

HASSOCKS ANGLING

MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT THE JACK AND JILL PUBLIC HOUSE FRIDAY 20 OCTOBER 2023

20 Members on the signing in book so insufficient for a Quorum

1)Opening Address by the Club President John Sach.

a)John Sach thanked the Committee for their work over the last year. The Club is still looking for land or a pond to purchase. Confirmed that he was standing down as President. Thanks were given for his work over the last three years

2)Period of silence

Since the Last AGM we have lost the following three members. Eric Crowe, Ray Bowley and Ken Penney

3)Apologies for Absence

Ian Fisher, Neil Fisher, Jean Fisher, Roy Fisher, Rob Beattie, Nigel Jackson, Martin James, Peter Knight

4)Matters Arising from 2022 Minutes

a)Comment from the floor and the Chair that it was difficult to discuss Matters Arising as the minutes were not included in the pack provided to the attendees. The minutes are available to members as they are published on the website after the AGM. However this is a valid concern as it is very difficult to remember what had been decided a year ago.

b)A summary of the minutes from the 2022 AGM was provided by the Admin Officer - no questions were raised.

Accept the 2022 minutes.

Proposed by Dave Harper

Seconded by Jeremy Scholes. Passed by a show of hands Majority vote.

c)Discussion as to how this could be improved for 2024. There was a proposal that the previous years minutes be included in the information pack but this is already 13 pages long*.

5)Proposed rule changes.

Two changes proposed by the Committee

a)Amend rule 9(1)iii "Seniors over the age of 65 at the time ofto " Seniors who have reached the state retirement age at the time of" ...

b)Reduce Quorum to 20

As there were only 20 people attending there were insufficient under current regulations to make any rule changes

No formal written proposals have been received from members.

c) There was a lengthy discussion on the future of the club, meetings etc as it is very difficult to make any decisions on behalf of the club if we do not have enough members attending the AGM. It may be necessary to call an Extraordinary General Meeting (Spring 2024) explaining the administrative problems we are currently facing due to the apathy of members. One suggested solution was the use of proxy votes as this may be a way to at least change the Quorum position.

6) Election of Board Members (Directors and Non- Executive Officers) etc

a) Election of Officers.

Steve Pead CEO and Match Secretary.

John Sach President **Standing down**

Greg Brown Treasurer

Tony Elkins Admin Officer and Maintenance (**Standing down as Maintenance Officer**)

Jean Fisher Membership Secretary

Roy Fisher Head Bailiff (**Standing Down**)

Malcolm York Assistant Bailiff

Nigel Jackson Junior Liaison Officer, Steve Pead Assistant (**Junior Liaison team being disbanded**).

Tony Smith Members representative

Dave Harper Assistant and Seniors Match Secretary and Members representative

b) Any proposals for replacements to the above plus any new committee members and any nominations for Treasurer * **None received**

c) Greg Brown mentioned that any junior issues could be redirected to Haywards Heath Angling club as they have a particularly successful junior team and hold regular events aimed at junior and in experienced anglers

d)(i) Discussion with regard to changing how maintenance and Bailiffing is done. Suggestions include allocating two or three members to bailiff and maintain waters. For example George Cragg and Badgers Wood could be "Managed by a team, ditto Wildings and Masons, Decoy and Oldmans etc.

(ii) Chris Poore suggested that we could consider increasing membership charges to cover the cost of using outside contractors. Another item to be include at any proposed EGM (see 5© above).

(iii) Provided there is no objections from any new Maintenance Officer, Tony Elkins offered to "Manage" Badgers Wood, George Cragg and Electricity pond along with the previous maintenance team (if fit) plus John Sach and Jeremy Scholes.

(iv) Tony Smith requested that Bailiffs badges be made available to all members. This will be highlighted in the next news letter and if anyone is interested they should to contact Greg Brown.

d) Existing Directors will continue to serve.

e) There was a lengthy discussion regarding how new officers should be aware of the amount of commitment that is required to serve as a club officer. Hugh Neatherway made the point that it is not all "doom and gloom" as he attended a very successful work party

at Wildings (20 October) when 7 members turned up to repair the damaged track. He also mentioned that the annual Badgers Wood tidy up is always very well attended.

f) John Sach advised that a work party has been arranged to repair the landslip on the causeway at Decoy. There are enough attending so no need for additional volunteers.

7) Financial Matters

a) Pegging fees or waive if no engraving. ? Dave Harper has carried out a straw poll of the affected members and so far nine are in favour of no pegging fees and a digital record with four in favour of continuing the existing method of charging a pegging fee and engraving trophies. Once he has received replies from all those targeted a decision will be made. In the meantime there will be no change to the rate of pegging fees

b) Honoraria/Expenses. No quorum so no change

c) 2023 Membership fees. No quorum so no change.

