

HORSHAM & DISTRICT ANGLING ASSOCIATION

**2025 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES**

*09 April 2024: Roffey Social & Sports Club, Horsham*

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**1. Welcome**

- Club chairman Barry Clark opened the meeting and welcomed those present.

**2. Minutes of previous (2024) AGM**

- Minutes of the 2024 AGM were not read out at the meeting, as these had been made available to all members beforehand.
- Barry asked if anyone objected to the minutes of the previous meeting not being read. No-one expressed an objection.

**3. Matters arising from the minutes**

*Questions relating to the 2024 AGM minutes:* There were no questions

- Minutes of the 2025 AGM were proposed by Oliver Wright and seconded by Graham Boylett.

**4. General Secretary's Report on last season**

- *The report is available as a separate document.*

*Questions:* There were no questions

**5. Membership Secretary's Report**

- *A report submitted by Mark Hayley is available as a separate document.*
- Barry read out the report on Mark's behalf, as Mark was unable to attend the meeting.
- Barry added that he had taken over the role when Mark stood down in early 2025.
- He noted that he had taken steps to further automate membership related processes on Clubmate, building on work Mark carried out last year. These include methods to automate the process of joining the waiting list and make it easier to enroll new members.
- He also flagged that the payment processing system the club uses has recently changed. This means that from now on, members will need to re-enter their card details to be able to complete any financial transactions on clubmate, including when they renew their membership.

- Ray confirmed that the club had moved to the new payment arrangements as it is cheaper for the club than the previous systems.
- Barry also said he intended to add new features to clubmate, such as work party enrolment and match booking.

*Questions:*

- Ian Petch asked if landowners and life members would automatically get their cards sent out under the new arrangements?
- Barry clarified that life members would have to renew their memberships online (this was not previously the case), whilst landowners would be sent their cards without having to take any action (as was the case previously).
- Kevin O'Shea: asked about members who only fish Foxhole. He requested that if they elect not to rejoin this year due to the venue being closed can they be put to the top of the waiting list the list.
- Barry responded in the affirmative, adding that members in this situation should contact him.

## **6. Match Secretary's Report**

- *The match secretary role is currently vacant, since Mark Hayley stepped down from the role at earlier this year. Lee Waller is filling in the role.*
- A report submitted by Mark Hayley is available as a separate document (this is the same document referred to above (see section 5: membership secretary's report))
- Barry noted that Lee would be covering the match secretary role on a temporary basis.

*Questions:* None

## **7. Treasurer's Report**

- *The treasurers report and the club balance sheet for the year ending 28 February 2025 are available as separate documents*

*Questions:*

- Graham Sitton asked at what stage the club's current insurance arrangements would preclude increasing the number of members?
- Ray answered that the club has already reached limit (500 members) and does not intend to change the arrangements to allow an increase in membership, because the limiting factor is the availability of parking at venues.
- Kevin O'Shea countered that he had never seen the parking full.

- Ray replied that last year was unusual due to the poor weather during the summer: in previous years when the club had considerably fewer members, there had been issues with parking at some of the waters.
- *The club's accounts were proposed by Bob Rice and seconded by Graham Sitton*

## **8. Fishery Officer's Report**

- *The report is available as a separate document.*

### *1. Where we are*

- Lee gave a run-down of the current situation at each venue.
- He thanked everyone who had joined work parties over the last few years.
- On the grill at the BB outflow, Murray Payne noted that parts of the old grill (which was damaged in the winter and which Murray is replacing) had gone over the overflow and was in the plunge pool below.
- Lee noted that in future we will get fish surveys done by the EA, as can be done for free.
- On transplanting the fish from Foxhole, Barry commended the work the EA did to support the club.

### *2. What we plan to do*

- On Island Pond, Barry noted that we need to either remove the wooden swims or replace them.
- Lee asked any members with unwanted grassy plants (carexes, ferns etc) to contact him as his plans involve considerable planting work.
- Matt Howlett noted what a great job Lee had done in the last year

### *Questions:*

- Paul Stennet asked about using dam fund for Rooshole to fix the dam at Foxhole
- On the dam fund in general, Barry noted that the club would be in hock for any repairs to the dam at Roosthole, which would cost in the region of £ hundreds of thousands to replace properly. He also noted that to maintain the dam in its current condition we need to put in work to maintain the trees, and that the best option would be to install a Nicospan barrier and fill in the gap with clay. This would be a big job.
- Ray added that part of the purpose for having the dam fund was to remove cash from our working capital, as this makes it easier to secure grants.

- Barry said that to fix Foxhole, the first requirement is to let the water level drop and then conduct work to fix in the dam. He added that the club would offer to help repairs by offering to contribute labour but would not do the actual repairs, as the club would be liable for any subsequent failures of the dam. He also added that if we put money forwards to pay for dam repairs at Foxhole, the club would then seek to recoup this by not paying rent for a period.
- David Phillips asked how many carp there are in Dry Pond?
- Lee said he thought there were around 20 carp.
- Mark Light commented on how bad the track to IP was, and asked what could be done to improve the track.
- This was acknowledged as an issue by various members of the committee, and it as stressed that while effort have been made, it is proving difficult. In particular the section of road outside the gate on the main road which has a very large hole in it, is subject to disagreement between Holmbush farm and Highways, both of whom say it is the responsibility of the other to repair.
- Ian Petch noted that he had tried filling in that section with concrete a several years ago, but it hadn't worked.
- Oliver also added that he has contacted Holmbush on several occasions to highlight the poor condition of the tracks leading to Island Pond and Foxhole, but without success.

