

DOWNHAM MARKET & DISTRICT ANGLING ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the AGM meeting held on the 1st April 2019

MEMBERS PRESENT:- 19

APOLOGIES:- Ian Harding, Pete Bickle, Guy Travers

MINUTES:- The minutes of the 2018 AGM were read out and agreed

MATTERS ARISING:- The sluices are all working well and the blue dye did not work very well. On querying with the suppliers we were told that we needed at least five foot depth of water. We were never informed of this and because we only spoke over the telephone we have no prove of what was or not said. The toilets at both lake 3 and the Clay Pit are full installed and working. The lock code for the Clay Pit toilet will be printed in the new membership books. There has been no increase of rent at Wallington Hall and the chairman will pay what is due after this meeting, The bench for Gorden is in place with its plaque and apparently his son is very pleased with it. The chairman finished by thanking TM for his efforts in promoting the club and reports to the local press.

CHAIRMANS REPORT:-

The chairman stated that it has not been a very good year for himself but is feeling better now. It has been a good year for the club as the balance sheet shows. Book sales have improved against last year and he thanked TM for holding the fort whilst he was unwell along with TR, PR, JP and all of the helpers who have done excellent work on the lakes. The Cuckoo has not had any work done to it but there are still 8 good platforms to fish from. The club has purchased a 48m long net in the hope of removing some of the pike and checking on fish stocks. We had a go at using it the previous Saturday and made a complete hash of things but we now believe we know better how to use it. The chairman was sad to say that it does not look like we will be having any weekend matches this year. Dave who ran it last year stood down some months ago because he was not getting any support and it looks as though most of our match men are going where there is much bigger prize money. The club has secured a new five year deal for the Clay Pit but with a rent increase over the next four years. The club has lost a very good member Alan Smith who for many years fished the over 60's matches. The over 60's matches are well attended with between 15-20 taking part on most occasions.

The chairman finished by thanking all members who have helped in getting the lake tidy and fit to fish and he practically thanked Hanni Parr for her efforts in selling on-line all of the equipment left over from the River Fest.

SECRETARIES REPORT:-

I don't think there is much I can add to what the Chairman has said, except on what we have done with regards to promoting the club.

This year's stall at the Downham Water Festival did not turn out as good as the previous years due to I think weather, lack of numbers attending and the general organising of the event. Hanni Parr took most of the left over items and sold all but one of them on face book. Many thanks Hanni.

May I put on record the clubs thanks to all who contributed and attended on the day.

It has been agreed that this year the club forgo this event and concentrate on the Wallington Hall Fete.

Throughout the year I have been sending reports to the press when I have had news of catches and photographs. The press do like photographs, so can I ask members to let me have photo's and reports of any good catches that they have, and can I thank those that have sent me details and keep them coming. The more I can get in the local papers, the more chance the club may pick up new members. This also goes for face book and our web site.

This year I have produced four newsletters, which I understand from what the Chairman has been told, have been well received. But once again, if I do not get help from members I am at a loss to fill the pages. The Chairman has said he will give me a report and keep me updated on the over sixties matches but as with the press I need your input too.

ON LINE SEC. REPORT:-

- Average response time to external posts is 2 hours
- Most people post in the evening (after 6pm), but there's no preference for day of the week – people post just as frequently during the week as they do at weekends
- Most people engage with fishing reports or work party reports
- Unfortunately, posts about the AGM, Work Party volunteers needed are read least – except one from Peter Reeve which reached 609 people (2018)
- Posts with photos included are opened and read more than posts without photos
- It's subjective, but there seem to be more queries about joining the club coming through over the last year – hopefully they are translating into new members

TREASURERS REPORT:- (see separate sheet)

Bank Balance £9028-96

The Treasurers Report was agreed and adopted.

MATCH SECRETARY REPORT:-

As there was no match secretary or assistant. Mark Ellis stated that the matches started off well but as the season wore on numbers decreased as they wanted to fish the commercials where there was more money to win. It does not seem as though there will be a match scene this coming year. The chairman stated that he was considering putting on a few matches in the summer so watch facebook for information.

AGM PROPOSALS:-

A).

If no match secretary is to run 2019/20 matches, I propose that the cups and shields are fished for in the over sixties matches. The trophies have been fished for 80+ years.

Proposed Peter Cooke

Seconded Peter Reeve

After some lengthy discussion it was agreed For -8, against-4 abstain-5

B).

With the rent on the Clay Pit doubling over the next four years i.e. £200-00 per year and a possible increase at Wallington Hall I feel that this will seriously jeopardise the clubs financial position.

I therefore propose that the club should increase its book price by £2-00 across the board.

