



AGM 2017 Minutes

7th May 2017

Opening

The Annual General Meeting of the Ashfield Angling Club was called to order at 11:10AM on 7th May 2017 by Phil Turton and was attended by approx. 85 members and committee.

Committee Members Present

Brian High, John Turner, Danny Mulvaney, Cliff Ranson, Phil Turton, Terry Statham (Minutes), Gordon Eyre, Elli Godsi, Jack Cooper, Ian Smith, Dave Shipstone, Simon Hayes, Trevor Robinson, Bryan Ashford, Lee McCarthy

Apologies: Malcolm Clarke

Approval of Previous AGM Minutes

Previous minutes were approved as being an accurate reflection of events. Proposed by Cliff Ranson, Seconded by Ian Smith, no objections.

Chairman's Report

The Chairman thanked Malcolm Clarke and Gordon Eyre who have retired from the committee after many years of hard work and dedication to the club. The committee decided to give them both a lifetime honorarium in recognition of their service to Ashfield Angling Club. The members gave a round of applause for their hard work.

The Chairman then mentioned Ferry Farm at Thrumpton, saying that this is a Fantastic Addition to our waters and great work in securing this water on a long-term lease, we have night fishing, parking behind pegs and fantastic access. Some work will need to be done on pegs but this is in hand and will be ready for new season. This section has produced some massive Barbel and Carp over the years.

The Chairman said that he is now a full qualified and Insurance backed fishing coach and will be running some coaching courses for juniors in the summer and also a predator 4-day certificated course in conjunction with PAC guidelines.

Charity Donations - BARBEL Society Support - £200 raised on free ticket. PAC Fish-in - raised over £500 which will go towards coaching equipment - Money raised and support for these good causes have been very well received and puts a very positive message out regards AAC.

Bailiff Meetings – Kevin Pearson came along from the Angling Trust to speak to our club bailiffs and to share his advice and experience. His comments were very positive; "Just spent a great evening talking with the bailiffs of Ashfield Angling club in Notts. Some very dedicated people who give up a lot of their time to protect their waters on and around the Trent. VBS is there to support club bailiffs so hopefully we'll see the club represented very soon."

Junior Membership - We now have a very strong Junior Membership section and AAC is being recognized by the Angling Trust, Environment Agency etc. for now offering our Juniors free membership. This cements a solid relationship and gives AAC a great advantage over other clubs when we ask for help with funding projects, maintenance, coaching funding support etc.

Photo Competitions - Every year we run a photo competition for both Adults and Juniors. This year's adult winner was Bob Beal who won a free year's membership and the Junior winner was Memphis Mendelson who, along with Kyle Binns, won a range of fishing tackle. The photo competition is open again and will be chosen from the photos uploaded to the website.

Record Number of Renewals and Waiting List - The number of membership renewals this year has been a new record for Ashfield Angling Club. We have a large waiting list of over 500 still.

The Chairman then went on to discuss our club venues:

Cauldwell Dam

Thank you to the bailiffs – Brian High, Gordon Eyre and Roy Tilly.

The dam wall needs assessing.

Future Plans

Stocks will be assessed, perfect venue for coaching sessions.

River Trent at Cromwell (C1 and C2)

Thank you to the bailiffs – Stuart Jessop, Martin Introna and Ian Wilson. Working parties are being scheduled and will take place before the season opens.

Issues

Access to C2, this is being discussed with the land agent who will speak to the farmer after the crops have been harvested asking for a strip of land to be left around the river. The bridge has been assessed and discussed with the agent to see if we can erect some kind of barrier or railings.

Core sampling taking place a C2, Cemex agents have indicated that it will be a number of years before any work starts.

Future Plans

Try to secure better access to C2, speak to Ranmoor regarding Car Park access.

Bingham Pond

Thank you to the bailiffs – Keith Parkes and Geoff Porter. Lots of work to do and working parties will be arranged. We would like to spend some money with a contractor to make the track and car park area better and to make it so you can barrow your gear round to the road bank without going over the big hump.

Issues

Excessive weed, currently being discussed. Despite the poor results of the netting by the EA, there is still a good head of Tench and they are successfully breeding. Stocking will be agreed upon at the next committee meeting but any fish that go in need to be big enough to escape the cormorants.

Future Plans

Try to get people fishing the venue by providing better pegs and access.

River Trent at Stoke Bardolph

Thank you to the bailiffs – Brian High and John Turner, maintenance of this venue will be discussed with the bailiffs and a working party scheduled if required.

Winthorpe

Thank you to the bailiffs – Chris Mendelson and Mick Rowett. The clearing out of the inlet will be done when we can schedule it in, we have to be mindful of fish spawning times and river levels. The track from the road will also be redone at this time. We are asking for a financial donation from the EA for this work as it is an important fry sanctuary for them.

