**H&DAA 2024 AGM**

**Club Secretary’s Report**

Thanks to all who have attended this evening.

H&DAA is run for the benefit of its members, and the committee requires members feedback and ideas in order to do its job properly. That’s the AGM is the most important event in the club calendar.

A lot of work has been carried out in the last year, and there is a lot to get though at this meeting, including a large number of proposed changes to club rules. So, I will keep my report relatively brief and limit it a few key issues.

**Committee changes**

There have been a number of **changes on the committee** in the last year. Bob Wood and Wayne Ellis have both stepped down. The club extends its thanks to them for their service.

**Ian Petch** is also stepping back from the committee. As many members will know Ian has occupied various officer roles with the club for many years, latterly as membership secretary. I can’t overstate the amount of time and work that Ian has put into the club over the years. His absence will be missed. He leaves a very big space behind in the committee. I am sure that everyone here will join me in expressing their heartfelt appreciation of the role Ian has played in this club.

In place of departing members, we also have several **new committee members** to welcome, subject to their approval at the AGM. They are Mark Hayley, Tom Sayers and Pete Collins, all of whom have already made their impact on the club. To note: Mark will also be standing as the new membership secretary.

We will also be voting on proposal to introduce a new officer role at the club, that of **Safeguarding Officer**. *This role will ensure that the club members have someone to report to if they experience issues relating to their welfare whilst on club waters. It will also enable the club to fulfil obligations relating to our insurance with the Angling trust. Committee member Chris Jenkinson has kindly offered to take up the role and I hope we can endorse both the new role and Chris in that role this evening.*

**Junior Members and Junior Angling**

I mentioned at the meeting last year that the club would be putting on events to introduce children to fishing. We held several such events at Foxhole in the late Spring/early Summer with local cub, scout and brownie groups. These were extremely well received by all involved, helped by fine weather, plenty of fish landed and excellent support from members of out committee.

We plan to hold more such events this year. Anyone who would like to get involved is more than welcome to contact me.

The backdrop though is one in which it is increasingly difficult for youngsters to fish, as requirements relating to health and safety and insurance place ever increasing restrictions on the ability of youngsters to fish club waters without adults present. There are several proposed changes in club rules that relate directly these issues.

**Clubmate**

Clubmate continues to be a valuable management tool for the club, and as more and more clubs move over to it, this will have further direct benefits to members, in particular the ease with which it is possible to access exchange tickets.

**Changes to Membership Structure**

The committee also hopes to implement some changes to the membership structure, in part to streamline the role of membership secretary and in part to satisfy requirements relating to insurance. Many of these are in the background, but several have direct impacts on members experiences, especially those which relate to night permits – details can be found in the rule change document.

**Waters**

Lee Waller will give more details on work carried out. I will just add that a few comments about Bury St Austin lakes. We will continue to share the 2 lakes with Billingshurst Angling Society. This obviously benefits the club financially, whilst Billingshurst will also contribute to work carried out to maintain and improve the lakes. In addition, the landowner has given use additional security regarding the length of lease. This will enable the club to make longer term plans regarding improvements to the venue.