

Liskeard and District Angling Club

Annual General Meeting

11th February 2022

1. Call to Order/Welcome

The AGM, being held at Liskeard Constitutional Club, was called to order at 19.35hrs on 11th February 2022, with R Williams (in the Chair). He asked that masks be worn in the (ventilated) meeting room to prevent spreading of Covid-19. Masks and hand sanitiser were located at the entrance to the meeting room for those that needed them.

The President (AW) then welcomed those attending noting

- That in such difficult times it was imperative that members supported the Club to ensure its survival and the thanked those attending for said support.
- He further noted that despite challenging circumstances the Officers/Committee had discharged their responsibilities efficiently and the Club had continued to function fully.

2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence received from Messrs. Petrie (M), Macpherson (T), Dean (A), Pearn (B), Selby (R), Coleman (T), Davy (M), Leadman (P) and Bourne (R).

5. Officers' Reports

Chairman's Report (R Williams)

- The recent past had been very challenging and he noted that in the preceding year (2021) there had not been an AGM – the first time in the Club's history.
- That during the last 2 years the Club had closed fishing for a short following the introduction of lockdown (1) in

line with advice from Angling Trust, Fish Legal and in line with Insurance cover needs.

- He reviewed the fishing catches in the SW Region for 2020.
 - In doing so he noted that the Fowey was the most prolific sea trout river in the SW with 512 sea trout reported as caught. The Camel was second in the table with 359 sea trout caught.
 - Furthermore that salmon totals for the Fowey were high (94); the Camel (at 67) and Lynher (at 57) were also well up in the catch tables.
- In summary he noted that our fishing is good and that in favourable conditions it could be excellent. This was exemplified by the report of one member who reported 4 salmon caught in one morning on the Lynher in 2021.
- He further noted that our voluntary restrictions on hook type, catch/return and seasons were paying dividends and these rules would therefore continue until further notice.
- Whilst our efforts helped sustain stocks once in the river the issue of protecting salmonids at sea was not so good. An update would be provided in the Secretary's report.
- Membership numbers seemed to have stabilised at 126 (for both 2020 and 2021) and is hoped that 2022 would not see a further drop.
- The Draynes improvements work had been on hold since 2019 due to a shortage of volunteers and the difficulties in obtaining licences for in-river work. A new initiative by the FRA is being developed and it is hoped that they will be able to fund WRT to carry out works.
- Bank clearance efforts would now be focussed on identified works reported by members and Committee member Jon Hake (email; jonhake@hotmail.com) would coordinate works during the year.
- Finally he thanked
 - The hatchery teams for their important works in helping to maintain stocks.
 - The on-going support of Fishing Mayhem as they act as our sole agents.
 - RG for his support of the Club website.

- His fellow officers who had worked hard to support the club so well in the last year.
- The Committee for their help in pushing the Club forward during difficult times.
- And finally, the members for their continued support of the Club.

ii) Secretary (P Jordan)

- The Committee had been unable to physically meet during much of 2020/21 and Club matters had been managed online where possible. Physical meetings had begun in November 2021 with the re-opening of our meeting venue and things were now returning to normal.
- With no 2021 AGM there were no minutes to approve and he noted that there were no actions outstanding from the 2020 AGM.
- He noted that the catch returns for 2020 had indicated that all members were adhering to Club rules and by-laws. As a result there were to be no new rules imposed for the 2022 season.
- Details of catch returns were presented in the December 2021 Newsletter.
- He was pleased to report that the FRA had now funded the WRT fry survey work on the Fowey in 2022.
- Additionally, that representatives of LDAC and FRA were meeting WRT next week to formulate and agree plans for long-term interventions to improve spawning beds in the Draynes valley.
- Provided an update on the activities of C-IFCA.
 - That in late 2021 a brief re-consultation had been opened regarding protection of salmonids in inshore waters of Cornwall.
 - Whilst poorly advertised the Club had quickly responded following advice from the SWRA, FRA and other agencies.
 - In summary C-IFCA were proposing a watering down of measures agreed during the previous consultation with fixed nets now higher in the water (3m) and closer to shore (500m).