Break for refreshments and an opportunity to read the reports

a) Approval of Accounts

(i) Greg Brown made a presentation with regard to the current finances of the club. As indicated on the Income and Expenditure statement there was a surplus of just over £12000 for the year to 31 March 2023.

(ii) Hugh Neatherway queried the increase in rent from the previous year from £15200 to £19200. The reason is a one off payment for the rental of Weirwood Reservoir (£4000 for a five year lease).

(iii) Greg Brown explained the cost of providing membership cards for members and in particular that juniors receive a card even though they don't have to pay for a Membership. He also mentioned the general clubmate costs. It works out at £6.60 per member plus 2.8% of any fee paid. Dave Morris suggested a charge of £5 be levied if members would like a card. It was pointed out that if we went to a non card system although Bailiffs should be able to call up membership details on mobile phones there is a not always a good internet reception at some of our waters. Another item for an EGM.

Accounts approval

Proposed by Hugh Neatherway

Seconded by Allan Butcher. Passed by a show of hands Majority vote

8) Any Other Business and Open forum

a) Tony Elkins. Reminded all present of the tidy up at Badgers Wood on Saturday 18 November start at 9 o'clock.

b) Hugh Neatherway asked if it would be possible to purchase an aerator for Badgers wood. In view of security issues and the lack of electricity on site a solar powered version would be the best option. Tony Elkins will check with the Angling Trust and Environment Agency as in the past they have provided funding for equipment including aerators.

c) Dave Harper. Could we introduce an alcohol ban on all our waters.
Proposed by Dave Harper, Seconded By Jeremy Scoles.

Although approved by a show of hands as this is a change of club rules it cannot take effect until at least October 2024 as :-

- (i) It was not proposed in writing 6 weeks before the meeting as per rule 23(1) and
- (ii) There was insufficient for a Quorum.

d) Malcolm York. Could we restrict ground bait to a maximum of 2kg per visit. It was mentioned that this could be difficult to monitor and one option would be to introduce this if any of our venues suffered with poor water quality. Tony Elkins offered to contact the Environment agency to see if they have the capacity to carry out water quality tests.

e) Pete Dreyer pointed out that access to the Adur at Wineham was restricted as the owner had placed farm machinery in the field, in front of the gates (Frylands Lane). These were put in place to prevent vehicles gaining access to the fields along the lane. The owner will be contacted to see if this a permanent fixture. Tony Smith mentioned that there was now a padlock on the gate at the Cemetary Wood entrance. The owner put this on after members lifted the gate off its hinges to gain access (presumably to avoid lifting trolleys over the gate and stile).

f) Allan Butcher asked what was the current position with regard to the Electricity pond. He had offered or had been asked to completed an Affidavit of Due Execution as evidence of our "ownership" to put to National Grid. It was explained that despite what we had been lead to believe there was no actual written evidence held by members or in the club records indicating our ownership of the pond. We have sent them documents going back to 1974 but these did not show that we actually owned the pond. As it currently stands they are not prepared to transfer the pond to us (for free) or even purchase it. The only option available to secure tenure even if it is short term was to sign a contract at £250 per annum.

As we had received an alternative proposal both were put to the committee for consideration.

Option 1 - Sign the contract or Option 2 - Complete the Affidavit with any subsequent consequences. The committee voted with 6 in favour of signing the contract and 3 no votes. The contract has still to be signed by National Grid. The Admin Officer will contact them for an update.

g) Tony Elkins advised that there has been a planning application made at East Hoathley for houses believed to be going into the field to the north of Decoy lake. In addition land to the North of the road leading into the village has been or is being sold. Whilst it is still early days there could be a substantial increase to the footfall along the public footpath that runs alongside the lake. Whilst it may well result in additional members the downside is that it may lead to an increase in illegal fishing and general anti social behavior. Dave Harper has seen a recent increase in bottles and cans at the venue. It was put to the floor that despite the popularity of the water we may have to consider selling the lake. However this is another matter which should be out to the members at an Extraordinary General Meeting or if nothing has happened by next year it can be included as an agenda item for the 2024 AGM.

Allan Butcher advised that the lake and land was purchased using funds/grant monies from the Sports Council so we should check the Land Certificate to see if there are any restrictions on selling the land and in particular if there is an "overage" clause (also known as clawback). An overage clause could mean mean that a percentage of any profit would go back to the Sports Council or their successors.

h) Dave Morris mentioned the question of the proxy vote again. If we go down this rote we would ensure it is worded to ensure it satisfies current club/company rules.

Meeting ended at 9.50 pm

Steve Pead thanked all for attending.

*Subsequent to the meeting the Club Treasurer and Admin Officer discussed this issue and the following has been suggested. When the email inviting members to the AGM is sent out (usually a couple of weeks before the due date) a copy of the previous year's minutes will be attached to the email. Members can then re-read them and if necessary run off a copy to bring to the AGM.