

# Liskeard and District Angling Club

## Annual General Meeting

10<sup>th</sup> February 2023

### 1. Call to Order/Welcome

The AGM, being held at Liskeard Constitutional Club, was called to order at 19.30hrs on 10<sup>th</sup> February 2023, with R Williams (in the Chair).

The President (AW) welcomed those attending noting

- His thanks to those present for their continued support of the Club.
- He further noted that the Officers/Committee had discharged their responsibilities efficiently and the Club continues to function in the best interests of the membership.

### 2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence received from Messrs. Bourne, (R) Page (A) and Leadsford (P).

### 3. Approval of Minutes of 2022 AGM

The minutes of the previous AGM (11<sup>th</sup> February 2022), having previously been adopted by the Committee on 8<sup>th</sup> July 2022 and posted to the club website thereafter were

***APPROVED unanimously.***

It was noted that there were no matters outstanding.

## 4. Officers' Reports

### Chairman's Report (R Williams)

The Chairman thanked all for attending the AGM.

- He noted that 2022 season had been very difficult for anglers with low water throughout the summer, resulting in poor sea trout catches.
- However, a good spring run of salmon had occurred, the majority of which were MSW double figure fish running well before the 16<sup>th</sup> June moratorium on taking fish. As a result there were fewer anglers on the river and therefore the angling pressure on fish was reduced.
- Low water conditions are becoming more prevalent in the summer months and this means that anglers are catching fewer sea trout. This is of concern to the Club as these fish are the "*bread and butter*" of the membership and lower catches inevitably results in loss of members.
- Reducing membership is placing the Club under pressure as income from subscriptions drops but costs continue to rise. The Committee has worked hard to keep costs down but also recognises that income must go up as well. As a result the subscriptions for 2023 will need to rise by £5.00 in all categories.
- Notwithstanding these pressures the Club continues to maintain all of the fishing for the membership to enjoy.
- With the sad closure of Fishing Mayhem, the Clubs sole agents are no longer able to assist in the sale of tickets. In thanking Alex and Ellis for their fantastic support in the last few years he wished them both well for the future.
- In the short term all full season tickets will now only be available through the Treasurer. Visitor tickets will, in the short term be handled by the Secretary. In the longer term the Committee will put in place a *user-friendly* service to ensure that this important revenue stream is not interrupted.
- Advised that the time was now right for him to retire from the Chair and Committee but that he would remain an active and keen member of the Club.

- He expressed his thanks to fellow members, Committee colleagues and friends for all the support he had received over the last 50 years in the Club. With 20 years of service to the Committee, 11 of which he fulfilled as Chairman it was now time to step back and allow others to take the Club forward.
- Reflecting on the past decade(s) he commented on working within and for the FRA, establishing the Draynes sanctuary areas, assisting at the Fowey hatchery and seeing wide-ranging improvements across the catchments.
- In closing he thanked all once again for their support and friendship.

## ii) Secretary (P Jordan)

- 2023 had been an interesting year to be Secretary. New challenges had arisen which had led to interesting times.
- Firstly the challenge of removing an in-river vehicular obstacle was reviewed. Lessons learned were that the best way forward was to go straight to Angling Trust for support and advice. Initial requests directed at Police and EA had born little fruit.
- The progress *not* being made by C-IFCA was discussed. Whilst 2022 had seen the final approval of the draft bye-law to protect salmonids the MMO had rejected the proposal submitted to them and returned it to C-IFCA for further review. Disappointingly the already watered down proposal is now the subject of further discussion and it is clear that political lobbying by commercial interests is holding up progress. This means that yet another year has passed with no protections at sea for sea trout. It was noted that these species were concentrated in and around St Austell Bay, in areas previously designated as for protection, but now not so. A further C-IFCA meeting in late March will provide additional information to the Club.
- Pressure is being brought to bear on the SWRA in the hope that more support will be forthcoming from them in better representing Cornwall's salmonid angling interests vis a viz sea trout protection at sea.

- A review of the status of SWW drought permits was undertaken. The on-going abstraction of spate waters at Restormel was being monitored every 2 weeks to ensure that levels at the counter were high enough to ensure unimpeded passage of fish both up and downstream. To date no fish obstructions had been observed.
- Additional water is now being pumped from Hawks Tor to Colliford and it is noted that interventions by LDAC and FRA had ensured that compensation water was being put into the headwaters of the Warleggan; ensuring that this important salmonid tributary maintained sufficient flow.
- It is clear that SWW will need to identify new sources of water for the future and that continued/increased abstraction was not in the interest of the rivers, the environment nor angling clubs in general.
- With on-going abstraction it was clear that resolving the C-IFCA logjam and getting netting protections in place was becoming critical. Sea trout would receive fewer and weaker freshets into the estuary and will consequently receive less stimuli to migrate into the catchment. They will therefore be exposed to higher levels of predation and risk of being netted.
- Resolving the C-IFCA netting impasse and protecting the river from further abstraction is a key focus area for the Club going forward.
- An auction sale of woodland at Lewarne is being progressed by the Club. The land is of little intrinsic value and with on-going tree management costs were a continual drain on Club finances.
- In a response to a question from the floor it was stated that current access would be maintained for several cars to park and the fishing rights were not to be part of the proposed sale.
- The membership asked whether the asset had increased in value during ownership. Whilst difficult to quantify as the sale was being progressed through an auction house it was likely that a loss would not be incurred.
- RG raised the likelihood of a compulsory purchase order from highways for parts of the roadside verge if

the woods were retained. This was discussed and it was noted that even if it were to occur the payments under that scheme would not be material.

