

Minutes of BMTF committee meeting - 15 January 2020

Present

Terry Lawton, chairman; Andy Hunt, treasurer; Richard Nelson, secretary; Mark Williams, river manager; Bill Emrich and Kevin Freezer

1 Apologies for absence

There were no apologies for absence

2 Chairman's report

TL thanked the committee for their attendance. He confirmed the hand-over of secretarial files and documents had been completed. He raised concerns over the minutes of the 34th AGM (24 November 2019) supplied by then secretary Dave Pitchers. He would be taking up the matter with Hugh Berridge (club chairman at that time) as a set of approved minutes will be required to file in the club's records. Similarly a signed set of minutes for the 33rd AGM was needed to replace the unsigned document currently on file.

3 Minutes of the last committee meeting

Held on 3 December 2019 were approved by the committee and signed off by the chairman

Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

4 Secretary's report

RN covered several pending action points:

A training company has been contacted to supply a day's safety training in chainsaw and brush cutter use. RN to set it up for some time in March with TL and MW attending.

He reported the list of members emailing their intention to rejoin now numbered 36 with one resignation. 23 members had still to respond. The waiting list was standing at 41 and AH had two further names to add.

The continuation of the fly-life sampling programme was discussed and TL agreed to approach Richard Slaughter to see if he would assist as he had been previously involved.

It was confirmed that a river walk would be organised at the start of the season for new members from the 2019 and 2020 intakes.

5 Treasurer's report

AH confirmed the club has a current bank balance of £15,000.42. Eight members had paid their 2020 rod fees. AH proposed and it was accepted

by the committee that the joining fee be increased to £150 (previously £100). He confirmed the rod fee for 2020 remained at £295. AH will contact our insurers and have our cover checked against the new clauses (appertaining to land-owner's protection) in the BMTF's licence agreements with our riparian owners.

6 River Manager's Report

MW presented details of the work carried out (so far) in the close season and a possible schedule of jobs to be completed before and during the 2020 season. It was agreed that no bank cutting takes place on the true left hand bank between the cattle drink and the top of the Bintry Mill beat. Leaving it uncut provides environmental benefits to the fishery. The imminent work parties on 18 and 19 January were discussed in relation to the high river levels. Work on the Goff's access postponed to a later date. Bank cutting dates had been agreed for 17 June and 17 August. TL had contacted Joihn Savory about replacing broken fence posts on the Yarrow Farm beat and had been quoted £471+VAT. It was agreed the club would go ahead and also ask for a cost to renew the fence at the back of the Yarrow car park including a gate onto the river bank.

8 Stocking

The committee acknowledged the vote at the 2019 AGM to maintain stocking at a similar level to last season. MW presented a stocking schedule based on the 2019 introduction dates and numbers of fish. In discussion it was agreed to delay the first stocking to allow members to fish for over-wintered fish and for the expected increase in trout food (insect life). The first stocking of 120 fish will be at the end of April and then four weeks later in May and four weeks after that in June. A final stocking in July may be considered taking into account river conditions and stock retention.

9 Revised Rules for 2020

TL outlined his revisions to the club rules, correcting some anomalies and bringing them into line with current practice. The changes were discussed and agreed and TL will email the revised document to all committee Members for approval.

10 AOB

AH wanted to examine ways of improving the potential for stocking and improving the fish retention of the County School and Goff's beats. TL had had an enquiry from Mike Rudd on behalf of Chris Doubleday's daughters about positioning a memorial bench on the fishery. RN sug-

gested somewhere near the bridge by Bintry Mill. TL to advise Mike Rudd.

11 Date of next meeting

11th March 2020 at 10am

The meeting ended at 12.30pm