

Liskeard and District Angling Club

Annual General Meeting

20th February 2026

1. Call to Order/Welcome

The AGM, being held at Liskeard Constitutional Club, was called to order at 19.35hrs on 20th February 2026, with J Hake in the Chair.

The President (AW) welcomed those attending:

- Thanked all the members for their continued support of the Club in the last year.
- Noted that at this meeting, the long-serving Secretary would now be retiring and it was important to ensure continuity. He therefore urged anyone who felt they could support this role to step up when it came to the election of Officers (Item 8 on the agenda).
- In closing he 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 were received from Messrs GC, TF, GH, MS, JD and JP

26 members and 1 guest in attendance.

3. Approval of Minutes of 2025 AGM

The minutes of the previous AGM (21st February 2025) previously adopted by the Committee on 14th April 2025 and posted to the club website thereafter, were put for approval.

2025 AGM minutes for approval: proposed by RG and seconded by MD: APPROVED unanimously.

It was noted that there were no matters outstanding.

4. Officers' Reports

Chairman's Report (J Hake)

The Chairman thanked all for attending the 2026 AGM.

- Opened his remarks with a few thoughts and observations on the 2025 season. Whilst the rivers had been high through most of the first third of the season there were no early fish around, neither salmon nor sea trout. This was confirmed by the low counts on the Restormel Fish Counter. He noted that all anglers had struggled to catch fish in 2025. Later in the season more fish had arrived but not in large numbers; with sea trout numbers being very low. Even with a few more fish in the river, summer levels were often low and fishing was difficult. However, with significant rainfall in late summer, a single large spate resulted in many fish being caught on the Lynher and Fowey. The message from the Chair was simply to get out on the rivers, enjoy the environment and with a bit of luck fish could be caught.
- He noted that membership had held up well in 2025, with a slight increase (3) in full adult membership year-on-year. After the last few years where membership has been falling it was reassuring to see steady numbers.
- Draynes work had finally been carried out utilising funding from both the FRA and SWW. However, the full effectiveness of the Fowey river-bed re-build would only be known over time. It was gratifying nonetheless to see efforts being made to secure/improve the FRA-owned sanctuary areas for the future. Further funded work would be carried out in 2026.
- The Chair discussed the content of the EA salmonid bye-law currently being formulated for enactment in 2028. This bye-law would not only require all salmon and sea trout to be returned across England and Wales, regardless of date caught; it would also ban worming

and have hook size, type and barb restrictions. Disturbingly these hook conditions were not being applied uniformly. Fly anglers might continue to use small trebles, doubles and singles, but spinning would see significant restrictions. The Chair was currently in discussion with the EA concerning these inconsistencies and he urged all members to correspond with the EA to express their disappointment with the proposed bye-law hook conditions.

- The Chair took the opportunity to thank RG for his sterling efforts in ensuring that the Club website had been returned to full functionality following the virus incident in December 2025.
- The Chair thanked the Committee for their efforts during the year and noted the long serving Secretary's efforts over the last 15 years in guiding the Club forwards.
- Finally he thanked all members, both those present and those unable to attend, for their continued support of the Club and closed by wishing all tight lines for 2026.

ii) Secretary (P Jordan)

- The Secretary noted that in 2024 (the latest year with a set of catch return figures) the Club members had, once again, returned 100% of all rod caught salmon and sea trout on all rivers. This was noted as a great result for conservation in Cornwall.

A. Beaver Update

- In May of 2024 Cornwall Wildlife Trust (CWT) applied for a permit to release wild beavers into the Par and Fowey catchments.
- This application was made despite voiced FRA concerns and an undertaking from CWT to further engage on issues with the FRA prior to their application; which they failed to do.
- As a result the FRA formally objected to the licence at the highest levels with both Natural England (the permit approver) and the EA. Discussions with the EA were positive but it was then particularly galling to see an EA press release (timed to coincide with the permit award)

from the EA Deputy Director for Nature Recovery stating..." EA are **excited to back** new beaver releases in the southwest..."

