

# Cinder Hill Troutng Syndicate

## Minutes of the 1st Annual General Meeting held on 12 February 2016 at Fletching Village Hall

The meeting opened at 7:33pm chaired by Rod Yuill, with 11 members present at the meeting.

- 1. Apologies:** Apologies for absence were received from: Stephen & Janet Swan, Stuart Mullins, Pat Dunn, Brenda & Clive Newington, Mathew Sims, Sam StPierre, Alex Cruickshank, Laurie Storer, Alastair Olver, Brian Raw, Alan Bearchell, Alan Purnell & Colin Rogers.
- 2. Minutes of Inaugural Meeting, 28 October 2015 & any Matters Arising:**  
No corrections were required. The minutes were adopted & signed by the Chairman on a proposal by Amanda Ince, seconded by David Drury, 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; The Syndicate Independence from the Sussex Branch of STCUK, last seasons fishing, the annual meeting with the landlords in January, the trial of limited catch & release fishing, future plans including the de-silting of the top pool at Cinder Hill, sponsorship, shows, courses, membership numbers, communication & the new Syndicate website, the need to recruit new people onto the Syndicate management team to allow some of the current incumbents to take a break & a combined Syndicate & Branch Dinner some time later in the year.
- 4. Treasurer's Report:** Robert Nathan circulated the Syndicate Accounts for the year ending 31 December 2015, which had been examined & audited by Tom Todd (see appendix 2). Although membership numbers & hence income were down from 2014, the proceeds from courses, shows, the auction at the annual dinner & the transfer of the funds of the Sussex Game Fishing Conservators on the winding up of that organization, resulted in a total income only slightly down from last year.  
Expenditure was also slightly reduced, the main saving being the cost of stock fish as although we would have liked to have added more fish towards the end of the season, unfortunately our supplier was not able meet our requirements. As a result the accounts for the year show a surplus of circa £4730, with the bank balance a healthy £27753.62.  
The accounts were adopted on a proposal from Peter Langton, seconded by Geoff Taylor, with all present in favour
- 5. Election of Officers & Committee for 2016:** Although the Syndicate Constitution requires nominations for Officers to be made in writing to the Secretary at least seven days in advance of the AGM, with nominations only being made by members and seconded by another member, no such nominations had been received. However, all the current Officers were prepared to serve for a further year and were therefore duly appointed, unopposed, as follows:  
Chairperson: Rod Yuill. Secretary: Alastair Olver. Treasurer: Robert Nathan.  
Organizer: Clive Newington. Child Welfare and Coaching: Alan Purnell.  
With the exception of Colin Rogers, all the current Committee members were also prepared to serve for a further 12 months. There were no additional volunteers wishing to serve, therefore a Committee comprising: Amanda Ince, Frank Dolphin, Geoff Taylor, Peter Langton, Tony Kaatze, Alan Bearchell and Mike Richardson were duly elected on a proposal by David Drury, seconded by Les Everard, with all present in favour.
- 6. Courses 2016:** 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 2016:** 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 increased by £1000 to £11000 and delivery dates agreed, but as usual, introductions would depend on weather and water conditions, especially during high summer.

- 8. Fishery Maintenance for 2016:** No work parties had been scheduled to date, but would be arranged as required as soon as weather, water and ground conditions allow. It was suggested that agricultural colleges offering fishery management courses, i.e. Plumpton or Hadlow, be invited to help out as they are usually keen to secure on site hands on work experience for the students. This to be followed up during the season.
- 9. Communication:** The new Syndicate website at [www.cinder-hill-trout.uk](http://www.cinder-hill-trout.uk), managed by Tom Todd, was up and running, and we would welcome input from Syndicate members. Of last year's Syndicate members, all but 4 had email facilities and members had been kept well informed throughout the year via the Branch Goglemail account. Mike Richardson said that he felt our communication with members was now pretty good and he felt that there was little more we needed to or could do to improve it further.
- 10. Recruitment:** To remain viable, the Syndicate requires around 100 members, ideally 110, but last year we only had 77 full rods. Although we recruit quite a few new members at the shows and from course participants, we need to do as much as we can to promote the Syndicate.
- 11. Income Generation (Sponsorship):** The Syndicate currently enjoys sponsorship from two companies. Selectafly provide flies which we give out the participants at the courses and the Ridgeview Wine Estate who provide tour and taste visits to their vineyard, which we auction at the annual dinner, thereby providing some additional income to our funds. Efforts were being made to secure further sponsorship from other sources, but, while sponsorship is most welcome, unfortunately it doesn't give us very much cash income.  
In order to try and generate additional funds towards the de-silting work at Cinder Hill, Geoff Taylor outlined a possible scheme whereby members could pay a sum up front and then receive a discount on their subsequent year's membership subscriptions.  
It was also suggested that the possibility of a grant from the Sports Council should be investigated. Both ideas were noted for further investigation by the Management Committee.
- 12. Any Other Business:** Robert Nathan reported that a Peter Neave Memorial fishing day would take place at Duncton Mill, date still to be advised, organized by Brian Raw, with all proceeds going to a charity of Peter's widow, Janet's choice.  
Geoff Taylor suggested that as we weren't able to carry out work to lower and level the bank on the dam on Hurstwood pool to make the landing of fish easier and safer, we should consider the installation of some platforms. This was noted for further investigation by the Management Committee.  
Tony Kaatze advised of two additional country shows where maybe the Syndicate could have a presence, namely a Rowfant Country Day and the Young Farmers of Surrey Cowpie Show. Both were noted for consideration by the Management Committee.  
Mike Richardson reported that Alastair Olver still searching for a venue for the combined Syndicate/Branch dinner to be held later in the year. Rowfant has been the venue for the past years, but were now proving to be too expensive. Ideas for a suitable venue would be appreciated and the Red Lion at Chelwood Gate was suggested as a possibility.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9:17pm.