

NUAC Annual General Meeting

Tuesday 17 May 2022

7.30pm – 9.10pm

Minutes taken by: Patrick Aikens & Jon Weyer

Version & Issue Date: 17/06/2022 v0.2

Present: Jon Weyer (JW), Patrick Aikens (PA), Nick Walpole (NW), Jim Sutherland (JS), Scott Maunder, Dave Watson, Richard Spicker (RS), Colin Heinen, Paul Pegg & Steve Rawlings (SR).

Apologies: Dave Shearing, Paul Scarff (PS), David Shorter, Scott Swift & Jason Brewster (JB).

Minuted Items	Action Owner(s)
<p>1. Introduction</p> <p>Meeting held at The World's End, Mulbarton. JW chaired & minuted in Jason's absence due to Covid, PA would cover Membership Report in addition to presenting Accounts. PA also tracked Actions/Decisions/Comment.</p> <p>Brief introductions given by attendees. JW opened the meeting and thanked everyone for attending – it was good to get back to face-to-face.</p>	
<p>2. Minutes & Matters Arising</p> <p>JW reviewed matters arising from previous AGM run on Tuesday 18 May 2021.</p> <p>Memorial Match (Simon Clay & Mike Hoyland)</p> <p>JW did not receive any support on this matter so the Committee considered some alternative ways to remember Simon & Mike with annual awards in their names being adopted:</p> <p><u>Mike Hoyland Award</u></p> <p>For The Most Unexpected Carp Capture in a season. Nominees must have been fishing for another species or general fishing. In many ways the story will be as important as the capture.</p> <p><u>Simon Clay Award</u></p> <p>Award for the best Broads catch or the best non-carp specimen from a NUAC water. Again, the story of the day is of great interest</p> <p>Awards (& criteria) will be available on the website with supporting promotion via Facebook & other club communications. The Committee reserve the right not to award annually.</p> <p>JW thanked Paul Scarff & Jason Brewster for providing their recollections of fishing with Mike & Simon respectively (see below for transcripts).</p> <p>Wensum Valley Angling Discount</p> <p>JB promoted again on 12 June 2021 via Facebook & website.</p> <p>Wensum, Oram's Farm</p> <p>SR investigated this matter and reported that stretch is currently closed pending NDR deliberations, but owner is open to being approached circa April 2023. This activity has been diarised in committee calendar.</p> <p>Bawburgh, Small Lakes</p> <p>Scott Swift approached this water on our behalf; Owner is not interested in any arrangement.</p> <p>Minutes proposed by PA, seconded by RS and accepted as a true reflection by attendees</p>	
<p>3. Review of 2021-22</p> <p>JW presented an overview of the season.</p> <p>2020-21 dominated by Covid, lockdowns, loss of Shallowbrook, Mack's Farm and the Wroxham Boat and loss of Committee members. This time last year The Grove was still closed, there was extensive weed growth, otters & cormorants had been operating on the water undisturbed; Cost in time & effort on the water out of balance with the angling experience & usage.</p>	

A new owner at Bridge Inn Fishery (BIF) meant brokering a new relationship in preparation for negotiating our renewal. Plus JB had stepped back from membership role. Uncertainty regards the new 2021-22 season.

In JB's absence PA presented the membership report:

Thanks to Leanne Dunn (& Nick Walpole) for stepping in to cover renewals, went very smoothly (not sure our members noticed) and was much appreciated.

With 50% of 2020-21 membership living within 5 miles of Shallowbrook we were a little nervous about 2021-22 renewals.

In the end we lost [REDACTED] members; a few had fished Mack's Farm, BIF or Hall Walk but the majority ([REDACTED]) had never made a booking. Assume those that left only joined to fish Shallowbrook; unlikely to have such a skewed membership in future given our commitment to maintain long-term relationship with our partner fisheries.

No change to membership fee for 2022-23.

Renewal email will be issued tomorrow, Wednesday 18th May.

JW thanked Jason for the report

JW felt our worst fears were not realised, our membership was better understood, our relationship with Bridge was strong, and that JB was now able to support us again. With circa [REDACTED] members membership was feeling far better balanced against a smaller Committee. Last summer had focussed on business as usual and there had been no need for a Committee meeting until March 2022. JW felt that this break had benefitted the Committee.

