



The Bintry Mill Trout Fishery

Fishing at Bintry Mill, Yarrow Farm and Vicarage Farm

Minutes of the committee meeting held on 19th June, 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. HB raised the matter of the fence post replacement, DP said that he is waiting until after the flow deflectors have been installed as there is no point in replacing the posts now if they were going to have to be taken out for the flow deflector work. AH raised the matter of day ticket sales and had spoken with Bill Emrich who said that it could be made simpler using online methods. RN outlined a few ways in which this could be made to work. JG said that he would look into the fish pass set up which is operated by West Coast Rivers Trust. AH went on to say that our current method which uses the website in combination with word documents is somewhat long winded. Further investigative work needs to be carried out in this respect.

Treasurer's report: AH presented the financial report with a forecast for year end. The bank account details were presented on one sheet with a balance of £22,842 and the year-end forecast on a separate sheet. AH has made a few assumptions with the forecast namely that hopefully we will sell a few more day tickets and an assumption on membership that needed clarification as some members appear not to have paid the full amount, DP explained that 2 members who had joined late were give a discount on their rod fee. HB stated that we did agree each new member would pay a joining fee of £100, based on an increase of 13 new members that is a total of £1,300, is this amount included in the figures. DP said that every new member has paid a joining fee of £100. DP said we need to see the accounts broken down to give more detail, this was noted. Other assumptions made by AH are a further stocking, the Yarrow Farm flow deflectors, river maintenance of £1000 and the unpaid Yarrow rent of £2000 and £700 for the electro fishing plus the insurance which AH had paid out of his own account and would need to

be claimed back. MR said that while discussing new members had we heard anymore from the Atkins family with regards a junior joining the Club. DP said he had not heard anymore. MR asked DP if any of the new members had mentioned a likely junior member joining the Club to which DP replied that he hadn't. AH mentioned that a couple of guys were not signing in correctly and that we need to tighten up on members who failed to do so. KF suggested that with so many new members a sample on how to sign in should be placed in the signing-in box. MR said that there is a sample already in the box of how to fill in the catch return cards. AH mentioned replacement cards. DP said that the original cards were provided by Reephram printers and were expensive, subsequent cards have been printed by KP for considerably less money. MR mentioned that the ring binder is not big enough to hold sufficient cards as he and others like to look back through the cards to see what's been caught. AH then proceeded to go through the risk assessment that he'd produced explaining the various elements, afterwards he asked if there was anything else that needed to be added. JG said we need to mention that anglers need to be aware of livestock. DP said we need to add the EA emergency number. A copy of the risk assessment will be placed in the signing-in box with a note requesting anglers to read it before signing in. It was suggested that a tick box be added to the catch return cards which members will be asked to tick saying that they have read the risk assessment.

Secretary's report: DP opened his report with the electro fishing which is due to take place this coming Monday. DP has spoken with Jonah Tosney who's suggesting we do three separate areas. The three areas that DP has identified are two on Bintry and one on Yarrow. The two areas on Bintry are the mill straight and the area from the tumble-down gate to the picnic table and the area on Yarrow by the Jamieson's garden. KF made the suggestion that we could use the punt to move the equipment, Jonah said that this would not be necessary as they would only be surveying areas that were wadable and all that would be required is the use of a 4x4 to transport the equipment. JG said that he was happy to use his vehicle. According to Jonah each section surveyed would be approximately 100 meters. The committee was asked if there were any other areas, we should be looking at, one was the section downstream from the Chairman's bench and the other area on Yarrow was downstream of the two right angled bends where the new flow deflectors are going. After lengthy discussion it was decided that we should be guided by Jonah but if time allows, we would look at other areas besides the three already mentioned.

DP said that the installation of the flow deflectors is due to commence week commencing 29th July, prior to that work starting a water vole survey has to be carried out of the flow deflector sites, this is planned for the 8th July. Rob Mungovan of the WTT will carry out the survey and has agreed to waive his fee but would like us to pay his expenses which equates to his mileage. Rob will mark the areas with canes. Should water voles be found where the deflectors are to be installed, we will have to adjust the position of the deflectors.

Working Party Concerns: DP raised his concerns regarding working parties. By increasing the membership to 60 there is potentially 177-man days available for working party activities. DP has only identified 85-man days which leaves a surplus of 92-man days. The implications of this means that we cannot fulfill the aspirations of all of the members who expect a refund of their £60 levy after completing 3 working party activities. HB said in that case we might get members complaining that they couldn't get their levy back. AH suggested scrapping WPL and just ask for volunteers. HB suggested that it would be far better to have regular WP members who are familiar with tools and equipment as opposed to using members who would struggle. DP said that we have a new member this year called Mark Williams who is extremely keen to work on the river. Mark spent two years creating his own fishery from scratch on the river Lyde in Hampshire so he has the necessary knowledge and experience to be an asset to the Club. HB suggested that we raise the matter of working parties at AGM.