Issues

Still having reports of human waste being left onsite.

Future Plans

None apart from maintenance work mentioned.

Gunthorpe

Thank you to the bailiffs – John Turner, Danny Mulvany and Daniel Linfield. Working parties will be arranged for general strimming, grass cutting, hedge cutting and peg work. The roads have been re-surfaced and are now in a much better state than they ever have been. We have been commended on the quality of the work done by Severn Trent who said that it is the most professional road work that has been done on the site by far.

Certificate now in place for all the Gunthorpe Complex to be registered as one venue and fish can be moved around the venue. The detail of this should be agreed by the members and what they want from the venue and The Committee feel this should only be done with COMMITTEE agreement and a structured plan in place.

Issues

Locks and chains being cut off, we have put a box over the locks as a temporary measure and this is being reviewed. We are in breach of lease as the gate get left open continuously.

Metal in road, this has been taken up with the supplier, Total Aggregates, as we paid for certified material that should have been screened. Awaiting response.

Future Plans

Phase 2 of the track repairs – areas to be agreed

Stock levels in each pond to be assessed in association with membership. Tench lake possibly can be netted and large fish moved out. Tench lake to be assessed to try and make it cormorant safe so that it can be used for coaching courses in the future. More bailiffs to be added.

River Trent at Thrumpton

Thank you to the bailiffs – Mick Romih and Rob McClelland, they will be extending their area with the new stretch at Ferry Farm which adjoins Thrumpton Estate. Ferry farm needs pegs / steps creating to give better access to the water's edge. We will be doing an assessment very soon so that we can agree the work with the owner. Working parties will be arranged asap to get the work done before the new season opens.

Secretaries Report

The Secretary said that after the previous AGM it became very apparent that the Gunthorpe lease had expired by some months and required a speedy renewal, this was achieved with the assistance of Fish Legal with the inclusion of official permission to park behind pegs. We have also extended the leases for 7 more years on two of our best river stretches, Cromwell lock and Stoke Lock/Weir. All other leases are in order.

Transparency – At the last AGM it was agreed that the committee would release minutes of the meetings with sensitive information removed. The last 12 months are now on the website and will be added each month following the meetings.

Closed actions review – There have been 80 actions raised since July and we have closed 64 of them, most of the ones left are small items that will be closed over the next few weeks or months. There have been some large actions that have taken a of of work such as the Gunthorpe lease, Gunthorpe road repairs, fishing rules etc. and some small ones such as organising the AGM for example. The majority of these actions have been closed by Cliff, Phil or Myself but with the new members coming on to the committee we will be looking to share out these tasks much more.

Newsletter – We send out a newsletter each month, if you don't receive one, make sure that we have your correct email address or check in your junk folder. The newsletter has been well received and we hope to vary the content more this year, we still rely on people posting pictures on to the website and facebook so that we can share them via the newsletter.

Members Social Event - We organised a social 24-hour fish-in at Stoke Bardolph last season which was well attended and was a great chance to meet fellow members and swap stories and advice. We are keen to keep this going and will be organising at least one more social event this coming season and may also do a predator one later in the year.

Treasurers Report

The treasurer summarised the accounts as follows:

Review of accounts

Income - 71791

- Joining fee 6k
- Membership 60k
- Day tickets match fees 4.7k
- Slightly up on previous year

Expenditure 70000

Waters 56k

- Leases 26k
- Gunthorpe 24k
- Road works at gunny 9.4k
- Contractor at gunny 7.5k
- Peg work at gunny 7k
 - Materials new strimmers etc 3.2k
 - Depreciation 2.2k

Bailiff expenses 1.8k

- We are paying mileage now as bailiff were out of pocket, also had old match fees that were overdue to John

Operating expenditure 11k

- Honorarium 3k down by 1250
- Bank charges 1.6k
- Bailiff Bonus 1.4k
- Increase general expenses as had monthly committee meetings

Investment account 41350 up around £600 with interest

- John Taylor (ex ex secretary) was still a signatory for the investment account, this was resolved

Summary

We are a not for profit organisation and made about 1700 profit

Very healthy position with 500+ on the waiting list

Significant investment at Gunthorpe this year

Free Junior membership

Coming year – 25-30k to spend on:

- Open up Winthorpe inlet 5k EA are looking to contribute
- Ongoing road/peg maintenance at Gunny
- STOCKING at Gunny Bingham
- Equipment

New Water

- Increase the membership by 31 to cover the Ferry Field Thrumpton Water lease

Appointment of qualified Accountants (Vote)

Coalesco Accountants Limited

156 Russell Drive, Wollaton, Nottingham, NG8 2BE

Independent firm of the year winner 2011 2012 finalist 2013 and 2016

Cliff Ranson Proposed to use this accountant going forward, seconded by Terry Statham with no objections from the membership.

