



Cinder Hill Fly Fishing

Minutes of the 4th Annual General Meeting held on 20th February 2019 at Chailey Village Hall

The meeting opened at 8.05pm, chaired by Rod Yuill with 12 other members present:

G. Taylor, M. Orchin, J. Barker, K. Reeves, T. Kaatze, R. Nathan, M. Richardson, L. Everard,
A. Bearchell, T. Boyle, D. Connellan & S. Mullins.

1. **Apologies received from:** A. Ince, F. Dolphin, C. Newington, B. Newington, A. Cruikshank
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 Kevin Reeves and seconded by Robert Nathan.
3. **Chairman's Report:** Rod Yuill stated that the Chairman's report is essentially the recently circulated newsletter which was accepted by the meeting.
4. **Treasurer's Report:** A good year was reported by R. Nathan and unlike the loss of £3,398 in 2017 the finances showed a small surplus of £1,142 for 2018. This was accounted for by an increase in membership, successful auction & fundraising by Geoff Taylor along with slightly lower fish stocking costs due to the long hot summer. RN reported that it is encouraging that 7 new members have joined so far this year already and that we have received an increase from South East Agricultural Society for the Ardingly South of England Show and Autumn Game Fair from £200 to £300 towards our stand running costs
5. **Election of Officers & Committee:** The current Officers & Committee were voted in en-block proposed by Tony Boyle and seconded by David Connellan. It was noted that Les Everard will take over membership responsibilities from Robert Nathan during 2019. Tony Kaatze has agreed to be Welfare Officer (previously Child Welfare Officer).
6. **Future Lease with Landlords:** MO outlined the negotiations held successfully with the Clarke's our landlords and detailed how we used a professional presentation to position how we see the next 5 years in terms of a 'realistic' rent for all 6 lakes. It was noted that we have negotiated a fair rent which is roughly equal to the last 5 years and significantly below the landlord's expectation & actually showing a small decrease for 2019.
Subscription increases over the next 5 years will rise to only £300 in 2024 in small stages from now until then. The current situation has been accepted as very agreeable going forward with the caveat that if we see large increases in membership the Clarke's have reserved the right to discuss the rent with us again in this light.

7. **Recruitment:** MO has recently written a feature article published in Freshwater Informer magazine and we have already had an enquiry from a prospective new member wanting to view the lakes. Our advert will be featured in the Trout section of the magazine for 2 more months (March & April) This targeted advertising will only cost £135 for 3 issues (equivalent to a ½ rod) and will reach several thousand anglers in the South East via the publication, website and Facebook site. The second recruitment campaign is the taster day session scheme for which an application form can now be downloaded from our website. MO asked for more volunteers to accompany applicants on visits and Mike Richardson offered his help. MO will co-ordinate taster sessions and it is likely that we will nominate certain dates where we can entertain a number of people.
8. **Ardingly Shows:** MO & KR still have to investigate obtaining new display panels, dye the table cloths and create new images and logos for our display which has now become dated and shabby. RY will communicate details and requests for stand staff in the usual way in a few weeks time.
9. **Stocking Policy 2018:** The stocking policy will be similar to 2018 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. As usual approximately 2,000 fish will be stocked in 2019. The catch return sheets were discussed and the issues with Bottom Lake at Piplye and the problem with ducks on middle and Bottom Lakes at Cinder Hill. It is essential that we encourage members to complete the catch return sheets accurately & legibly in order for a balanced picture to be understood, particularly for Piplye. RN advised the meeting that Cinder Hill received 364 visits in 2018 & Piplye 404.
10. **Fishery Maintenance:** Dates will be communicated by Clive Newington in due course and various issues about aspects of banks & maintenance were discussed particularly the RH bank pathway on the Top Lake at Piplye. It was noted the landlords have advised that they will be cutting the trees near the pontoon on the bottom lake at Cinder Hill & that we need to immediately look at the state of the bridges and take appropriate action as necessary when the season starts. Tony Kaatze was thanked for making 3 new high quality benches over the winter which will be located as soon as a trailer can be obtained for transport.
11. **Courses:** Until we have the services of a qualified level 2 coach we are not able to run a programme of courses & are having difficulty obtaining Instructors for show weekdays due to their work commitments. We are hoping that Phillip Ellis will again be willing to act as our lead Level 2 Coach for the Connect with the Countryside day in July as well as the Thursday and Friday of the South of England Show in June. If we obtain some people who are interested in taking a casting course, we may be able to arrange for Level 2 Coach, Nick Lenson from Surrey, to run a course with the help of our other Level 1 Coaches at a weekend.
12. **Income Generation (Sponsorship etc):** GT advised the meeting of the current relationship with Sponsors which looks to be good and continuous but we would like more if they can be recruited (Bedlam Brewery?). There was an excellent response to the online auction which raised £598 but it was noted that it is very hard work selling raffle tickets at shows now. There is a need for new Auction Lots and members are requested to contact GT if they have any new avenues that can be explored. We might also need to consider different items for the show raffles.
13. **Any Other Business:** No items were brought up under A.O.B.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.23pm