposed acceptance, seconded by Steve Cory and passed unanimously by the meeting. A full copy of these minutes is available to download from the internet.

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

Barry thanked all the volunteers for the fantastic work they have done throughout the year, particularly those who are stepping back or retiring. He also expressed his appreciation to everyone who helps with the match fishing, coaching and administration.

The club is in an excellent position at the moment, with membership for 2025-26 season now standing at 443. With numbers at this level, however, we inevitably face some challenges in keeping everyone happy while maintaining the welcoming and friendly atmosphere we are known for. Increased membership places additional pressure on the lake, on personal space, and on the river.

We now need to look ahead and consider the direction of the club over the next decade. As a community club, we rely on the support and involvement of our members, and we will need more volunteers to help keep things running smoothly and to maintain the spirit we have worked hard to build.

We should also begin thinking about our long-term needs — including whether, in time, we may require an additional lake — and develop a clear plan so that we continue to be a club that serves the local community.

There is real kudos for the club in the work we do to support anglers' wellbeing and the wider benefits this brings. We also contribute a great deal to the local area through our efforts to protect water ecology, water quality and river habitats. I would like to thank Simon and his group, who regularly carry out Riverfly invertebrate surveys and water-quality testing on behalf of the club. This work gives us genuine credibility with the Town Council, Upper Bedford Ouse Catchment Partnership and Great Ouse River Trust and shows that we are making a

meaningful difference.

The situation regarding litter has improved, and it is great to see the variety of wildlife now present at the venue — including bats and glow-worms. There is still so much more we can do to enhance the site, such as introducing additional nectar sources and continuing to make the environment as welcoming as possible for nature.

We must continue to do more for fish welfare, and particularly in encouraging and supporting our young anglers. Additional coaches would be extremely helpful in allowing us to offer more guidance, structured sessions and safe supervision for juniors as they develop their skills.

Barry noted that he had been genuinely concerned over Christmas by the low match weights being recorded. However, recent results have shown that the fishing at Woodfields is now as good as it has ever been, with Tench, Crucians, Roach, skimmers and Bream all showing well.

Although we do not permit night fishing for carp anglers on our waters, there are plenty of fisheries and syndicates in the local area that do offer this for those who wish to pursue it.

The club also continues to offer support to other clubs and fisheries, including supporting the free river fishing within the town. This is an important part of our role in the wider angling community and helps promote responsible access to the river.

The river is still in recovery, but it was encouraging to see a 6lb 4oz chub caught from the Ouse last year. Barry stated he believed the river fishing will continue to improve.

Looking ahead, and with membership numbers increasing, we are reluctant to introduce a limit at this stage, but the situation will need to be kept under review.

The future of the club is in our hands, and how we choose to develop it from here is entirely down to us. It is up to all of us to decide the direction we want to take and to pursue the opportunities that will keep the club strong for years to come.

Questions were invited. None raised.

James Cavendish proposed acceptance of the Chairman's report, seconded by Mick Taylor 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 2025 was distributed.
- 5.2 The accounts for 2025 have been audited by John Rose - Signed copies held on file.
- 5.3 **Accounts for 2025 Highlights**

Income	£22,681 up by 16% from £1,964 in 2024.
Key items	Membership income £14,210, up by 10%
	Donations totalling £5,738 with the main contribution coming from Bernard Lewis bequest of £5k.
	In total we received grants of £1,881
	£1,281 from the AT / EA Fishery,
	£300 from AT Get fishing fund for new coaching equipment
	£300 from the BTC to support our RWs.

Expenditure was £14,108 - Income exceeded Expenditure by £8,573

Key items –	River venue rents at £1,710,
	Fishery Maintenance - £1,171 included fish feed
	Fish Restocking - £1,148 and
	Woodfields improvements - £5,792

This expenditure on Woodfields Development was covered in the main by donations or by grant money. And included a new boat at £2,115, Woodfields Marina platform (£1,070) and Aggregate & Hire equipment for the car park improvements completed early in 2025. Also, we added a new roof covering for the cabin.

A big thank you to the volunteers that helped with those projects.

Accumulated Fund was £ 19,164 as of 31 Dec 25

which includes the remaining £2,500 of the Bernard Lewis legacy which is ring fenced for development of Woodfields

Accumulated Fund today stands at £16,207

Membership for 2025-26 season - 443 members— an increase of 61 from the previous year. Made up of 202 Adults, 125 Concessions, 70 Juniors, 46 Comp (includes 8 RW)

Though since the 2021-22 season we have increased our membership by just over 200 members.

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

Questions on the accounts were invited. None raised

5.4 Other matters

We did change two of the club's byelaws B1 concerning river fishing season and B21 concerning fishing in Adverse Weather. These were agreed and passed by the committee.

- B1 The River Fishing Season for both Coarse and Game fish will start on the June 16th and ends on March 14th. No river fishing allowed between 15th March to 15th June.
- B21 Adverse Weather -Whenever Amber or Red Warnings are in place for the area all venues will be deemed closed. Any matches due to be held will be cancelled. For any other adverse weather, the person running the match will decide if the match is to be cancelled or if already in progress halted.