- Recent SAMARCH research shows that these measures would not effectively protect salmonids at sea.
 - Supporting financial impact assessments by Cornish fisherman were highlighted as being unchallenged and unjustifiably high when compared to similar assessments elsewhere in the SW.
 - That whilst the EA was placing pressure on rod anglers there was no evidence of tangible progress at sea. This effort was the responsibility of C-IFCA and the MMO with the EA having just one seat at the table.
 - These organisations were now a decade behind Devon and Severn IFCA in implementing any salmonid protections.
 - The C-IFCA revised bye-law proposal was due for submittal to DEFRA for ministerial approval in January 2022.
 - With EA input to the recent consultation everything had now been brought to a standstill and yet another meeting of C-IFCA would take place on 22nd March.
 - The situation of salmonid protection at sea in Cornwall has become critical and the lack of progress lamentable.
 - The Secretary would monitor and report (any) further progress to the Committee and members.
- In concluding the Secretary reminded members to advise of any address or email changes *asap*. Failure to do so would inevitably result in lost contact.

iii) Treasurer (T Sobey)

The Treasurer presented and reviewed the P&L account for year ending November 30th 2021. This is a re-adjustment of the year-end and more clearly represents annual costs and income received during each season.

With careful management of 2021 costs during this time of continued uncertainty regarding membership (and therefore

income) the Club remained solvent and carried forward a small excess of £260.24p.

The Committee remains unsure as to income levels in 2022 and will not agree to use our limited capital reserves to subsidize fishing rents; to do so would inevitably lead to the closure of the club. Therefore for 2022 it has decided that:

- Membership rates will increase by £5.00 to £105.00 pa.
- Other rates (junior/day/weekly) will similarly rise by a flat rate of £5.00p.
- All applicable rates are posted on the Club website and on the LDAC joining forms. Please refer to these when renewing your membership or joining the Club

iv) Auditor (A White)

The Club's accounts were found to be in order and thanks are due to the Treasurer for his efforts in managing the Club finances.

Motion: To approve the 2021 accounts: proposed by PJ, seconded by RG.

APPROVED unanimously.

6. Other Reports

FRA Colliford Hatchery (R Grieve)

- RG confirmed that the 40,000 target for released fry had been reached in 2021.
- Discussed the importance of reporting fin-clipped fish caught on the official EA proforma that can be found on the FRA website. Without this data the EA will not accept that the hatchery is successfully re-stocking the river Fowey.
- Discussed the positive impact of high water levels in bringing up large MSW hen fish into the catchment whilst noting grilse seemed happy to enter the river in low(er) water conditions. Direct evidence for this can be seen in the comparison of brood-stock collected during dry and wet weather.

- The high water levels in the winter were also important in providing safe passage for smolts that now seem to prefer to run to sea in the Autumn on the Fowey.
- This data therefore supports the use of the Fish Water Bank (FWB) of c.100mm litres at Colliford to encourage broodstock fish into the system
 - Noted that historically there has never been any use of the FWB due to problems in getting EA approvals; even though its clear purpose was evidenced in the mitigations approved at the public enquiry.
 - Whilst all the processes and paperwork are now in place and the matter is regularly requested by the FRA (at FFRG) it seems impossible to get such approvals.
 - In summary more effort is required.

The Chairman took the opportunity to thank RG and his volunteers for their efforts in running a successful hatchery on the Fowey.

Lynher Hatchery (A White)

- Reported that with the arrival of more MSW fish into the river system brood-stock collection results had improved. This was excellent news for the river and the hatchery.
- Approximately 50,000 eggs had been collected and fertilized with hatching progressing at this time. This was probably the second best result in the history of the hatchery.
- Briefly reviewed the operational costs of the hatchery noting that 50% of the annual £2,000 cost was due to electrical consumption in pumping water.
- Noted that because of Tamar salmon being fin-clipped at Gunnislake no fin clipping is permitted by the EA at the Lynher hatchery.

