

# Cinder Hill Trouting Syndicate

## Minutes of the 2nd Annual General Meeting held on 10 February 2017 at Fletching Village Hall

The meeting opened at 7:30pm chaired by Rod Yuill, with 11 members present at the meeting.

- 1. Apologies:** Apologies for absence were received from: Brenda Newington, Alan Purnell, Laurie Storer, Stuart Mullins, Amanda Ince, Frank Dolphin and Jonathan Barker.
- 2. Minutes of Last AGM & any Matters Arising:** No corrections were required. The minutes were adopted & signed by the Chairman on a proposal by Robert Nathan and seconded by Geoff Taylor, with all present in favour. There were no matters arising.
- 3. Chairman's Report:** Rod Yuill gave a comprehensive report on the Syndicate activities over the past year (see appendix 1). The topics covered included; thanking Mike Richardson for the regular newsletters, last seasons fishing, the annual meeting with the landlords in January, sponsorship, shows, courses, thanking Clive Newington, Mike Richardson and the Syndicate volunteers for keeping on top of the fishery maintenance. The bulk of the report covers options on the way forward, as with current falling membership numbers, we need to consider the long-term future of the Syndicate as our current lease expires in 2018.
- 4. Treasurer's Report:** Robert Nathan circulated the Syndicate Accounts for the year ending 31 December 2016, which had been examined & audited by Tom Todd. Although membership numbers & hence income were down from 2015, the proceeds from courses, shows and auction helped boost the reserves, but this still left a small loss of £83.34. The current balance at the bank is £24,154.54. As of the date of the AGM 32 members had renewed. David Dury asked if we gave up Cinder Hill, would the rent be reduced by 50%. Rod Yuill replied that it should be less as we have always paid more for the lakes at Cinder Hill, but if we only had Piplye we would have to consider how many members would it take to make it viable as a stand alone fishery. The accounts were adopted on a proposal from David Drury, seconded by Geoff Taylor, with all present in favour.
- 5. Election of Officers & Committee for 2017:** Alastair Olver wished to stand down as Secretary and there was only one nomination, Mark Orchin being proposed by Brian Raw and seconded by Clive Newington. All other current Officers were prepared to serve for a further year and were therefore duly appointed, as follows:  
Chairperson: Rod Yuill. Treasurer: Robert Nathan. Organizer: Clive Newington. Child Welfare and Coaching: Alan Purnell. With the exception of Alastair Olver, all the current Committee members were also prepared to serve a further 12 months. There was one additional volunteer of Jonathan Barker wishing to serve, proposed by Mark Orchin and seconded by Clive Newington. The rest of the Committee were re elected en block, proposed by Brian Raw and seconded by David Drury. with all present in favour.
- 6. Courses 2017:** Three Junior and three Adult courses were planned, all at Piplye. It was thought that to date, they were fairly well booked.
- 7. Stocking Policy for 2017:** Robert Nathan outlined the proposed stocking arrangements for the coming season. Orders had been placed with our supplier and would be similar to previous years, i.e. reasonable numbers of smaller fish in the early season, with larger specimens towards the end of the Year. The budget for fish stock had been £10,000 and delivery dates agreed, but as usual, introductions would depend on weather and water conditions, especially during high summer.
- 8. Fishery Maintenance for 2017:** No work parties had been scheduled to date, but would start in March at Piplye, with some tree thinning planned to create more fishing points. The Cinder Hill hut floor to be finished by 1st April.
- 9. Recruitment:** To remain viable, the Syndicate requires around 100 members, but although we recruit quite a few new members at the shows and from the courses, we need to do as much as we can to promote the Syndicate.
- 10. Income Generation (Sponsorship):** The Syndicate currently enjoys sponsorship from two companies, Selectafly provide flies which we give out to the participants at the courses and the Ridgeview Wine Estate who provide tour and taste visits to their vineyard, which we auction, thereby providing some additional income to our funds. Efforts were being made to secure further sponsorship and Geoff Taylor said he is open to any ideas for potential sponsors. Brian Raw said that as shooting and fishing are linked, it might be worth our while attending any local shooting events. Brian to forward dates to Rod.  
Mark Orchin also suggested offering taster days to potential members for a fee, which could then be taken off their membership subscription if they join and this will be considered further at the next Committee meeting. Geoff Taylor asked if an incentive could be offered to existing members if they introduce a new member. Rod replied that with our current financial state it would be difficult, but is worth further investigation.
- 11. Any Other Business:** Mark Orchin asked if the catch return sheet could show not only where a fish was caught, but also which lakes the member fished. Mark was happy to make up a new return sheet.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9:03pm.