## **9. Head Bailiff's Report**

- *The report is available as a separate document.*
- *Kevin Rice was unable to join the meeting: Barry read the report he had submitted*
- *Question: None*

## **10. Welfare Officers Report**

- *The report is available as a separate document.*
- Chris additionally noted the club planning to improve access to Roosthole - a priority is putting a handrail down the slope to the lakeside
- *Questions: None*

## **11. Election of Officers**

### *Officers as of AGM date*

President – Andy McIntyre

Vice Presidents – Colin Martin, Graham Sitton.

Chairman – Barry Clark

General Secretary – Oliver Wright+

Membership Secretary – Vacant (*Barry Clark is standing in*)  
Match Secretary – Vacant (*Lee Waller is standing in*)  
Treasurer – Ray Smallwood  
Fishery Officers – Lee Waller, Tom Sayers\*  
Head Bailiff – Kevin Rice  
Welfare Officer – Chris Jenkinson

Notes

+ stepping down following AGM

\* subject to conformation

- *Current officers*: All were voted in again. Proposed David Phillips, Seconded by Graham Sitton
- *Membership Secretary*: It was agreed that Barry will take over the role for one year until next year. Proposed by Pete Collins, Seconded Kevin O'Shea.
- *Match Secretary*: Lee offered to take on the role. Proposed by Pete Collins, Seconded Kevin O'Shea.
- *Assistant Fishery Officer*: Tom Sayers has been doing the role since Tony Staples stepped down and is willing to take on the role permanently. Proposed by Stuart Boxall, seconded Barry Clark.
- *General Secretary*: Matt Howlett offered to take the role on. Proposed by Barry, Seconded by Oliver
- *Existing committee members in non-officer roles*: Proposed by Chris Jenkinson, seconded Paul Stennett
- *Assistant Fishery Officer*: Tom Sayers has been doing the role since Tony Staples stepped down and is willing to take on the role permanently. Proposed by Stuart Boxall, seconded Barry Clark.

## **12. Election of Committee**

- See above

## **13. Consideration of any other proposals submitted in accordance with the association rules**

- *Proposal 1*: To fix the temperature at which pike fishing is permitted temperature at 15C.
- *See rule 41*: at present the rule does not specify a temperature, the club has opened the pike fishing season when the water is 12C or lower.
- Ian said that the Pike Angling Club (PAC) suggests that 18C or lower is safe, noting that this is likely due to pressure from companies like Angling Direct

applied to the Environment Agency. He added that according to members of the PAC, 15C is safe, and this would make the club more appealing to pike anglers.

- Lee said that he was worried that if the temp was raised to 15C, the increased angling pressure would affect the condition of the pike in our waters.
- **The proposal was not supported by a vote.**
- Following this, Ian added that pike fishing at Lee place is allowed from 1 October, so members who wish to fish for pike earlier, they can do so there. Other waters with which we have exchange tickets may have similar policies in place.
- *Proposal 2. To allow a full member parent to take their own children older than 8 years old (if an existing member) for night sessions on our club's waters, by paying for a single night ticket (cost £5).*
- *Junior members of the club have not previously been allowed to night fish: see rule 20.*
- Ian suggested this was prohibited by our insurance arrangement. Ray added that Mark had checked this with the EA and this is not the case.
- Dawn Clark asked if the rule is passed, would parents have to sign something saying they are responsible for the child they take night fishing?
- Ray said this was not required as would be implied by the parent buying the ticket.
- **This proposal was approved by the vote.**
- Proposal 3: Rule 40 to be amended by addition of "...”or be in the same or an adjacent swim to a member who has taken the course (who must also be fishing for Pike)”
- *The rule currently states: “Members wishing to fish for pike in association waters must first attend a pike teach-in arranged by association officials”*
- Ian Petch disagreed with the proposal, noting that many other clubs do not allow members to fish for pike on their waters without taking a training course.
- Murray asked why we let those on guest tickets fish for pike without requiring they take the course?
- *Note that he was not saying the same for those on exchange tickets who it was agreed we should allow to fish for pike fish without having done the course – were we not to do so, we would lose reciprocal exchange ticket arrangements*

*that allow members to fish for pike on exchange waters without having taken their pike angling courses.*

- Counter proposal: *change the rules so that no pike fishing on guest tickets – does not by the exchange tickets.*
- Proposed by Ray , seconded by Oliver.
  
- **This counter proposal was approved by vote**

#### **14. Any other business or late proposals at the Chairman's discretion**

- 1. Barry raised issues in an e-mail from a member regarding **lifetime memberships**, asking if we should introduce the ability to revoke life memberships.
- Barry said he would be more interested in looking forwards rather than back and that he does not want to push this forwards. He added that if life members were found to be abusive etc, they could be dealt with by the club welfare officer and their life memberships revoked.
- Ian noted that we must clearly distinguish between criticism and abuse, and there should not be any scope for revoking life members just on the basis of dis-agreement.
- When invited, no-one one expressed an objection to the view Barry had expressed.
  
- 2. Ian asked about **new methods of perch fishing** (e.g., Texas rig fishing) that have become popular.
- He requested the committee look into new styles of lure fishing that have and consider how they might impact the club. He thought these methods are currently prohibited by club rules but, if so, changing the rules to accommodate these methods should be conserved as they would encourage more junior members to join the club. He added that in his view they were not dangerous to Pike.
- Barry asked Ian to give the committee details of the methods. The committee will look into whether these methods are prohibited and, if so, consider adjusting the rule.
  
- 3. Kevin O'Shea asked if it would be worth Ian running a **pike course specifically for bailiffs**.
- Ian expressed willingness to do this.
- The committee will look into arranging this.

**The AGM closed at 2210**