- On 6th Feb 2026 CWT were awarded a permit to release up to 14 pairs of sexually mature beavers (plus kits) into the local catchments. To be carried out in 2 phases: on the Par catchment with a *minimum of 4 pairs*, by October 2026 and in Phase 2 a *minimum of 5 pairs* on the Fowey catchment, to be completed no later than March 2027.
- In the absence of any detailed information from CWT or the FRA an EIR/FOI request had enabled the release of a heavily redacted copy of the permit to the Secretary on 19th Feb 2026.
- The project is to be managed by a Steering Committee with includes Imerys, Cornwall Council (CC), Network Rail, FRA and CCBMG (Cornwall Catchment Beaver Management Group). The latter comprises EA, Forestry England, CC, SWW, NE, NFU and CLA. Finally a Beaver Fish Advisory Group is to be established which will comprise a minimum of FRA and EA representatives.
- The TOR's of these Committees, voting structure, process and Stakeholder Engagement Plans are not yet defined.
- The location of all releases into the Fowey catchment have not been made public as apparently it is "**not in the public interest to do so.**"
- Whilst the issue of wild beavers has as many supporters as detractors the impact on salmonids is poorly understood. Whilst beavers were indigenous in the 16th Century and successfully lived alongside salmonids, the latter were in great numbers and the dynamics of salmonid survival today are very different.
- As a newly protected species (thanks to HMG) beavers have no effective predators and salmonids, already on the brink of extinction in England, will now have further man-made challenges thrust upon them.
- Finally if there is negative impact on farmland, riparian rights, fisheries, angling clubs etc. will have no recourse to compensation. Indeed putting right any damage, replanting of trees, removal of dams (if permitted) will

be at the cost of the landowner. CWT, as permit holder will have no future liability.

- What will be the outcome? With both beavers and >10 day old dams being protected it is a criminal offence to interfere with them. Time will tell.

B. Other Matters

- LDAC Committee met 4 times during year with good attendance.
- It is pleasing to note the membership numbers seem to have stabilised and membership in 2025 was +3 on 2024 levels.
- Subscription prices will rise slightly (+2%) to cover some rental/insurance increases. More details on finances to follow in Treasurer's report (see below).
- The make up of the Committee for the future still needs addressing. No proposals for any new member(s) of the Committee nor for Officers' posts have come forward prior to the meeting (nor indeed in last year). The Committee and its Officers' roles are key for sustaining the Club into the future.
- Finally, after 15 years as Club Secretary it is now time for me to retire. It has been a great pleasure to have supported the Club during my tenure and I leave knowing that LDAC is well thought of, both locally, regionally and at a national level (by the EA) because of our efforts in sustaining our stocks, investing in our environment and providing people resource where needed. Be assured that I remain with the Club and will provide support and encouragement to my replacement.

iii) Treasurer (T Sobey)

The Treasurer presented and reviewed the P&L account for year ending November 30th 2025.

Membership numbers rose by 3 *year-on-year*.

With careful management of 2025 costs the Club has made a small excess of income over expenses of £522.81p. (Costs for 2025 were £11,945.72).

Having frozen subscriptions for 2 years it is now necessary to increase subscriptions for 2026. This increase will fund increased rentals and insurance costs. In order to maintain membership interest the Committee has decided to keep this increase at the lowest possible level (+2%; just £2.50 in real terms).

The 2026 subscription 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.

My thanks go to Arthur White for auditing the Club accounts.

iv) Auditor (A White)

The Club's accounts were found to be in order and thanks were due to the Treasurer and, of course, Mrs Sobey for all their efforts in managing the Club finances.

Motion: To approve the 2025 accounts: proposed by RW, seconded by RD.

APPROVED unanimously.

BREAK (20.50 hrs)

5. Other Reports

FRA Colliford Hatchery (R Grieve)

- RG noted the continued key contribution of LDAC in supplying brood stock to the hatchery and the overall effectiveness of the Club's unwavering support for the Colliford Hatchery.
- RG provided an interesting talk on the genetic studies that have been carried out on the hatchery progeny in the last 2 years.
- The goal of the study (funded by SWW and carried out by Exeter University) was to see if the hatchery activities were having an impact on the gene pool of the

Fowey River salmon population.

- With the aid of data RG articulated the process by which 462 DNA samples had been collected (from as far back as 2004), alcohol frozen/stored and subsequently analysed in this study.
- The conclusion of the report states....***"the results DO NOT indicate a negative impact and the hatchery activities are not having a detrimental impact on the gene pool and diversity in the river."***
- A series of questions followed regarding stocking outside of the St Neot River, family groups and whether scale sampling could or should replace fin clipping in the future.

