

Secretary
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Royal British Legion Park Gate Fly Fishing Section

Annual General Meeting 19.30 Tuesday 19 November 2024 Minutes

Members Present

John Cast, Steve Gibson, Mark Newman, Chris Hancock, Dave Bartlett, Andy Nineham, Pete Cox, Steve Smith, Sean Drayson, Sean Barnard, Neil Douglas, Jon Bradley, Mark Woodford and Quintin Van Wyk (prospective member).

Note: The committee reports have been sent out to all members so were not repeated in full.

Chairman's address

The meeting was opened at 1930 and JC welcomed the members present

Apologies for absence

Apologies have been received from: Tim Matthewman, Joe Howitt, Chris Lashley, Tim Matthews, Steve Ayton, Colin Gilchrist, Kevin Ashworth, Mark Ruggles and Dave See.

Approve minutes of Pre-season meeting, matters arising

The only outstanding item was using Whats app to vote. It has been decided not to, as not all members are on Whats app, and decisions should be made at club meetings.

Election of Committee

The committee members were all willing to continue, there were no nominations for their posts and they were voted for en bloc.

Secretary's report

There are 40 members with 3 on the waiting list. Max numbers are 45.

It was decided to go for a 10-year extension of the lease. The lease will be an extension of the present one and no legal bodies will be involved.

Membership cards will no longer be sent out, instead e mails will be sent to members with a card attached, that they can save to their phone along with relevant phone numbers and dates. Cards for cars parked at Silver Springs will be made available.

Financial Statement

£975 surplus this year, due to unexpected reduction in stocking cost and extra members. Major spend was on the mower, £350 and Water Test kit, £140. ND asked why we tested at Anjou? This is for convenience as the kit is kept at the farm. He said the river at Bugle had smelled and was discoloured, this was probably due to the cows breaching the fence below Anjou bridge. Testing will continue at Anjou until 12 months' data is collected then we shall decide if to test elsewhere.

Membership subs to remain at £150.

River Keepers report

MN thanked everyone who had attended work parties and to Chris and Dave for their extra work. He would like to encourage more members to attend especially as it was a good way to learn the river.

Although the Mill gate problem has been promulgated MN gave a shortened version of the current situation. SG said that a member had asked for a simpler explanation of the plan, MN to send one out after clarifying a few details. The main issue is that the mill gates are in danger of collapsing and causing downstream flooding and the issue with the plan seems to be having no fish pass at the mill.

MN then said he has written to the EA regarding the potential danger of the A27 culverts. Also the stretch below the A27 that the owner does not allow us access is also blocked.

MN has been in contact with another club to see if they are agreeable to an exchange scheme, this will rely on their agreement at their AGM. This was greeted with enthusiasm and JB said it would be good to greet their members and to look after them in order to foster good relations with the other club.

MN asked if we wanted to maintain the land belonging to Colliers rise now that the previous disagreeable tenant has moved on. It was agreed to clear a pathway alongside the river.

Bailiff report

The catch return had been previously sent out, of note was that there were 43 seatrout caught compared to 16 the previous year.

CH asked that more care is taken with the return sheets and signing in and out. It was pointed out that in the event of an accident insurance could be invalid if you are not signed in.

It was agreed that a returns book would be sited at SS.

Grayling stocking was mentioned, very unlikely as the grayling we used to get from Broadlands, were once regarded as vermin are now seen as an asset. They are not available from commercial fish farms and the EA is opposed to the transfer of fish, however enquiries will be made.

Motion 1. To approve the stocking programme. 2 stockings of 80-100 fish each, end April, early July. Carried

Motion 2. To carry on with the coarse fishing at Bugle Meadow until the pre-season meeting. Carried

Motion 3. To award Ian Moran with an honorary life membership after completing 50 years paid membership. Carried

Motion 4. To present a Christmas bottle of whisky and Prosecco to Barry and Nicola, owners of Abbey Farm. Carried SG and MN to arrange.

A break was then called and the raffle raised £77, thank you to all who donated prizes.

A discussion the took place regarding work that could be undertaken to improve fish refuge, mainly from cormorants, it was decided to fell some trees in Segensworth meadow and secure them in the river, this would probably require extra work parties, to be promulgated on whats app.

NJ said anglers who fish other waters should wash their gear to prevent invasive species. He also asked if anglers could pull a dozen or so Himalayan Balsam every time they pass them. MN said the ladies group would be pulling up HB again next season.

NJ asked about casting instruction, the club did not want any formal instruction but it was suggested that some of the more experienced anglers would be prepared to assist less able members at the river following a working party, probably in April.

Any other business.

SG asked if we could repair the gate above the motorway bridge in return for access from the river. We have access rights. SS said he often starts at Silver Springs and exists the river by the motorway and walks back to his car by the road, this saves wading back down the river. MN to investigate.

The meeting was closed at 9.40