

**Angling Trust Subscribing Members Association
Annual General Meeting 2015**

Minutes

11:00am, Saturday 17 October 2015

Barston Lakes, Barston, Solihull, West Midlands B92 0LB

In Attendance for Angling Trust Ltd:

George Stevenson – Chairman and Director
Mark Lloyd – Chief Executive
Dick Vincent – Director
David Kent – Director
Sarah Collins – Director
Nigel Haywood – Director
Stuart Sharp – Head of Finance and Business and Company Secretary
John Cheyne – Regions Co-ordinator

In attendance – AT member Clubs:

Astwood Bank AC	Stuart Sharp
Devises AA	Terry Fell
Long Eaton Victoria	David Kent
Nottingham Piscatorial Society	Dale Whittaker & Keith Horsley
Pike Anglers Club	Eric Edwards
Sutton Coldfield AS	Don Jones
King's Lynn AA	Kelvin Allen
Fenton & District AS	Peter Fieldhouse
Invicta (Cams) FC	David Moore
Wessex Fly Fishers	Paul Eslinger
Lure Anglers Canal Club	John Cheyne

In attendance – Other member organisations:

Get Hooked on Fishing	Sarah Collins
Thames Forum and CRT	John Ellis
NE Forum	Robert Murray
East Anglia Forum	Kelvin Allen
North West Forum	David Vickery
Predation Action Group	Chris Burt

In attendance – Individual Members:

Dick Vincent	Mark Lloyd	George Stephenson
David Kent	Sarah Collins	Nigel Hayward
David Moore	Stuart Sharp	John Cheyne
Peter Fieldhouse	Terry Fell	John Ellis
Dale Whittaker	Keith Horsley	David Vickey
Kelvin Allen	Eric Edwards	Chris Burt
Robert Murray	Don Jones	Paul Eslinger

In attendance - Non-members:

Ian Oates

Apologies:

Jim Baldwin

Proxies:

- Individual and club proxies had been received.

- 1. Welcome from the Chairman:** George Stevenson (GS) introduced himself as Chairman of the Angling Trust, welcomed all to the Angling Trust members AGM, which will be followed by the Fish Legal AGM at 12pm. GS also referred to the accident on the M42 motorway, which may have delayed some members in attending. GS introduced Richard Vincent (Chairman Fish Legal), Mark Lloyd (Chief Executive AT & FL) and Stuart Sharp (Company Secretary).

GS informed all that this is the Angling Trust members AGM stated he wished to address the official business first prior to giving the Chairman's "outlook" and advised that the Chief Executive's report, instead of being presented as item 2 on the agenda, would now occur after the Fish Legal AGM.

- 2. Minutes of 2014 AGM:** GS presented the minutes of the 2014 Subscribing Members Association AGM to the meeting and sought comments on those minutes. All those present voted in favour of adopting the minutes as a true record.
- 3. Election of Nominated Directors:** No directors were due for election or re-election.
- 4. Chairman's Report:** GS gave a brief overview on the year's activities, which is reproduced below:

"Ladies and Gentlemen – I am shortly going to ask Mark Lloyd our Chief Executive to give you an update on some of our more relevant activities over the past year and an insight as to what is going on today and our plans for the future. However, firstly, with my Chairman's hat on, I would like to say a few words, mostly of thanks to all those people who have given time, effort and support to the Angling Trust during the past year. I could mention any number of individuals by name, and thank them for their sterling efforts on behalf of the Angling Trust – but I would certainly forget someone, and that would be unforgiveable, so cop out or not, I'm going to restrict it to saying a very big thank you to all the Angling Trust staff, whether paid or as volunteers, senior or junior, whether behind a desk, or running a competition, leading a campaign, raising funds, or as a Director! You have all often gone beyond the call of duty on behalf of the Angling Trust thank you.

Whilst on that subject I would particularly like to thank Bob Dyer, Jo Hyde and Clive Collier who have all served on the Board for several years and given wise and generous counsel - they have stepped down as Directors during the

course of the year. I would also like to pay special thanks to Mick Turner who has been running competitions for several decades, for the National Federation of Anglers and the Angling Trust, all in an entirely voluntary capacity. We will be marking his retirement with a presentation later this year.

At this moment I feel a bruise appearing on my left/right shin from the extensive battering it's receiving from the person on my left/right! Ladies and Gentlemen any mention of thanks to individuals within the Angling Trust would be wide of the mark (excuse the pun!) if it didn't mention Mark Lloyd. His work load is huge, his enthusiasm is huge, his intelligence is huge – I better leave it there! But the Angling Trust would not be the body that it is, it would not have achieved the successes that it has achieved and it would not be such a powerful force for good in the world of fish and fishing if it were not for Mark Lloyd – Mark thank you very much!

