

Cinder Hill



Cinder Hill Fly Fishing

Minutes of the 5th Annual General Meeting

Saturday 7th March 2020, 14:30pm. The Village Hall, Chailey East Sussex

1. **Apologies were received from:** N. Symington, L. Storer, C. Climie, N. Jackson, B. Lucas & J. Garland (6).
2. **In attendance:** M. Orchin, L. Everard, G. Taylor, K. Reeves, R. Nathan, T. Kaatze, A. Bearchell, R. Yuill, C. Rogers, D. Clark, R. Alan, N. Kirby, J. Barker, J. Lutkin, T. Boyle, J. Walsh, J. Harris, S. Mullins, M. Richardson (19).
3. **Minutes of 2019 AGM:** No corrections were required and the minutes were adopted and signed by Chairman Rod Yuill on a proposal by Robert Nathan, seconded by Mark Orchin.
4. **Chairman's report:** Rod Yuill stated that the recently circulated newsletter was effectively his report and the meeting agreed that this would act as such. However, he would now be standing down as Chairman having served in the post for the Sussex Branch of S&TCUK and the Cinder Hill Troutng Syndicate / Cinder Hill Fly Fishing for the past 12 or so years.
5. **Treasurer's report:** In 2019 the organisation made a surplus of £1,917.72 mainly due to an increase in membership fees received and taking into account the high cost of weed removal of nearly £1,600, the organisation had achieved a good result financially for the year, finishing the year with 77 full rods and 20 half rods. 19 members were lost during the year for a number of reasons and so far in 2020 we have lost 11 who have not rejoined but are awaiting replies from many more. The recent continuous bad weather might have delayed a few from sending in their renewal forms.
6. **Constitution:** To avoid sounding too exclusive, our name has been changed to Cinder Hill Fly Fishing (apart from the bank account which remains as 'The Cinder Hill Troutng Syndicate') and the constitution document had been changed to reflect this.
7. **Election of Officers and Committee:** Kevin Reeves has offered to take over the role as Chairman from Rod Yuill, Mark Orchin will remain as Secretary / Organiser, and Robert Nathan as Treasurer and Stocking Manager, but will pass the Treasurer's role over to Les Everard during 2020. Tony Kaatze will continue as Welfare Officer, Maintenance will be run via the Committee and co-ordinated by Mike Richardson. Committee members Alan Bearchell, Jonathon Barker, Les Everard, Geoff Taylor, plus Rod Yuill, were all willing to serve again in 2020. The Officers and Committee were proposed en-bloc by Colin Rogers, seconded by John Lutkin.
8. **Recruitment:** Geoff Taylor suggested that half rods should be charged more than the current 50% fee. Much discussion followed and it was decided to keep the charge as it is. Our marketing plans for recruitment continue to be 3 monthly advertisements in Freshwater Informer Magazine (Feb, March, and April) plus a directory listing in the magazine for the full year. The taster days offered to prospective members at shows will continue plus promotion via our website and Facebook page. M.O. advised the meeting of an opportunity to have a professional video made of the fishery to be shown at shows and online media; this will be decided at the next Committee meeting. Nick Kirby mentioned that he would like to bring 3 grandsons to try fly fishing and R.N. advised that he would not need to use up a visitor ticket for this, but he should ensure that there is suitable supervision if there is more than one at a time. N.K. Also asked if it was possible to 'book' a lake for a family day and this will again be discussed at the next Committee meeting.

9. **Stocking Policy:** 2020 will be similar to previous seasons and we will continue to use Duncton Mill as our supplier. Dates have been booked and 300 fish have been stocked into Piplye over recent weeks with a higher average size which might deter cormorants. As in previous years we will suspend stocking if we get another excessively hot summer. It was noted that the number of cormorants has been a particular concern in the last few months and they are still in evidence now when usually they are elsewhere, this has been discussed with the landlord recently and measures are in place albeit with the limited scope the law allows. It was also noted that the landlord has been dealing effectively with mink predation as well in recent months.
10. **Fishery maintenance:** The usual working parties will be notified and will focus on early weed clearance particularly at Piplye. John Lutkin advised of a disabled angler who fell in at Piplye last year and asked about access. This incident had not been reported and the Committee were quite shocked to hear this. It was advised to the meeting that we always talk to the landlord annually about bank access and the subject of disabled access has been discussed. Action point for next Committee meeting to investigate further. It was noted that our lakes are difficult for disabled anglers to access and we are not able to offer similar facilities to commercial waters both due to cost and geography.
11. **Courses:** There will be no courses run until we can access a level 2 coach. The recent course last autumn that had to be cancelled twice due to bad weather will be re-organised if possible as the prospective participants indicated a wish to take part. Mark Brown has offered to attend a course in May and we would encourage a junior course if we could co-ordinate.
12. **Income & Sponsorship:** 2019 produced good results both from raffle ticket sales at shows and the auction which amounted to £675, a credit to the hard work put in by Geoff Taylor. G.T. asked for members to think about potential new sponsors and it was noted how successful the link up with the Bluebell Railway had been.
13. **Any Other Business.**
 - a. K.R. proposed that catch & release should be extended to now include the bottom lake at Cinder Hill and middle lake at Piplye for the same period as the top lakes. Much discussion took place and as with the national picture, there are opposing views. On put to a vote, the meeting voted in favour of this change to the rules by 9 votes to 6 with 4 abstentions.
 - b. M.R. will continue to put catch returns onto the website in the member's area.
 - c. G.T. suggested that the season starts at both venues from 1st April to avoid the bad weather, but it was decided that the unpredictability of the weather meant that sticking to the existing opening dates would remain the best option.
 - d. K.R. proposed a vote of thanks to outgoing Chairman Rod Yuill for his 12 years of service and outstanding contribution to the organisation and its development.
 - e. M.O. advised the meeting that we have an appointment with Danial Hatherley-Hurford (Fisheries Manager) from Plumpton College on Monday 6th April to discuss the removal of the Piplye Carp. The meeting with committee members will be at Piplye Lakes.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 4.15pm.