

MINUTES OF THE 60TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF LISKEARD AND DISTRICT ANGLING CLUB HELD IN THE EVENING OF 8 FEBRUARY 2011 AT THE CONSTITUTIONAL CLUB LISKEARD.

1. Welcome from the chairman

Paul Mugridge welcomed all present to the final meeting with him as chairman. The meeting began promptly at 1930 hr.

2. Apologies for non-attendance

Those not present who tendered their apologies were P. Gordon, M. Hocking, L. Turner, D. Lown, D. Ross, A. Pavey, A. Waters, A. Davy, T. Coleman, K. Hitchens, S. Pearce and J. Pearce.

3. Minutes of the previous A.G.M.

The minutes of the meeting held at the same venue on 9 February 2010 were read by the secretary. It was unanimously agreed that they were an accurate account of proceedings.

4. Matters arising from the minutes

The chairman, referring to the incident where violence was displayed towards an EA bailiff, reported that the matter had been discussed in committee. It had been decided that the member would not be accepted the following year.

5. Report from the chairman

P. Mugridge opened his final report as chairman of the club by commenting on the requirement to complete both the club's catch return and that for Environment Agency. He continued by suggesting that a change to our return was needed with the introduction of headings KILLED and RELEASED, thereby avoiding any confusion. He alluded to the fact that it was an EA requirement that 67% release rate of salmon caught be achieved on The Lynher. This figure had not been attained in the last two years. Because of this DEFRA might withdraw permission to take broodstock out of season. He was looking to acquire a copy of the agreement where this requirement was stated. He completed his report by mentioning the buy-out of nets. If funding is lost, nets could re-appear by 2014.

6. Report from the secretary

V. Chambers opened his report by referring to last year's minutes where a review of insurance had been mentioned. He had himself looked into this and had achieved the same level of service for the same cost as last year, with our current insurers. He had met with Duchy of Cornwall representatives on no fewer than four occasions to sort out our rent. Even then duplication had occurred when the former secretary was also included, making two invoices apparent. Eventually, it was October before the entire matter was resolved. The secretary expected further problems in the year ahead as an 'intensive review' was being sought by the Duchy. Referring to his comment in the newsletter, Chambers was disturbed to report an apparent increase in discarded tackle and rubbish on the riverside. He was supported by the head warden, R. Williams, who had also noticed this. Both agreed that such lack of consideration could jeopardise the future of our sport. Sale of day tickets had increased last year. Although only two outlets remained, these had always been the two principal sellers and had achieved over £1000 of sales which the secretary had banked. Finally, the secretary apologised for an error in the catch return form which he had sent to members. He had copied a sheet from a few years previously which retained the name PLUSHA instead of HARANN.

7. Report from the treasurer.

T. Sobey commented on the apparent healthy state of the club's finances. He supplied a breakdown hereby attached. The matter of our beat upstream of Pillaton Bridge received mention. This had been lost to the club upon the death of the owner. Members were informed that the club may enter negotiations to retrieve the beat.

8. Report from the auditor

M. Hocking was unable to attend because of other commitments. A letter had been received which praised the treasurer's accounts. He also recommended that other means of maximising interest on monies held be viewed. The chairman was looking for a more local auditor although no volunteer from those present was forthcoming. The auditor's report was accepted unanimously after its acceptance was proposed and seconded by R. Williams and N. White.

9. Reports from hatcheries representatives

A. White commented that 2010 had shown promising results with 52 500 eggs and 43 000 fry. Currently 66 500 eggs are held. He hoped to release stock in both spring and autumn.

R. Grieve, reporting on Fowey stock at Wainsford, alluded to the flooding that had taken place in November. Despite its intensity, there had been no losses. He thanked everyone for their support. The site had been visited by Atlantic Salmon Trust whose staff expressed encouragement. Representatives of Salmon and Trout magazine had also visited, with a report appearing in the magazine itself. The entire hatchery had been frozen in throughout December. 31 fish had been donated (14M/17F). He had had to turn down fish at one stage. 50 000 eggs were held. Grieve, however, had less encouraging news. The club had received notice to quit the site from the owner as she wished to return it to a family home. She was willing to permit the team, which is at present seeking alternative accommodation, to keep all the equipment.

J. Evans, secretary of Fowey Rivers Assn., commented that the notice had come out of the blue. Current activities were to continue until the end of September. Members would be kept informed.