Whilst the year to March 2015 was difficult in financial terms, with serious issues in Environment Agency contracts, and specifically payment schedules, we have weathered the storm and emerged with a new and expanded 4 year contract with the Environment Agency – about which we are very excited! At the same time we entered and won a competition in Trout and Salmon Magazine for a campaign to Save Our Salmon – this will run through the winter and I urge those of you who haven't seen it to have a look, and those that can please support it with as much as you can! As ever, our competitions have grown both in popularity and scale, and our national teams have had a brilliant year at the world, European and home nations championships. There are simply too many gold medals to mention – but congratulations are due to all involved.

However, I must highlight two of our most pressing challenges – Membership and Fundraising! We need to increase both! Every Member, every club, every supporter needs to do all they can to promote membership, to promote our raffle (tickets still available!) and promote sponsorship generally! The more support we have, the more money we have, the more we can do to improve our service and ultimately help fish and fishermen! Government cuts, Environment Agency cutbacks, if combined with public apathy, mean that we the angling community will have to do more if we want to protect and better still boost the sport that we all love! I urge you to canvas your fishing friends, to galvanise them into supporting us, The Angling Trust and Fish Legal, by becoming Members, or at least subscriber members initially, buying raffle tickets and making us a powerful voice in political circles! A really loud unified voice for fishing would be a great legacy for us to hand down to our children and for the generations to follow! We've made a great start, but there remains so much more to do.

Thank you

I realise that time is short and I have spoken for too long but I now handover to Mark Lloyd.”

5. Chief Executive's Presentation: ML gave a brief presentation of Angling

Trust's activities and challenges, informing all that club membership had grown to 1,600 of which approximately 1,000 are also Fish Legal members. However, ML stressed that Angling Trust needs to grow individual membership from 12,000. ML highlighted that those member clubs have approximately 400,000 members between them and their members should be encouraged to join Angling Trust as individual members. ML reported that fishery and trade membership is also growing from a low base.

ML informed the meeting of the steps taken over the year to ensure that Angling Trust works in conjunction with, but separately, with Fish Legal. This being due to the need to ensure that Fish Legal's independence and solicitors' regulation is not compromised.

ML highlighted the work that Angling Trust is undertaking with other organisations, including the Rivers Trust and Get Hooked on Fishing, and that Angling Trust is developing memorandums of understanding for working with the Angling Trades Association and GAIA.

ML reported on the National Angling Survey and the reasons as to why people do not fish or fish as often as they would choose. A common theme through the survey was pollution, predation, poaching and parching (low flows). Sea anglers reported that commercial over-fishing had affected their sport. A large number of anglers reported that greater access to local fishing opportunities and information on local fishing would be useful.

[A copy of Mark Lloyd's presentation to the AGM is available for download from the Angling Trust website.]

6. Questions from the floor: There were no questions.

Q1) Peter Fieldhouse asked whether we had thought about asking AT member clubs about their volume of junior anglers. PF's own club has seen a steady reduction from 500 juniors to 69.

A) Mark Lloyd welcomed this idea and will discuss with the membership team.

Q2) Chris Burt introduced background to merger of Specimen Anglers Alliance into the Angling Trust and reported that members were of the view that predation by otters could not be dealt with. CB reported that he has since met with the Wildlife Trust, MAFF, SACG and other bodies. CB believes that Angling Trust is alienating 300,000 carp anglers, plus barbell and tench anglers and stated that Yorkshire alone has lost £2.7m worth of carp. CB stated that they have encouraged AT to tackle otter predation, but that AT has in his opinion failed to address the issue. CB highlighted that in the latest AT publication, that otter predation was not mentioned. CB suggests that to avoid a public row, AT must address the issue.

ML explained that otter predation is in AT's plan and that funding that could be used for fencing has been obtained from the Environment Agency.

CB rejected the £200,000 fund as insufficient, stating that each lake costs

£20,000 and that there are thousands of waters.

ML reported that AT is also campaigning on the environmental aspect of predation.

CB suggested that Fish Legal should apply for a licence from Natural England to remove an otter.

ML questioned where such removed otters would be relocated.

Ian Oates stated that Natural England had reported that no applications for licences for removal had been received.

Terry Fell reported that working together is essential, which is why as the final president of the NFA he agreed to the merger into a single body.

Q3) Terry Fell reported that England are very successful in securing medals in angling. TF urged the Board to consider supporting the England teams financially, as the participating anglers do so at their own cost. TF suggested getting the anglers in front of Sport England.

Sarah Collins replied that Sport England's brief is to grow participation in grass roots sport, not to support elite teams.

Q4) Dale Whittaker sought clarification on insurance cover for Level 1 coaches working with juniors. DW explained that he has two L2 coaches and four L1 coaches, but that L1 coaches cannot work alone with children.

Sarah Collins replied that this is not angling specific but a wider issue, with Level 1 coaches only being Assistant Coaches.

Peter Fieldhouse commented that Level 1 coaches are not trained in first aid or safeguarding.

David Moore suggested that the Talent Pathway may be able to provide some assistance to the elite juniors.

Q5) Don Jones asked if the Bass minimum landing sizes rules applies to mainland Europe as bass are available for sale.

ML reported that the MLS rules are not applicable and that some of the fish for sale are farmed. ML reported that the French opposed their introduction.

Meeting closed at 12:00pm