Weed cutting: due to circumstances last year we didn't use the punt and cutter which means we didn't get to cut the weed in the deeper water. DP said that following the success with hand cutting last year with the new scythes do we continue with the same this year or do we want to use the punt and cutter, if we do, we will need to check over the cutter and possibly buy a new battery. The pros and cons of using the cutter raised a number of issues with regards to retaining and removing the cut weed. An option to use Harris fencing in conjunction with the net was discussed to retain the cut weed but we would need to do a dry run to see if it would work. KF said that using a digger to remove the weed was an accident waiting to happen especially at County School. JG said that David Cooper who's a member has a digger and would help if required. The consensus is to use the punt and cutter if at all possible.

Insurance Claim: KF. HB raised the matter of the damage to KF's truck and issues concerning his insurance claim. AH said that he had checked the Club's insurance and it does not cover vehicles. HB said that we must make it clear to members that if they use their vehicles off road on the Fishery they are not insured. DP said that he had spoken to a number of insurance companies about getting blanket cover for the Club so that members are covered to use their vehicle off road, none of the insurance companies contacted were prepared to offer cover. JG said he was aware that you are not covered to use your vehicle off road as he had made enquires regarding the use of his vehicle off road during the shooting season. You cannot get cover for off road use unless you are prepared to pay in excess of £1,400 and then it has to be a named vehicle. Most insurance policies cover you for use up to 50 feet off road and no more. HB said there that are two issues to decide here, one is KF's claim and the other is the Club's position that members are not insured. This raises another question over our ability to continue stocking and tagging. After the damage to KP's truck AH offered the Club the use of one of his older vehicles so that we could continue with the stocking and tagging. KF explained that he had not made a claim on his insurance due to a substantial claim he'd made last year, another claim would

increase his premium plus it would have a knock-on effect to other members of his family as he is a named driver on his wife's and son's insurance. At this point KF was asked to leave the room for the committee to rule on the issue. The committee decided to award Kevin 50% of the cost of his repairs plus allowing him to claim back dated mileage for last year and any mileage incurred this year whilst on Club duties.

Catch Returns: AH presented the catch returns for Apr and May. DP said the catch returns presented were very basic and that we need to see more information such as the number of days fished per beat and the average catch per rod. This information is required to complete the Catch Return Summary and the Fishery Statistics for the annual report. We also need to know at the end of the season how many members who have fished and not caught and the number of members who have not fished at all. It's these members who are most likely not to renew their membership next year. The committee agreed to post the catch returns on the website and Facebook.

Formalization of the sale of day tickets: It was agreed not to sell day tickets on consecutive days and no more than three per week AH suggested identifying weed cutting days on the website calendar. HB said that at the end of the season we need to ask the question, is the sale of day tickets crowding out members.

Yarrow license update: DP spoke to Tom Corfield (TC) last week expressing his concern that we are about to spend £6,500 on installing flow deflectors on Yarrow and we still do not have a license to fish. TC said that Cornelia Bidewell was quite happy for us to continue as normal and that a license would be issued in due course. We have already agreed the new license fee. In order to speed things up HB had drafted a new license and sent it to TC but he is insisting that Birkett's draft the license. TC has been blaming Birkett's for the delay since December last year. HB said he will send another email to TC stating that we are about to spend nearly £7,000 on the river and we need the license before we do the work.

Website/Facebook: RN gave an update on Facebook. Following a request DP has given RN a list of Club members so he is able to inform them of the Club's Facebook page. There are currently 8 members who subscribe to the site. There are still issues with access to parts of the website both AH and DP have raised access problems with Bill Emrich. RN said that he has limited access and has to rely on Bill to input data on his behalf. JG commented that he thought that Facebook would eventually take over from the website.

Any Other Business: AH asked can we finalize a rule in the event we are not going to tag fish that no fish should be taken below a 1lb in weight and nothing above 2lb in weight and how to identify stock fish from wild fish. HB said identification on how to spot the difference between wild and stock fish had already been circulated to members by Terry. Issues around tagging and the final stocking was discussed again. HB said he thought that the matter had been dealt with and that Richard Bolton would carry out the final stocking. HB said that we can email the membership to inform them that due to a problem with insurance cover we will no longer be tagging fish next year.

The amended Club rules were approved.

Date of next meeting: 18th September 2019 at 10 a.m. at Stower Grange

Signed

Chairman

Date