During discussions AC noted that there were many cormorants across our fisheries and that predation was increasing. RG noted they were increasingly resident on the rivers all year round. GH noted that goosander were also now

being seen on the Lynher.

The Chairman took the opportunity to thank AW and his volunteers for their efforts in running a successful hatchery on the Lynher.

BREAK (20.50 hrs)

7. Presentation of trophies

The Committee had received the following nominations for trophies during the 2021 season.

- *Salmon Cup*: J Drew for a 11½ lb. salmon caught on 26th June 2021 on the Fowey at Dennicksball. The Committee awarded the Salmon trophy to J Drew.
- *Glencross Sea Trout Cup*: J Drew for a 6lb sea trout caught on the Fowey at Middle Boconnoc on 16th May 2021. The Committee awarded the Sea Trout trophy to J Drew.
- *Brown Trout*: J Drew for a 3lb brown trout taken on 18th May 2021 on the R Lynher at Harann. The Committee awarded the Brown Trout trophy to J Drew.
- *The Lynher Contribution* trophy was awarded to K Sobey in recognition of her tireless support of the Treasurer in performing his duties over many years.

Keepsake trophies were also given to 2021 winners.

No nominations were received for the Junior Achievement in 2021.

8. Election of Officers

- A White (Presiding) commended the current Officers and Committee members for their efforts in 2021 and stated that in the absence of any new nominations from the floor RW, NW, TS and PJ were willing to stand for re-election as the officers of LDAC.

Motion: To re-elect the existing officers for a further year: proposed by RG, seconded by JH.

APPROVED unanimously.

8. Election of Committee Members (RW)

The Chairman (R Williams) advised that two Committee members had resigned during the year. B Pearn was firstly thanked for his many years of service on the Committee and for all the invaluable work he continues to do in maintaining the river walkways and bridges. A Dean was also thanked for his contributions on the Committee.

With no nominations from the floor and noting that the Committee remained quorate it was proposed that the remaining committee members be re-elected for a further year.

Motion: To re-elect all continuing Committee members for 2022; proposed by RG, seconded by GC.

APPROVED unanimously.

10. Any Other Business

- PJ noted that a long-standing member, John Shearsmith had passed away during 2021. His family had asked that they be allowed to scatter his ashes on the Harann Beat in Spring 2022. John had kindly bought and donated this beat to the Club in memory of his parents.
- RG noted that the beaver that had escaped from Cabilla had appeared up at the Temple trout fishery. It had severely damaged trees there whilst in residence. It has since been re-captured and returned to Cabilla.

11. Guest Speakers (WRT)

David Chapman (supported by Giles Rickard) provided an informative update on the activities of WRT in and around the 6 rivers that LDAC fishes:

- Electro-fishing/Fry survey Work.

- 27 sites surveyed in 2021 and draft report completed and out for editing.
- Trout numbers are holding up well and were found in 26 of 27 sites. Salmon numbers are also holding up well with positive results in 17 of 27 sites surveyed.
- Uses semi-quantitative and quantitative analyses to assess river stocks year on year with data collection now in place since 2006/7.
- Water4Growth activities
 - Coppicing continues across the region to reduce shading over riffles.
 - In-river habitat work on the St Neot and Warleggan to create fry refuge from high water levels and predation.
 - 30 plus sites earmarked for further work in 2022
 - 18 fish passage sites completed (7 on the Fowey and 11 on the Camel)
- Upstream thinking
 - Farms, fencing and run-off management continues to improve water quality at over 20 farms.
 - Advised of CSI (Citizens Science Initiative) that is looking for further volunteers to collect and analyse water samples across the region. WRT will advise FRA of any areas where additional resources are needed and Clubs will be advised accordingly.

A new programme for improvements of the Draynes, funded by the FRA is also under development in 2022.

RAFFLE

The AGM was followed by a successful club raffle organised by Messrs. N and D White. Proceeds raised amounted to £97.00p.

In closing the Chairman thanked all for their attendance and input. He wished them success in the season ahead.

The 2022 AGM of the LDAC was brought to a close at 22.05 hrs.