



**Cinder Hill Fly Fishing
9th. Annual General Meeting
Friday 5th April 2024, 2.30pm
Wivelsfield Village Hall**

MINUTES

1. Apologies for absence – R. Nathan, T. Lewis, L. Storer.
Those in attendance: K. Reeves, M. Orchin, J. Barker, L. Everard, T. Kaatze, J. Lutkin, P Ward, P. Stephens, R. Ransley, S. Mullins, G. Taylor, R. Yuill, M. Richardson, A Bearchell, D Ranger, R Nickolson, M Latin..
2. Minutes of the 8th Annual General Meeting and matters arising – the minutes were agreed and K.R. signed as a true and accurate record of the 2023 AGM.
 - a. Matters arising from 2023 AGM.
 - i. The Picnic bench at Cinder Hill still needs replacing, but using a cheaper alternative which will be fixed to a concrete base with chains to prevent theft. K. R. has investigated possibilities and now we have secured the next 5 years with the landlords we will action.
 - ii. The exceptional weather has rendered the tracks and parking areas almost impossible and we must investigate alternatives, especially at Piplye where it is now getting dangerous to park and not get stuck or hit by another vehicle (if on the track) when wet conditions prevail.
 - iii. The benches at Piplye need new seating planks as they are now breaking down or broken (One in particular).
3. Chairman's Report – attached.
 - a t was also noted that we now have 121 members, which is a very satisfactory figure for this early part of the season. We will be starting a waiting list before the South of England Show, which is a first.
4. Treasurers Report –L.E. presented the treasurers report and expressed thanks to Peter Negus for auditing the 2023 season accounts. It was noted that we made a surplus of circa. £6,000 in 2023, which helps build our reserves for future works e.g. draining the top and middle lakes at Piplye to desilt them. John Lutkin asked if it would be beneficial to earn interest on the balances we hold at the bank, but L.E. explained that we would incur tax and most likely have to employ the expensive services of an accountant to manage the tax returns. L.E. confirmed that Peter Negus is happy to continue to verify the syndicate's annual accounts for 2024.
5. Catch returns – M.O. detailed the 2023 season with its highlights and lows making special mention of the exceptionally wet weather which occurred in the early months of the season, record high temperatures in June and the return to rain in July and August, plus a wet autumn once again. Visits to the lakes were good with catches throughout the season in contrast to the very hot summer of 2022 where August was all but a write off.
6. The executive officers and committee were elected en bloc proposed by Rod Yuill and seconded by Geoff Taylor.

Continued

Minutes of the 9th AGM continued

7. Stocking policy 2024 – K.R. advised that a similar stocking plan to 2023 is in place and already we have had some sparctics and browns added into the lakes. It was decided not to stock tiger trout as they are even harder to catch than the browns that usually elude us all, and they are very expensive.
8. Events:
 - a. Macmillan Charity day is to be held once again at Cinder Hill on Sunday 19th May.
 - b. We will be attending the South of England Show again this year but are aware of some changes to the format, in particular casting demonstrations which will be held at times to fit in with other countryside demos being carried out at an adjacent ring. It was noted that the new post and rail fence surrounding 90% of the lake bank is going to significantly restrict our tuition opportunities – J.B. is on the SOEAC Education Committee and is investigating what can be done.
 - c. We will now not have electric power to the stand unless we pay for it, so boiling a kettle will have to be by gas !
9. Maintenance – There are still issues to be resolved e.g.
 - a. Steps to the pontoon at Cinder Hill.
 - b. The hut floor at Cinder Hill needs substantial repair.
 - c. A trench and pipe need to be dug around the Cinder Hill hut to stop water invasion in very wet periods as the hut floor is vulnerable now the surface outside has been built up.
 - d. At Piplye, the usual weed problems are spreading further down to the bottom lake which will require extra work to control this season.
 - e. K.R. detailed our plan to dredge the top lake at Piplye this summer. It is planned to drain the lake mid August, allow it to dry out for two weeks and then have a digger remove the built up silt particularly at the top end and remove the weed roots. This will take about 7 to 10 days. We will then await the rains to refill the lake. All of this work and the timing of it will depend on the weather. In 2025 it is planned that the middle lake will also be dug out using a long reach digger without draining the lake.
 - g. It was mentioned that when the lakes are drained we have to be mindful that the 'spit's pointing out into the water are vulnerable to slip as the water pressure will not be there to hold back the banks.
10. Our Insurers are now demanding that we have safeguarding policies and procedures in place for minors and vulnerable adults with a nominated and trained Club Welfare Officers (CWO). Up until now, Tony Kaatze has been the CWO but he is not up to date with safeguarding training so Phil Stevens and Kevin Reeves, as Level 2 Coaches with safeguarding training are to be the nominated CWOs.
11. Any Other Business..
 - a. Ron Ransley mentioned that another fishery he fishes had reports of E.Coli bacteria introduced by cattle. K.R. assured the meeting that all of our waters are inspected on a regular basis and dip testing is carried out as and when anything may be suspected. However, testing for E.Coli specifically is not carried out, plus we have no cattle close to any of the lakes or feeder streams.
 - b. Tony Kaatze suggested that we send out a general syndicate email to see what skills members might possess and that it could provide us with a register of trades that we could access for some of the larger maintenance projects. K.R. suggested that when we have specific tasks that need particular skills this could be emailed to members for their assistance.
12. The meeting closed at 3.55pm – Thanks were expressed to Val Orchin and Mandy Reeves for providing the refreshments.