10. Report from the head warden

R. Williams mentioned the influx at work parties of new volunteers. C. James had tackled clearance at a new stretch of the river for which he received grateful thanks. A walk-around in November had revealed 'countless seatrout.' The walk in January had not been so productive. The ongoing situation of fallen trees at Golita received comment. Natural England needed to be involved. Lewarne beat had a number of fallen trees and bank erosion. Environment Agency had donated money to assist in clearance and set up raised walkways. He concluded his report by looking for as many members as possible to attend these work parties.

The chairman commented on possible clearance at Bathpool. He also mentioned that there were vacancies for honorary wardens for beats on the Lynher.

11. Update on the website

R. Grieve felt that the increase in day ticket sales was as a result of use of the website. He hoped to expand the news section in the near future. He apologised for not putting new subscription details online until January. He ended by giving enthusiastic comments on use of the webcams.

12. Election of officers

The chairman handed over to the president, A. White who proposed N. White as replacement for the outgoing chairman. There were no other nominations. J. Shearsmith offered himself as auditor. The remaining officers continuing to offer their services, W. Eliot proposed and R. Grieve seconded the proposal that officers be elected. The proposal received unanimous support.

13. Election of committee

N. White, assuming the chair, thanked everyone for the honour. He looked for a member to replace T. Corn who was resigning from committee. P. Jordan was nominated. It was proposed by C. Pinnell and seconded by R. Williams that the committee be elected en bloc. This was unanimously accepted on a show of hands.

14. Presentation of trophies

P. Mugridge expressed that he felt it an honour to present the trophy for best salmon (13.5lb) to A. Pavey. Since the member was not present he offered to take it away and deliver it personally. He also presented the junior trophy to H. Kenyon for his first salmon. At this point a further presentation took place. A. White presented to P. Mugridge a bass fishing rod to honour his being chairman in excess of a decade. This received unanimous approbation.

15. Harran

W. Elliott had requested the inclusion of this item on the agenda. He wished to remind members that J. Shearsmith had purchased the stretch of river at Plusha and wanted it renamed in honour of his parents, Harold/Ann. N. White thanked him and Shearsmith.

16. Any other business

V. Lamb brought to the attention of members the possibility of a fly tying evening of instruction. G. Champion was offering to supervise. A minimum of 12 members was required with the cost being £8.

R. Grieve announced that the A.G.M. of Fowey Rivers Assn. was to take place on 20 April at Bocconnoc, beginning at 1930 hr.

P. Mugridge was concerned over pollution in our rivers. H requested that members report any incidents to EA Hotline number and also report if no comeback is made from EA.

W. Elliott wanted to know if the matter of recent pollution in E. Looe river had been resolved. This was pending, according to some present. R. Williams offered that EA claimed extensive enquiries had been made with no result to date. S. Toms was of the opinion that it was sub judice.

It was mentioned that our beat at Steara Bridge had recently been lost. T. Sobey was left to look into the matter.

17. Speakers

Input was made from no fewer than three speakers.

A. White continued with his update on Lynher hatchery and continuing into West Country Rivers Hatchery Forum to be chaired by himself. This was to offer a comparative exchange of views. A nucleus of knowledge and methodology was being formed.

R. Furniss offered that he had been a member for in excess of forty years and was, therefore, qualified to comment on changes. he referred to rights of navigation and canoes. BCU had at long last agreed to conditions. HydroPower was a concern although there were fewer applications in Cornwall. A meeting with higher levels within EA was soon to take place. Concerns raised with government ministers were having some effect. He thanked S. Toms for his local involvement. EA funding would be reduced in coming years. Only 30 000 salmon licences were sold each year. Coarse angling community would not help fund salmon matters. There would have to be a greater reliance on volunteers. After mentioning the deleterious effect of Collyford Reservoir on salmon in St. Neot River he concluded his talk by reiterating that close studies need to be made on all our rivers.

S. Toms began to speak by referring to HydroPower and stating that there was a large number of such applications in Cornwall but many were withdrawn because of the stringent conditions applied. He was taken to task by certain members over reports made of salmon taken by locals from spawning grounds. Such members were adamant that names had been supplied to EA. He offered to look further into the matter. The numbers of salmon and seatrout in local rivers was the highest since 2004. Electrofishing of The Fowey last summer had revealed a large number of young fish. He referred to marine Act 2010 which reduced responsibilities of EA and ended by complimenting the club on its large number of members attending our AG.M.

After a raffle of donated items to raise money for club funds, the chairman closed the meeting at 2210 hr., thanking everyone for attending.