### **iii) Treasurer (T Sobey)**

The Treasurer presented and reviewed the P&L account for year ending November 30<sup>th</sup> 2022.

Membership numbers fell again in 2022, from 126 to 106.

Despite careful management of 2022 costs during a time of continued membership loss (and therefore income) the Club had made a loss of £918.00p.

The majority of riparian owners have now either agreed a further reduction in rents for 2023 or accepted the reduced rental rates proposed last year. Despite this the Club has to increase income streams; all categories of Club membership will therefore rise by £5.00p.

The new (2023) 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.

R Dean questioned how life memberships were included in the P&L account. It was clear that whilst the capital injection of a single new life member boosted that year's income it had the negative impact of reducing income in all subsequent years. Life memberships were therefore not in the long-term interest of the Club and offering them should not be encouraged.

### **iv) Auditor (A White)**

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

**Motion: To approve the 2022 accounts: proposed by PJ, seconded by NW.**

***APPROVED unanimously.***

***BREAK (20.35 hrs)***

## **5. Other Reports**

### **FRA Colliford Hatchery (R Grieve)**

- RG confirmed that the 40,000 target for released fry had been reached in 2022/3. 25% of these had been fin-clipped.
- He discussed the importance of reporting fin-clipped fish caught on the revised simpler reporting form that can be accessed on the FRA website.
- He highlighted the ongoing problem with ruffe surviving transit through the Colliford discharge pipes into the St Neot (Loveny) River. Whilst unlikely to breed and populate the river they were of concern inasmuch as they would predate both fry and eggs. The EA (with support from the hatchery team) had netted significant numbers and a permanent trap was now being engineered.
- He reviewed in-river flow rates and provided visual aids to illustrate how the St Neot was now being managed by SWW in a counter-cyclical way. Whilst a more natural river state could be seen in the Warleggan (Bedalder) flowed high in winter and low(er) in summer the use of Colliford as a water source for the public completely reverses this profile. Worse still the charts for 2022 showed that excessive water discharges into the river meant that it had been in flood for most of the summer (April-November) period. The impact of this on the productivity and survival of redds needs to be understood.
- The Club took the opportunity to congratulate the volunteers (all of whom were residents of St Neot) and, of course, RG for their efforts in providing and maintaining a first class operation at Colliford.

### **Lynher Hatchery (G Hake, A White)**

- Reported that with the use of an EA approved extension and the support of riparian owners brood-stock collection in 2022 had been successfully completed; 8 hens and 8 cock fish.
- Approximately 45,000 eggs had been collected and fertilized.
- With the cold weather hatching would now likely take place into March and, thereafter, 50% of the eggs would be placed into artificial redds in the river. The remainder would be brought on in the hatchery for release later in the year.
- He thanked N Lintott for his continued support of the hatchery, the team of volunteers, brood-stock collectors and A White for continuing to provide support for the works.
- On-going funding of the hatchery was currently secure and it was noted that whilst the predominant cost of the operation was electricity the Hatchery team had successfully hedged these costs until mid 2024.

AW then reviewed the results of the first WRT detailed fry survey carried out in the River Lynher prior to stocking out in 2022. The results were impressive. With 13 sites sampled 8 achieved “*excellent*” status. Requiring at least 23 fish to reach this category the 8 sites had provided numbers in the range of 89-35.

Whilst this cannot be attributed solely to the Hatchery there must be comfort taken that river stocks are thriving as a result of the team’s efforts.

## **6. Election of Club Chairman (AW)**

AW took the floor to thank the departing Chairman for all his efforts in supporting the Club over 50 years, with 20 of those either on the Committee or as Chairman. He noted that for Rob the Club had always been his first priority and the membership had been fortunate to have had his fine stewardship over the years.

To thank Rob the Club presented him with an original picture of his hometown (Looe) and a certificate for Honorary Life Membership of LDAC.

AW then asked for nominations for Chairman for 2023.

No nominations from the floor were forthcoming but the President noted that the Committee would be happy to propose an existing member (Jon Hake) for the post.

***With a proposal from NW, seconded by RW, the AGM voted unanimously to accept that nomination.***

***JH was duly elected as Chairman of LDAC.***

## **8. Election of Officers**

- J Hake (Chair) stated that in the absence of any new nominations from the floor NW, TS and PJ were willing to stand for re-election as the remaining officers of LDAC.

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

***APPROVED unanimously.***

## **9. Election of Committee Members for 2023 (JH)**

The Chairman (J Hake) advised that two Committee vacancies had been advertised in the Annual newsletter but no nominations had been received.

A nomination was then received from the floor for Glenn Carwithen to stand for election to the Committee.

***Motion to elect GC to Committee; Proposed TF, seconded TM.***

***APPROVED unanimously.***

A further motion was made to re-elect all continuing Committee members for 2023;

**Proposed by RG, seconded by TM.**



***APPROVED unanimously.***

## **10. Presentation of trophies**

The Committee had received a single nomination for the 2022 season.

- *The Lynher Contribution* trophy was awarded to J Hake in recognition of his tireless work in maintaining the clubs waters.

No nominations were received for the Junior Achievement, Salmon, Sea Trout (Glencross) or Brown Trout trophies in 2023.

## **10. Any Other Business**

- There was no other business from the floor.

### ***RAFFLE***

The AGM was followed by a successful club raffle organised by Messrs. N and D White.

Proceeds raised amounted to £82.00p.

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

***The 2023 AGM of the LDAC was brought to a close at 21.30 hrs.***