Lynher Hatchery (A White)

- After 3 highly productive years, this year's cycle has proved less successful. Whilst brood stock quotas were achieved all but one hen were smallish grilse and, as a result, total egg counts were impacted. (28,300 collected).
- No brood-stock losses occurred and all were safely released after scale samples and data had been collected both for the EA and for future studies.
- An encouraging sign of the health of the river stock in the Lynher was the collection of a cock fish in excess of 20lbs. However as the hatchery quota for cock fish had been achieved, this fine specimen was released back into the river to find its own mate.
- To date there have been minimal losses of eggs despite losing electricity on 2 occasions. Due to intervention and overnight efforts utilizing generators the impact of power outages on water flow and quality was minimized. Thanks are due to GH for his sterling efforts in this regard.
- Such events clearly show the importance of being able to man the hatchery and, as ever, we look for like minded volunteers to step up and support this important work.
- The Hatchery is grateful for all donations received, especially the ongoing commitment by LDAC in funding

£500 per year despite their financial stress. With EA abstraction and discharge fees rising (these having doubled in 3 years) funding is ever critical. If you wish to support the hatchery financially please do consider joining the Lynher Association for as little as £10 per year.

6. Election of Club Chairman (AW)

AW took the floor to thank the current Chairman (JH) for all his efforts in the past year.

AW asked for nominations for Chairman for 2026.

No nominations from the floor were forthcoming but the President noted that the current Chairman was willing to stand for re-election.

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

JH was duly elected as Chairman of LDAC for 2026.

7. Election of Officers for 2025 (JH)

With no new nominations from the floor the Chairman indicated that two of the current officers (Deputy Chair and Treasurer) were willing to stand for re-election (NW, TS).

Motion: To re-elect the 2 named officers for a further year (2025): proposed by PJ, seconded by RG. *APPROVED unanimously.*

8. Election of Secretary for 2026 (JH)

JH started by thanking the current Secretary for his efforts over the last 15 years, recognizing his hard work and commitment to the Club during his extended tenure.

With no nominations forthcoming from the Club members prior to the AGM the Chairman looked to the floor for nominations to the key role of Secretary. No candidates were forthcoming.

It was noted that finding a replacement for this key role was imperative to the future of the Club and the Committee would therefore meet to progress the matter asap.

9. Election of Committee Members for 2026 (JH)

JH noted with thanks the sterling service of Treve Fowler and offered his thanks for his service on the Committee for the last 3 years.

With one new nomination from the floor (PT) the Chairman indicated that the current Committee members were willing to stand for re-election.

A motion was made to re-elect all such Committee members and the new member, PT, for 2026;

Proposed by RG, seconded by CB. APPROVED unanimously.

9. Presentation of trophies

The Committee had received a number of nominations for fish caught during the 2025 season.

- *The Salmon Trophy* was awarded to J Hake for a fine fish of 12lb, caught on the Fowey on 7th October 2025.
- *The Sea Trout Trophy* was awarded to J Drew for a fine fish of 6lbs, caught on the Fowey on 25th May 2025.
- *The Brown Trout Trophy* was awarded to junior member H Davy for a 2lb brown trout taken from the R Lynher on 8th September 2025.
- *The Junior Trophy* was awarded to S Sobey for a fine sea trout of 3lbs from the River Seaton on 8th June 2025.
- *The Lynher Contribution* trophy was awarded to Committee member G Hake in recognition of his tireless work in maintaining the rivers and in supporting hatchery work.

Before closing the awards JH also presented the outgoing Secretary with a gift in recognition of his long service to the Club.

10. Any Other Business

- No AOB arising.

Guest speaker (A Jones, Chair, NFU Cornwall).

- AJ started by introducing himself and his role both at County level and nationally.
- He noted that he had found the LDAC AGM meeting informative and recognized that the Club was clearly a thriving institution. Indeed it was gratifying to see youngsters winning trophies and taking part at such a young age.
- As a local farmer based near Pillaton his key activities were beef/sheep farming, with arable activities but also reaching out into tourism (Cornish Maids) and Agronomy. In the latter role his team advised and trained both EA and WRT staff.
- He had been interested to hear the details pertaining to beaver releases and was in agreement that the impact of such releases remains poorly understood both in farming and fisheries. He noted his willingness to work together and share information going forward.
- His view was that beavers can and should thrive in the right place but also that it was important to ensure they were effectively managed when they become a nuisance.
- He noted that the NFU had at times struggled with some of HMG decision-making as it pertained to farming and the NFU AGM in Birmingham next week would be discussing ongoing pressures to farms and farmers.

JH, as Chairman, thanked AJ for his interesting presentation and, in closing the meeting, wished the Club to remember two

members (VL, TH) that had recently passed away.

A minute's silence followed.

RAFFLE

The AGM was followed by a successful club raffle organised once again by NW and DW. Trago Mills has been particularly generous in the provision of prizes this year and were thanked.

Proceeds raised amounted to £131.00p.

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

The 2025 AGM of the LDAC was duly brought to a close at 22.16 hrs.