Full £40-00
Conc £35-00
Junior £12-00
Joint +£12-00

Proposed T C Manley

Seconded P Reeve.

A counter proposal was made by Peter Cooke to have a £2-00 increase but to leave the price of Juniors at £10-00.

Seconded Dave Frost

This was agreed and all in favour.

C).

It is well documented on the clubs facebook page that lake 3 has a weed problem and having fished the lake for a couple of years and while attended a number of work parties it has become clear that the weed is only part of the problem.

There are a number of sunken trees scattered around the lake left in place when the lake was made bigger some years ago which need removing. Fish safety is very important now days and possibility of lines becoming snagged/tethered with fish attached will lead to the damage or death of the fish.

Work parties have tried hard to rake the Hornwort out of the lake but to be honest raking is just spreading the problem. When the rake is being pulled in large amounts of Hornwort break off only to be left to drift around causing problems somewhere else. With only a small amount of members willing to help out with work parties and the lack of specialized equipment for clearing the weed it is impossible to deal with the hornwort by raking alone.

In my view the best way too clear the lake of snags and the large amount of weed would be to employ the services of Paul Middleton (Weedcutter.com) I know that he came to see the problem and gave a quote to remove the weed late last year. He has all the correct equipment needed to rectify the problems and it will only take a few days to carry out the work!.

I understand that a net has been bought so fish stocks can be assessed.

I have netting experience as a commercial fisherman and some experience in netting lakes and at this time i would not attempt to shoot a net in any of the lakes due to the amount of islands and tree debris in all of them sadly rendering your net totally useless at this time.

I therefore propose that the money be made available for Weed and sunken debris removal by a professional contractor at lake 3 Wallington Hall.

Yours Sincerely

Steve Golden

Membership 035

Seconded by Chris Golden

Membership 272

Steve Golden outlined the reasons for his proposal and stated that he feels the weed is getting worse. He suggested that the club should get a contractor in to clear the lake or let the weed grow to its full height, drop the water level and spray it.

After various suggestions on how is best to remove the weed no viable suggestions came forward and it was agreed that money be made available for weed and sunken debris removed.

For-11 against-0, abstain-5

OPEN FORUM:-

A long discussion took place on what to do with lake three. Suggestions were that we could remove all of the large carp and put them in lake two and make Lake 2 our carp lake, but how do you do that as one cannot net or electro fish due to the weed. The question of reducing the price of our books after the Christmas period was raised and it was thought that this should not happen. The chairman said he would put it on the next committee meeting agenda. Hanni Parr asked if one can night fish at Wallington. The chairman explained that if one wanted to have a night match then one can by prior appointment. The chairman asked if it was not possible to have a nursery for fish so that we could bring on our own stock. He said that there are thousands of fry and maybe we could have a holding tank or similar but we would need to speak to somebody with experience in such matters. It was agreed that we should look into the possibility of this. Dave Frost said that he has had reports of an otter on lake 2. The chairman asked that members should keep an eye out and report any sightings.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS:-

Chairman: Malcolm Plumb. Proposed D Frost, seconded M Ellis- unanimously approved.

Vice Chairman: Tom Rooke. Proposed T Manley, seconded D Frost-unanimously approved

Secretary: Trevor Manley. Proposed M Ellis, seconded P Reeve-unanimously approve.

Treasurer: Malcolm Plumb. Proposed D Frost, seconded P Reeve-unanimously approved.

Committee:, Mark Collett, Peter Cooke, Steve Golding, Dave Frost, Haani Parr, Jeff Parr, Peter Reeve, Guy Travers.

Bailiff's: Wallington Hall-Peter Reeve

Clay Pit/Cuckoo Drain- Jeff Parr

On Line Sec. Ian Harding.

Ass. On Line Sec. Steve Golding.

Meeting Closed at 9.50pm.

Downham Market & District Angling Association

Treasurers Report 2018/19

EXPENDITURE

Water Rent	2375.00
AFT & PL Ins	599.00
Trophies	390.00
Printing	444.44
Blue Dye	333.80
Maintenance	910.77
Toilet set up & Empty	108.00
River Quest	48.60
Timber Lk3 swims	147.77
Wine (outlets)	56.00
Bailiff	100.00

	5513.38

CAPITAL COSTS

Toilet & Slabs (Claypit)	316.00
New Catch Net	828.00
Electro Fishing & Spraying	900.00

	2044.00

Expenditure	7557.38

INCOME

Book Sales	7969.00
River Quest	416.00
Match mon*	175.00

	8560.00

INCOME £8560.00

EXPENDITURE £7557.38

Surplus + £1002.38