New members strategy required to maintain numbers to ensure permit income covers costs and a desire for new Committee talent and/or help on the bank. Some success with Scott Swift joining the Committee and Scott Maunder (and family!!), among others, providing regular help at The Grove. It was feeling right to be a small club – it will drive our renewal strategy this year, some loss of membership count is OK, & we could cherry-pick new members. JW's caveat was that we still could not see a "next generation" Committee, so no succession plan for running the club.

Estimate we spent 120 hours last summer maintaining access to The Grove this is not viable in the long run. Club has made this clear to Leonard Cheshire (LC) and have negotiated reduced rate reflecting the extra cost required to maintain fishing access.

Keen to improve the viability of fishery by brokering Environment Agency (EA) support and persuading LC to own any possible long-term plan that might arise. Initial EA discussion has highlighted 2 funds that are aimed at improving a fishery or protecting fish stocks. Funds are provided on a matched basis once an improvement plan is agreed (plan covers work and investment). Once project has completed EA will provide "free" stocking of agreed species e.g. crucian & tench. Next step will be to engage with LC although not optimistic, given the scale of investment.

JS suggested that the club take the lead on this activity in return for a long-term lease. JW responded that we are unlikely to have the capacity to plan nor manage this work. And the feasibility of fencing this venue to protect fish stocks is questionable thus undermining long-term viability of any investment.

As indicated by analysis triggered by the loss of Shallowbrook the club is reliant on BIF and Hall Walk. A smaller membership goes some way to reducing the pressure on these venues, we are still vulnerable to members of these waters complaining about our access. So, we have introduced a fair usage policy which means each member will be limited to 18 bookings on each of these waters. This policy also provides a clear differentiator between our access and that offered by the fisheries themselves.

Pleased to welcome Scott Swift to the committee who had indicated his interest in new waters at last year's AGM. And pleased to announce SS has brokered NUAC access to the River Wensum at Taverham Mills Fishery. From 16 June two tickets can be booked to fish this ¾ mile stretch of

<p>the Wensum which includes 2 weir pools, gravel runs, fringed by lilies and reeds with the prospect of chub, dace, roach, perch, pike & maybe small barbel. JW believed that our smaller membership proved beneficial when brokering this deal with TMF.</p>	
<p>4. 2021 - 2022 Accounts</p> <p>The accounts will be removed/redacted when these minutes are published.</p> <p>Copies of the accounts were given to the attendees at the beginning of the meeting.</p> <p>PA confirmed that despite the number of paying members reducing by [REDACTED] from the previous year resulting in a shortfall of income of £[REDACTED] this was balanced by the reduction in expenditure due to the loss of Shallowbrook and the reduction in the fee paid on the Grove.</p> <p>There were no other significant changes from the previous year's accounts.</p> <p>This resulted in a profit on £[REDACTED]</p> <p>Based on the current budget for 2022-23 and considering the new water at Taverham Mills we anticipate that we should break even with a similar number of members as last year. There is no need to increase the membership fee or seek more members.</p> <p>The current account is standing at £[REDACTED] and the Savings account at £[REDACTED]. PA confirmed that the club continues to be cash rich and can take on new water opportunities that may arise in future.</p> <p><<Accounts 2021-22 pdf removed>></p> <p>PA thanked Adrian Poole for once again auditing the accounts for the club.</p> <p>Accounts proposed by JW and seconded by RS and approved by attendees.</p>	
<p>5. Election of Chairman</p> <p>JW confirmed he was prepared to continue in his role as temporary Chairman.</p> <p>JW resigned and PA took chair of the meeting.</p> <p>JW proposed by NW, seconded by JS and unanimously re-elected by attendees.</p> <p>PA returned chair of meeting to JW.</p>	
<p>6. Election of Treasurer</p> <p>JW confirmed that PA will continue in this role.</p> <p>PA proposed by RS, seconded by NW and unanimously re-elected by attendees.</p>	
<p>7. Election of Secretary</p> <p>JW confirmed that JB will continue in this role.</p> <p>JB proposed by JW, seconded by PA and unanimously re-elected by attendees.</p>	
<p>8. Election of Committee</p> <p>JW confirmed that there had been no new nominations to join the committee.</p> <p>JW confirmed that Nick Walpole, Stu Buck, Jim Sutherland and Scott Swift will continue on the committee.</p> <p>Committee proposed by PA seconded by RS and unanimously re-elected by attendees.</p> <p>JW advised that Brett Larke and John Thorne look after our interests at Snetterton and Filby respectively "off Committee" and thanked them for their support.</p>	
<p>9. Any Other Business</p> <p>Committee support</p>	

