

Resume of the minutes of BMTF committee meeting held at Corroless Ltd on 11 March 2020

Present

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

1 Apologies for absence

There were no apologies for absence

2 Chairman's report

TL welcomed and thanked the committee for their attendance. He said that we should have the confidence that what we are doing is right and be prepared to defend our actions against any criticism. Our stocking policy will take into account what the members at the AGM asked for and will be implemented with the least impact on our wild fish population and the good of the river. If we allow past practices to dictate what we do, we risk failing ourselves and the Club members who voted us into office.

He said that as a committee we are making significant improvements to the running and morale of the Club.

TL thanked Mark Williams and his team of volunteers for the tree work done over the closed season, hampered as it had been by high river levels. With a membership of 60 it is incumbent on us to provide more fishing or fishable water particularly by improving the County School Beat and the top of the Yarrow Farm Beat.

3 Minutes of the last committee meeting:

held at Corroless Ltd on 15 January 2020 were approved by the committee and signed off by the chairman

Matters arising

In response to a question from TL, AH advised the BMTF risk assessment document rolls on from season to season and only needs updating when changes and additions are required. The use of a 360° digger assisting with the weed cutting this season would require a separate risk assessment.

4 Secretary's report

RN reported on membership renewals and resignations for the 2020 season. Allowing for two queries to be resolved, there are likely to be seven

vacancies to be filled from the waiting list. Invitations will be sent out in the next few days. 2020 membership/bailiff cards are in production and will be posted to all members to arrive before 1 April when the season opens. New members will be invited to join a riverside walk to familiarise themselves with the fishing on 18 April.

5 Treasurer's report

AH confirmed the club has a current bank balance of £14,546.82. A few rod fees were outstanding from members we know will be rejoining. AH will look into the provision of a debit card for the use of the officers of the Club when purchasing materials and supplies. Riparian licences are due for payment on 1 April.

6 River Manager's Report

MW expressed concern that the off-season river work had been hampered by consistently high water levels. The clearance of cut branches on the Jamieson's property was still to be completed. Work on the Goff's access had been carried out. Stiles have been repaired and non-slip material applied to the treads. As soon as conditions allow, MH will reconvene the work parties to finish the winter clearance schedule.

It was agreed that the crew of the punt must wear a lifejacket at all times when afloat.

KF had visited Salix River and Wetland Services Limited at Croxton Park, Thetford, to collect 50 chestnut stakes. He was impressed with their range of materials and plants (aquatic and terrestrial) that we could utilise in future bank and river-bed improvements. KF and MW are investigating.

7 Membership – resignations and recruitment

This was dealt with in the secretary's report at item 4 above.

8 Stocking

The first stocking will be on 30 April and KF will collect the fish from the supplier. The trout will be tagged with a red tag and released in small numbers into the Bintry Mill and Yarrow Farm beats as in previous seasons. We have been advised by West Acre Fish Farm that as the weather warms up and the fish grow bigger, 100 fish is the maximum the delivery tank can hold.

9 Revised Rules for 2020

The rule changes were approved by the committee and will be published on the web site.

10 Revised catch returns

TL is working on a revise to the catch return cards. Examples and an explanation will be included in a forthcoming newsletter

11 AOB

There was no other business.

12 Date of next meeting

Tuesday 12 May 2020, 10am in the Corroless boardroom.