

H&DAA 2025 AGM

General 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 why the AGM is the most important event in the club calendar.

As ever, the club has carried out a lot of work carried in the last year. Much of the work is obvious and visible, such as projects we have been carrying out to maintain and develop our waters.

There is less obvious work involved in keeping the club running, such as the excellent work that Ray puts in looking after the club's finances, maintaining and developing the club's online presence, and working with clubmate to improve and streamline the services we offer members.

Committee changes

There have been a various **changes on the committee** in the last year. Most notably, Tony Staples, the assistant fishery officer, has stepped down from the committee. Mark Hayley has also stepped down. Mark took charge of membership last year, and did a great job, particularly in rationalizing and simplifying the membership structures we have in place. Mark also organized and ran new match series that have proved extremely popular.

I'd like to thank both of them for the work they have put in on the clubs behalf.

I will also be stepping down from the committee following the AGM, due to family and work commitments. I first joined the committee in 2020 at the height of the Covid pandemic.

At that time, there were concerns that the lockdowns and restrictions would negatively affect on the club's ability to operate. Happily, the reverse seems to have happened and the club is now thriving and has a considerable waiting list. I think this is partly down to an increased interest in angling since the pandemic and also, importantly, to the excellent work that members of the committee have carried out.

Junior Angling

I've mentioned at a previous AGM how important I think it is for clubs to encourage and expand fishing amongst youngsters.

The club has put in a series of measures to encourage juniors anglers, including keeping membership fees frozen for under 18s as well as various events in with local scout, cub and brownie groups.

We currently have more than 60 members aged 18 or under, which is around a 3-fold increase over the last few years. I think this puts the club in a stronger position in the long term.

Clubmate

Clubmate has turned out to be a really valuable management tool for the club, not least because of the amount of admin work it saves the committee.

I know that Ray and Mark and Barry have spend a considerable amount of time working with clubmate to achieve this and also to make things as easy as possible for members to engage with the site. Feedback from members has been very useful in helping the club develop it's offering on Clubmate, so thanks to everyone who has contributed.

Waters

Lee Waller will give more details on out waters. But I would like to say a few words about Foxhole.

As most people will know, the venue has unfortunately been closed since a serious leak in the dam was found the start of the 2025. Foxhole is a popular venue, and many members who fish there regularly will be disappointed at the current situation. The club is doing all that it can to ensure that Foxhole can re-open as soon as possible and have been working closely with the EA and the landowners, with whom we have a good relationship to make this happen. We are somewhat limited in what we can do though, as the dam repairs will have to be carried out by the landowners.

Finally...

I want to conclude with a few more general comments.

As an organization we have around 500 members and numerous venues. Keeping everything going requires considerable management. Those on the committee are capable and dedicated, but there is only so much they do.

So, I would encourage everyone who can spare time to help to do so. This may be joining the work parties. Or for anyone with the time and inclination to get more involved, there is currently 2 vacancies on the committee and several vacant club officer roles.

Please consider helping if you can.

Oliver Wright