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<p>JS advised that he hoped to take a more active role from October this year.</p> <p>He hoped to try to introduce young people to fishing by contacting various organisations like colleges, NCFC youngsters etc and arrange project/activity parties to the Grove. JW confirmed that would be an excellent idea and suggested that with his contacts he could help SS in seeking new waters for the club.</p> <p>JW confirmed that Dave Shearing who had served on the committee for several years would not be renewing his membership and will be missed.</p>	
<p>10. Meeting Closed 21:10</p> <p>JW thanked everyone for attending and for their contributions.</p>	

Attachments

Fishing with Mike Hoyland (Paul Scarff)

One thing you could never say about fishing with Mike was that it was dull. He was the best company, and during times when bites were thin on the ground, his stories from his youth kept you royally entertained, as did his antics if any “wildlife” came near (especially cows!). He also had the inane ability to pull in specimen carp when least expected, especially from rivers.

One evening in September, Julian and I joined him down on the “A” stretch of the Wensum looking to fish into dark, after some of the large chub we had heard of. We hadn’t had the stretch long, and wondered if any of the Barbel being caught just upstream might stray into our part of the river.

As it got dark, we could easily tell where Mike was, as every few minutes a very bright spotlight appeared out of the darkness, in reaction to something rustling in the undergrowth. Suddenly we heard the swish as he struck, followed by “Oh Shit! – help”

Fearing he had caught one of the Hippies that occasionally processed on the far bank, with drums and bells (it’s unbelievable what you see when quietly fishing), we ran to see what the problem was.

We found Mike furiously backwinding, with his light leger rod bent double, and the line disappearing downstream.

I think it’s a Barbel he says – we shone a light on the water and saw a fish of some size attached to his line, but too far away to identify it. It swam up and down past us a number of times, with Mike inching it closer to our bank – eventually close enough to get it to swim into a landing net (I’m not sure it knew it was hooked!)

I hauled it up the bank, with some difficulty, and we then opened the net in amazement, staring at a 23lb carp (at that stage we didn’t know there were any in there). I then had to run across the fields, jump into my car, rush home and back with a camera so we could get some snaps for a really chuffed Mike.

Pictures taken the fish was released back to swim away strongly. Further amusement was had eight months later at the Annual Dinner, when Mike picked up the Specimen Trophy for this capture – to the utter amazement of Martin Green, who rented us the fishing, and had been pestering us for months to sell him a large carp, also not realising his stretch of the river held them all the time!

The following season I met Mike at Costessey Mill, again for a Chub session. We fished below the weir, with Mike legering some incredibly smelly meat balls under the weir apron. It was a slow session, although the conversation was good as always. We were just about to pack up, when Mike’s rod shot off down the bank – followed by a diving catch from Mike, who managed to just grab it as it entered the water. Fifteen minutes later, I slid the net under a scale perfect 18lb common carp! He also caught a large carp whilst fishing a match on the river – it’s strange, I fished many times with Mike at the Pines, and I don’t ever recall him catching a carp.

Fishing with Simon Clay (Jason Brewster)

Simon was fortunate to fish all sorts of waters, in various countries, for all species, employing whatever method was required to catch something. Despite these varied opportunities and resulting experiences the Broads always remained close to his heart. It

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wasn't a surprise to hear that this was where he & his brother learnt to fish. If you were lucky Simon would regale you of tales about misty autumnal days, sat in a boat on the River Bure long trotting for roach when big nets of stamp fish were common.

Apart from competing with Simon in NUAC matches I was fortunate to share a few outings with him. We had a few successful outings to the Yare at Postwick where we were lucky to get amongst the bigger bream with both of us landing fish over 6lb. On one end of season trip we blew out at Postwick and rather than end our season early we chanced our luck at Cantley. The river gods were on our side, we only managed a dozen fish between us but each was a vivid blue backed, silver flanked, red finned 1lb+ roach. Happy days indeed.

So in honour of Simon we would love to hear about your fishing on the Broads, be it bumper nets of silvers, big roach or bream, a clonking perch or even a monster pike.