Relationships built with ST, EA, Fish Legal etc.

The treasurer said that over the year we have built an excellent relationship with the EA AT Fish Legal and STW :

EA

EA met their fisheries officers at Bingham and Gunthorpe for analysis of the lakes all in good condition

Provided advice on weed control at Bingham and Duffers

Team of about 6 turned up to net Bingham not really Successful other than the dozen Tench fry

Fish Legal

Fish Legal helped with the lease at Ferry Farm, Thurlby lease, STW Gunthorpe Lease (we were many months without this lease prior the last AGM) and protecting the club from various other Gunthorpe issues.

STW

STW and their Capita estates team - working really well with these now with prior permission and agreement of any deliveries on site with certified materials - STW are much happier now

Membership Secretaries post

The Treasurer stated that we had been informed that Colin had made a number of accusations just after he resigned including the Gunthorpe payment to Danny being a bung and the committee being

corrupt (plus a list of accusations against other members). These accusations came in a Facebook post that Maxine removed 20 minutes after Colin had posted them. We therefore have to respond to the accusation.

Bung for the Gunthorpe Work

Maxine and Colin collected all of the invoices and a list of all of the work done on all the pegs by Danny - the committee agreed to pay 7k for this work based on the information provided. The receipt for the work itemised all of this work and was signed by Danny and John the vice chairman. Danny informed us that Colin has since apologised to Danny, blaming his medication for the outburst.

Committee Corruption

Maxine has stated that she was on the committee at the time and was therefore included in the accusation. We were informed that the exact definition of the word "corrupt" had to be explained to Colin. Colin has not apologised or provided any further detail of this accusation to the committee.

Membership Secretary Role in the Club

The demands of the membership secretary role meant that whoever was performing this role had to put their life on hold for 3 months of the year. This is not sustainable and the committee are looking to outsource a lot of the work meaning we are not as reliant on individuals and can dramatically simplify the role. We were also informed that Colin had found it increasingly frustrating that he could not fish without being disturbed by well-meaning members for a chat and that this was a contributing factor for him leaving as a member from the club.

The Treasurer then talked about the Website and Facebook

Facebook is a double-edged sword - it's great to get constructive feedback but this has gone too far the recent poll show that members want is to make this fishing related only and that Admin should be tougher - we are looking into providing a forum for general venue posts and politics

Web Site now has a very positive front page - junior comp winners, charity events, working parties, new roads, new waters. We also have added pages for committee minutes, club accounts, Q and A, newsletters and venue maintenance plans

Proposals

The Chairman said that we have re-written the fishing rules of the club and submitted them to the members via the newsletter and Facebook. We have taken the comments made and re-written the rules with them in mind and submitted them again for review. Phil Turton gave thanks to Ian Smith for his help with the rules.

There was a question from member no. 28 Dave Humphries asking if the rule about having to fish continuously through the night has been removed as it may be abused. Terry Statham said that it has due to a number of fisherman who like to fish until the early hours, then get some sleep and start again at dawn. It is down to the venue bailiff to monitor this.

Glynn McCarthy proposed that we implement the new rules with the proviso that any rules that are being abused can be changed, seconded by 28 Dave Humphries. The members voted unanimously in favour of this proposal.

Election of Committee

The committee was then dissolved and there was an individual vote on each committee member. Each prospective committee member was asked to stand up and say why they wanted to represent the club. During these statements, Gordon Eyre stood up as a retiring committee member and said that "as long as Ashfield Angling Club has Gunthorpe, we will have trouble".

The results of the votes are as follows:

Trevor Robinson – 42 for, 15 against
Jack Cooper – 67 for, 1 against
John Turner – 68 for, 0 against
Danny Mulvaney – 53 for, 1 against
Bryan Ashford – 72 for, 0 against
Simon Hughes – 71 for, 0 against
Lee McCarthy – 63 for, 0 against
Cliff Ranson – 71 for, 0 against
Elie Godsi – 48 for, 23 against
Bryan High – 63 for, 6 against
Ian Smith – 81 for, 0 against
Terry Statham – 76 for, 0 against
Dave Shipstone – 84 for, 0 against
Phil Turton – 55 for, 0 against

All members were re-voted back on to the committee.

Phil Turton then asked for any committee members who would like to stand for Chairman, there was just one which was Phil Turton. The vote to elect Phil Turton as Chairman was 55 for, 0 against.

AOB - Q & A (not recorded)

There were a number of questions asked of various committee members and those questions will be raised at the first committee meeting.

*Note – Following the meeting Elie Godsi resigned from the committee after a disagreement with two other committee members.