



The Bintry Mill Trout Fishery

Fishing at Bintry Mill, Yarrow Farm and Vicarage Farm

Minutes of the committee meeting held on 13th March, 2019

At Stower Grange, Norwich

10:00 – 12:00

Present: Hugh Berridge (Chairman), Dave Pitchers (Secretary), Andy Hunt (Treasurer), Committee Members, Kevin Pollard, Mike Rudd, Jon Gallant, Kevin Freezer, Richard Nelson.

Apologies for absence: No absentees

Chairman's opening remarks: Hugh thanked everybody for attending and asked if there were any matters arising from the minutes that were not covered on today's agenda.

Treasurer's report: AH said that he could not provide any financial details as the bank were still messing him about with the bank mandate, the delay in changing over the bank mandate concerns the initial application which named Andy Hunt and not Andrew Hunt as the new signature. AH at the moment cannot access the accounts so doesn't know what funds are available. KP, who still has access, said that the balance as of this morning is £21,405. Unfortunately with AH not having access to the Club's bank statements he was unable to update the committee on the number of members who have paid their subscriptions. From information he had to hand AH said that 3 members had asked to pay by instalments, 3 had resigned and 38 members had paid. DP was able to update the committee and confirm that 41 members have paid their subs, 6 had resigned and 3 still had to pay. DP stressed he'd had problems with members addresses not being up to date KF said that's a problem with dealing with members solely by email. While on the point of discussing members, HB suggested that we move on to item 7 on the agenda which concerns members and move back to item 6 after. DP gave each member of the committee a list of 27 names of those on the waiting list. It was agreed that unless there is a reason why a name on the waiting list should not be offered a rod that we should offer a rod to the first 18 names on the list.

Discussion took place on reintroducing a joining fee for new members. AH said that he thought it was important to the income of the Club. Returning members would not be expected to pay the fee. A vote to introduce a joining fee of £100 for new members was passed 5 votes for and 3 against.

DP asked AH to clarify the position with the insurance with the Angling Trust. AH to arrange this.

While discussing aspects of junior membership JG said that we should produce a risk assessment sheet to be handed to adults who accompany junior members. HB advised not to make the risk assessment prescriptive but to use the phrase strongly recommended. AH felt that a risk assessment should apply to all of us including day tickets AH agreed to produce the risk assessment.

DP raised the matter regarding rents. As AH still does not have access to Club funds DP has paid Paul Seaman for the Bintry fishing. HB said that we still do not have a license for Yarrow. HB said that despite raising the issue on a number of occasions with the Bidewell's representative Tom Corfield, we are still no closer in getting the new license.

Secretary's report:

DP said the he and KP had walked the river last week. A total of 50 fence posts require replacing on the Yarrow Beat, for ease of identification they have been marked with yellow paint. DP will contact John Savory with a request to replace the posts under our agreed terms. We will inspect the fence posts on Bintry when we carry out the fly sampling later this month. A small amount of work is required to be carried out before the start of the season; some patches of sweet grass will need to be removed from sections of the Yarrow beat along with some fallen branches. On Bintry we need to tidy up the enclosures by the picnic table and deep chub bend. DP thanked KF for the work he'd carried out on replacing the bridge over the meadow drain on the Yarrow Beat. RN enquired about access to the tools stored in the barn and if he could have one of the small hand scythes as it would be handy for him to take with him whilst fishing to trim bits and pieces of bankside vegetation.

Website/Facebook: HB contacted Bill Emrich about setting up a Facebook page. Bill said we would need a sponsor. RN said that he currently runs 3 Facebook pages and would be prepared to manage the Facebook page for the Chub. RN and JG said that members would need to have a Facebook profile to access the Facebook page. Problems with accessing the Club's website are to be discussed with Bill Emrich.

Electro Fishing: Discussed at the last meeting. DP contacted Jonah Tosney of the Norfolk Rivers Trust, who said he would be happy to carry out the work on behalf of the Club for a cost of £700. The committee agreed that we should proceed with the electro fishing in order to have a better understanding of the numbers and distribution of the wild fish population in the river. After some discussion on where best to carry out the electro fishing we agreed to be guided by Jonah. JG proposed that we agree the fee of £700 which was accepted by the committee. It was pointed out that we will not be removing any fish during this exercise.

Stocking: DP emailed members prior to the meeting with stocking options. Option 1 was for 480 fish, option 2 was for 360 fish. The response from committee members was split,

4 members voted for option 1 and 4 members voted for option 2. After discussion a compromise was reached to half the difference between the 2 options making the number of fish to be stocked would be 420. 4 stockings will be carried out, 2 in April and 2 in May. A number of members have expressed concern of the lack of fish in the top section of the Bintry beat. In the past few years this area has not been stocked. It was agreed that we should address this and begin stocking at the top section of the Bintry beat. KF expressed concern about putting too many fish in this area of the river due to the lack of cover, his concerns were duly noted, but, on the basis that the majority of stock fish move downstream post stocking it was felt that we needed to give this a go. The fish will ultimately decide whether to stay or go.

Yarrow flow deflectors: The committee agreed costs of £6,500 for 5 rivers to install the flow deflectors so they can go ahead get the work in their work plan.

AOB: KF asked why the Club had not offered a day's fishing in the WTT auction this year. HB said that he had been approached by the WTT regarding an entry but knew nothing at all about it, but would make enquiries; it appears that TL had been giving fishing days to the WTT without discussing it with the committee. After discussing the matter it was agreed that we will offer the WTT 2 days fishing next year, 1 day on Yarrow 1 day on Bintry. The Fishery will remain open to members on both days but day ticket will not be made available for the WTT day on the Yarrow beat.

Date of next meeting: 19th June 2019 at 10 a.m. at Stower Grange

Signed
Chairman

Date