



**Cinder Hill Fly Fishing
6th. Annual General Meeting
Thursday 22nd April 2021
Zoom 7:00pm**

MINUTES

1. Apologies for absence – J. Barker, S.Mullins, A. Bearchell, Finley Thompson-O'Brien, Mike Richardson.
 - a. Those in attendance: K. Reeves, M. Orchin, R. Nathan, N. Kirby, G. Taylor, J. Collins, N. Price, R. Ransley, L. Storer, T. Kaatze, D. Smith, F. Dolphin, A. Ince, D. Smith, R. Yuill
2. Minutes of the 5th Annual General Meeting and matters arising – the minutes were agreed and K.R. signed as a true and accurate record of the 2020 AGM.
 - a. N. Kirby asked if his proposal from the 2020 AGM to book out one fishery for a whole day for his family be considered once more, K.R. stated that we would not be able to grant this as it would be unfair to exclude members on any given day from either Cinder Hill or Piplye. N. K. accepted this reply.
3. Chairman's Report K.R. reiterated the recent syndicate newsletter which fully covered the events of the unusual 2020 in relation to COVID 19 and its impact. It was noted that the Angling Trust had managed the government well and got us back fishing in both May 2020 and January 2021, highlighting the importance of angling as an outdoor healthy pursuit. The syndicate had a successful year despite the summer drought and fish losses in early September.
4. Treasurers Report – L.E. has now fully taken over as Treasurer from R. Nathan and presented the figures for 2020. The syndicate made a small surplus which will be carried forward into 2021 to build our reserves for future costs which might include dredging and pathway improvements mainly at Piplye. The Accounts for 2020 were independently audited by Peter Negus and approved at the AGM by K.R.

5. The Stock and Catch Data for 2020 was presented by K.R. showing that on average 58% of the fish stocked were caught. Of the balance of 42%, 58 fish were known to have died during the September heat and 764 fish were attributed to Predation, other fatalities or over wintered. K.R. has now taken on responsibility for stocking and outlined a similar stocking policy for 2021 as 2020. It was noted that members including many new ones this year have been highly successful in catching their limit bags in the first 2 months, and a close monitoring of the stock versus catch returns is required to balance the numbers up and to ensure we have enough stock verses costs etc. K.R. & M.O. to do analysis of the figures after the April catch returns are received. It was noted how important the catch return analysis completed by A. Bearchell is each month in determining our statistics. K.R. will assess with the committee the requirements as we progress through the season with special attention to stocking over the predicted hotter months of July / August.
 - a. A. Ince & F. Dolphin raised the issue of catch & release and a discussion was held to explain why this has been allowed at certain lakes in the early part of each season. K.R. & M.O. explained that we have had to respond to most anglers wishes for C&R whilst respecting that others disagree with this policy. As long as C&R is managed by members correctly, we have seen no detrimental effect on the fish that we can see so far. It was confirmed that C&R is not used as a recruitment point when attracting new members. As always, the C&R rule will be closely monitored.
6. Election of Officers for 2021 – The committee was re-elected en-bloc proposed by L. Storer and seconded by R. Ransley. Geoff Taylor stated he would like to stand down from 2022.
7. Peter Negus has agreed to verify the Books and Accounts for this year ending 31 December 2021.
8. Membership and Recruitment – The syndicate has had a successful season so far and current membership is at a similar level as last year, with some new members replacing those that have not renewed.
9. Fishery Maintenance in 2021: K.R. listed the usual requirements for maintenance of the huts, bridges, bankside vegetation and trees, plus weed removal (Piplye) and the first working party has been arranged for Thursday 29th April at Piplye. If the weed cannot be controlled, there may be a requirement to drain and dredge the top lake at Piplye in the future.
10. Shows and Courses in 2021: In the short-term Cinder Hill are intending to attend the South of England Show and the Autumn Game Fair but with the following changes:

- a. Casting demonstration only, no 'have a go' yet.
 - b. Suspension of the raffle to reduce the contact with the public, handling of money, tickets and other associated items.
 - c. Fewer staff on the stand and face coverings / sanitiser in constant use.
 - d. All staff to have received at least one vaccine prior to the show.
 - e. Limited number of visitors on the stand at any one time.
 - f. The right to withdraw our attendance and marquee up to 1 week or so before the event if the local / national COVID 19 picture changes for the worse.
 - g. Courses at the lakes are unlikely this year, but mainly down to lack of available level 2 coaches.
11. Income Generation (Sponsorship, Auction, Raffles): G.T. stated that it will be harder to persuade existing sponsors to continue supporting the syndicate if their own businesses are suffering the financial consequences of COVID 19. It will be a great loss not to run the raffle at S.O.E Show but understandable under the circumstances. It is not just the money and offers that we benefit from by having sponsors but also the prestige of having their corporate name associated with us, and that we should try to maintain the current group and develop our relationships with them further.
12. Any other business:
- a. M.O. advised that we will be running the MacMillan day on Sunday 20th June at Cinder Hill – further details in due course.
 - b. R.Ransley asked if the parking, particularly at Piplye, could be improved. M.O said that we were looking into the laying of mesh tracking to extend the car park area.
 - c. R.Ransley asked about the carp removal at Piplye. M.O. stated that Plumpton College was still an option and the Landlord may wish to move some further down the lake system.
 - d. No other items were raised under A.O.B..

The meeting closed at 8.50pm