

# Cinder Hill Trouting Syndicate

## Minutes of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual General Meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> February 2018

### At Fletching Village Hall



The meeting opened at 7.45pm, chaired by Rod Yuill with 15 members present:

- S. Swan, L. Storer, D. Drury, C. Cottrell, G. Taylor, R. Allen, P. Inman, T. Boyle, M. Orchin, J. Barker, K. Reeves, T. Kaatze, R. Nathan, R. Yuill, M. Richardson.

1. **Apologies received from:**

- A. Ince, F. Dolphin, C. Newington, B. Newington, R. Bacon, A. Purnell. L. Everard, A. Cruikshank & S. Mullins.

2. **Minutes of last AGM & any matters arising:** No corrections were required and the minutes were adopted and signed by the chairman on a proposal by David Drury and seconded by Laurie Storer.

3. **Chairman's report:** Rod Yuill opened his report by mentioning the forthcoming new rules for data protection that take effect from 26<sup>th</sup> May 2018. Further details will be communicated in due course as requirements are known for compliance. R.Y. then detailed the decline in membership and the reasons for this were discussed and the financial impact this is having on the Syndicate. Members of the committee recently met with the landlords and had a frank and honest discussion about the future of the Syndicate in terms of membership and renewing our lease from the end of 2018 – no future agreement has yet been proposed. R.Y. advised that we have a further meeting planned after the S.O.E. Show in June when our membership numbers will be better known. The rent was held at £11k between 2010 – 2015, and then up to £12k in 2017 with 2018 set at £12.5k. Future leasing options were discussed in terms of keeping only Piplye, limiting use at Cinder Hill and so on, but the overall consensus was to keep all lakes as they are if possible, as this is our strongest asset for attracting new members.

4. **Treasurers report:** R. Nathan updated the meeting with details of the Syndicates financial situation and reasons for the loss of £3,398.48 2017 over 2016. Generally the financial situation is still good, we have funds but the continuance of this is dependent on membership receipts.

5. **Election of officers:** It was noted that Amanda Ince and Frank Dolphin have stood down from the committee. Members Les Everard and Kevin Reeves were proposed by M.O. and seconded by Rod Yuill to join the committee. Rod Yuill indicated that he wishes to stand down as chairman at the end of this year and Robert Nathan wishes to do the same. R.Y. & R.N. to arrange for M.O. to become a signatory on the Syndicate bank account. Geoff Taylor has agreed to take on membership from 2019 and M.O. will remain as Syndicate secretary. The current committee were voted in en-block proposed by Laurie Storer and seconded by Stephen Swan. (Alan Purnell has resigned from the Syndicate due to his recent move to the North of England.)

6. **Future lease with Landlords:** R.Y. led a discussion regarding the future of the lease and which waters we would continue to rent. It was agreed (as above in 2.) that the best option was to continue with both Piplye and Cinder Hill, but if we are unable to afford both then S. Swan proposed that the officers of the Syndicate get the support of the room to go with one of the two sites only. A show of hands revealed a majority of the members present in favour of this should the occasion arise. Much of this agenda point was discussed in 2 above (chairman's report), and was inconclusive until we have final membership numbers for 2018 and the summer meeting with the landlords.

7. **Recruitment:** To remain viable the Syndicate needs to have over 80 members as full rods and preferably 100. The shows have produced new members especially iFish. It was noted that members who reach 25 visits can buy pro-rata extra visits and this was not widely known. At our meeting with the landlords, Rufus Clarke suggested we offer a 'Father & Son' membership for a small number of visits (action R.Y. /R.N. /M.O.). Taster days are to be refined to attract existing anglers for this season and details added to the website. It was mentioned by M.O. that all members have a duty to try to recruit new members.
8. **Stocking policy 2018:** The stocking policy will be similar to 2017 but as usual subject to the summer weather. We have an excellent relationship with Duncton Mill and everyone is very happy with fish quality. Early season stocking size will be smaller than late season for a number of reasons. In 2017 2,223 fish were stocked for 4,372lb with 1,288 caught. This is a fairly low return which indicates that we might have lost a few to cormorant predation, poaching and natural causes. However there were plenty of fish in the lakes at the end of last season so we may see those in 2018.
9. **Fishery maintenance:** Clive Newington will communicate details of this year's working party requirements to members in due course. It was noted that those who do regularly attend the working parties make a huge difference to the fisheries but need more help from the membership.
10. **Courses:** Brian Smart has agreed to help us at the South of England, Meet the Countryside and Autumn Shows and the Syndicate are hoping that Simon Young will assist with adult courses in 2018. It was noted that with the departure of Alan Parnell, we will probably not be able to run any junior courses until we can secure the services of a qualified level 2 coach. Tony Kaatze is to look at options for the Syndicate regarding qualifications and how we might be able to run a junior course with a lower level of certification.
11. **Sponsors:** Geoff Taylor updated the meeting with news of our sponsors. Ridgeview Wines have donated taster tickets and tours for the recent auction and along with Selectafly seem to be happy with their sponsorship of the Syndicate. We are always looking for new sponsors but this still proves very difficult.
12. **Any other business:**
  - a. Tony Kaatze to check our Clubmark registration.
  - b. Stephen Swan thanked the officers and committee for their hard work and dedication in keeping the Syndicate well run and organised.
  - c. Stephen Swan has offered to place Syndicate leaflets at the tackle shop in Caterham.
  - d. Mike Richardson has not progressed further a possible grant application with the Sport England Community Asset Fund and will wait to see how membership numbers are for 2018, along with negotiations with landlords for the future.
13. **Meeting closed at 9.50pm**