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.
- d) Woodfields remains a member only venue.
- e) Four outlets selling permits and day tickets -Tingewick PO, Gone Fishin, Jakemans, Tackle Tavern.
- f) Club continue to support the Buckingham RW group within the club and we remain a partner of the Upper Bedford Ouse Catchment Partnership. This year they have provided us with an additional Hanna water quality meter that measures Nitrate levels.
- g) At present we currently have eight River Wardens who 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 of the river. A big thank-you to all the volunteers who support us in looking after the river.
- h) We also plan to hold of number Coaching / Taster session during July and August and two nights scheduled to hold taster sessions for a local scouts group. – So a big thank you to Fran Smith our lead coach.
- i) So far this year we have gained the following grants totalling £1,218
 - £118 from Buckingham Town Council which supports our RW activities
 - £1,100 from EA for emergency aeration equipment
- j) We still have £3K allocated in the budget for new fish stock for later in the year.
- k) Still looking at how to protect the Woodfields from low Oxygen levels.

Questions were invited. None raised

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

6. Appointment of auditor

Simon Bumstead proposed that John Rose be appointed as auditor meeting seconded by Steve Cory and passed unanimously by the meeting.

7. Match Secretary Report – was presented by Alan Green

Alan Green was introduced to the meeting as he has only recently taken on the role.

The match-fishing scene has really taken off, growing from match to match and series to series, with more than 30 members now taking part. We have created a friendly and welcoming atmosphere, and it is a great honour to serve as Match Secretary and to build on the excellent work that James, Pat, Barry and others have done over the past few years to get people interested in match fishing.

We will continue to limit the number of pegs used in matches to 30, with pegs 1–30 allocated for matches and pegs 31–40 available for pleasure anglers. On occasion, this may be adjusted — for example, using pegs 7–35 — if weather conditions make this necessary. Peg allocations will be kept under review.

We will also continue the policy of not holding more than one match per weekend. Matches will therefore take place every other Friday and every other Saturday.

The year began with low weights, but the recent restocking has made a significant difference. The Roach Cup series was won with 10lb 11oz of roach, many of them of very good size. The highest winning weight of the year came from Andy Ward, with 23lb in a five-hour match dominated by tench. Generally, a double-figure weight is now needed to win matches at Woodfields. Notable fish this year include a tench just under 6lb, a 1lb 8oz crucian, a 1lb 1oz roach and many rudd around the 8oz mark.

The match scene continues to grow, and we intend to keep that momentum going. Pools will remain at £5, although we may introduce super pools or golden pegs from time to time. The matches will always remain inclusive, and everyone is welcome

Jack Robinson proposed acceptance of the Match Secretary's Report, seconded by Andy Ward and passed unanimously by the meeting.

8. Resolutions

Three proposed changes to constitution were tabled.

- 8.1 Although Barry stated earlier that we didn't want to introduce a membership limit the committee does need to ability to set one if it is deemed required. The current constitution doesn't cover this so a new clause is need: -

“The Committee may set a maximum membership limit when necessary to protect the quality of fishing, safeguard club waters, or ensure the effective management of the Association.”

Proposed by Simon Bumstead, seconded by Barry Smith and passed unanimously by the meeting.

- 8.2 Change to Clause 5.4 As agreed at 2025 AGM - needs to formerly adopted as below: -

Clause 5.4 - The President role is an honorary role appointed by the committee ~~and confirmed by a vote at the AGM~~ serving for a three-year term.

Removing the need for the AGM to ratify the appointment.

- 8.3 Changes to Clauses 6.3.5 and 7.3.7 to remove the requirement for the AGM to ratify Life Membership awards proposed by the Committee. This amendment enables the Committee to award Life Memberships.

Removing the need for the AGM to ratify the awarding of Life Memberships.

Rationale - Requiring AGM ratification creates the unnecessary risk and possible embarrassment and difficult situation of a nominee being rejected at the AGM, however unlikely, which is reason enough to remove it.

8.2 and 8.3 Proposed by Simon Bumstead, seconded by the Committee at 2nd April 2026 meeting. and passed unanimously by those present at the AGM.

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

- 9.1 No new nominations have been received.

- 9.2 Alan Green was elected by the committee as Match Secretary and now needs to be formally elected at the AGM.

Proposed by Andy Ward, seconded by Barry Smith and passed unanimously

- 9.3 **Re-Elections** - four members of the committee have terms ending and all wish to stand for Re-Elections for a three-year term.

Nigel Bidwell, David Powell, Mick Powell, and James Cavendish

Proposed by Simon Bumstead and seconded by Alan Green and passed unanimously.

- 9.4 Pete Williams who served as president for just over 40 years was presented an engraved tankard and Lifetime Membership award by Barry Smith. Followed by a round of applause.

10. Next AGM – Thursday 20th May 2027 at 7.30. Venue Woodfields.

11. AOB

- 11.1 Dave Gillman mentioned his concern with juniors fishing for carp and them not adhering to the rules. Also, the concern with juniors entering the water in waders. The club need to add a new rule to ban any member entering the water. The matter was discussed at some length and needs to be taken back to the committee.

12. Closure of Meeting by the President.

- 12.1 Pat Dunkley closed the meeting at 8.20pm.