

These minutes are draft and will not be formally approved until the 2016 AGM

## Minutes of Fish Legal Annual General Meeting

12:00pm, Saturday, 17 October 2015  
Barston Lakes, Solihull, B92 0LD

### In Attendance for Fish Legal:

Dick Vincent – Chair and Committee member  
George Stephenson – Committee member  
David Moore – Committee member  
Mark Lloyd – Chief Executive  
Stuart Sharp – Head of Finance and Business and Fish Legal Treasurer

### In attendance – FL member Clubs:

Astwood Bank AC	Stuart Sharp
Devises AA	Terry Fell
Long Eaton Victoria AS	David Kent
Nottingham Piscatorial Society	Dale Whittaker & Keith Horsley
Sutton Coldfield AS	Don Jones
King's Lynn AA	Kelvin Allen

### 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 Glasspool – Committee member  
Tim Goode – Committee member  
Mike Heylin – Committee member  
Bill Howarth – Committee member  
Andrew Nathan – Committee member  
Andrew Wallace – Committee member

1. **Welcome from the Chairman:** Dick Vincent (DV) welcomed everyone to the

meeting and declared the meeting quorate with the more than 5 members present. DV introduced himself, the other members of the FL committee, Mark Lloyd (Chief Executive) and Stuart Sharp (Treasurer).

2. **Chairman's Address:** DV addressed the meeting, the content of which is reproduced below:

*"Before moving on to the other formal parts of today's agenda, I would like to say a few introductory words about our activities from the Chair's perspective.*

*Our mission remains unchanged-to protect the water environment, to fight for your fishing rights and to seek compensation for any damage to these.*

*Over the four years since taking on the role as your Chair I have been particularly focussed on working with the team to maintain very high standards of service to members, on clarifying and building our relationship with the Angling Trust and on growing the fighting fund that enables our small association to take on some of the biggest companies in the country, and win.*

*I trust that these continue to meet your wishes for FL. As we'll hear in more detail from Mark, we continue to build momentum and achieve some notable successes against these goals.*

*Financially the year ended 31 March 2015 exceeded our expectations. You will recall last year that we planned to use a substantial part of the exceptional surplus in 2014 from the Sawley cost recoveries to invest in several key areas to reinforce the foundations of FL for its longer term future. These included upgrading the legal team's time recording system, developing a new website, and building our finance and HR capability. We warned members that these costs were likely to push FL into deficit for 2015. In the event, however, thanks to very generous members' legacies and donations over the past year we have absorbed the costs of some of those investments but still delivered a surplus of over £50,000. However, some of the investments have been delayed to this year, and so it's looking likely that we will make a loss in the current year, after several years of surpluses, but every effort is being made by your Committee and the FL staff team with support from AT to keep any deficit as small as possible.*

*I am also delighted to be able to report that our legal team has provided a record level of service to you, our members, as well as maintaining our outstanding track record of legal wins. Our tenacious team continue to punch well above our weight supported, as ever, by the Legal Advisory Committee, that group of very senior legal litigation and environmental professionals who, out of their passion for our mission at Fish Legal, give an incredible amount of their very valuable time for free to provide top quality advice and guidance to our team on behalf of you our members and really helps give us the edge at the sharp end. Their commitment and guidance is hugely appreciated. Thank You on behalf of all members.*

*Your Committee has met on a number of occasions over the past year to*

*oversee the activities of the organisation, receiving formal reports from the legal team and the executive on each occasion. We received a formal presentation by Investec, the investment managers to the fighting fund, on the performance and status of the fund, which looks in good shape-despite the recent market turbulence-as a result of performance from the investments and from a number of new legacies. Throughout the year your Committee has also provided ad hoc support and guidance to the Executive as well as keeping in touch with the legal team and providing support to them as necessary.*

*So, on all our Members' behalf, I'd like to thank the members of the FL Committee ,Mark Lloyd, William Rundle our Head Solicitor and the other FL staff for their great efforts and congratulate them on their success over the past year.*

*I am delighted that all members of the Committee have indicated their willingness to continue to serve and a motion to reappoint them will be made later in this meeting.*

*For my final thanks, I'd also like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the value of the ongoing relationship we have with AT. Although you will recall that at last year's AGM you approved some necessary changes to the FL Rules as regards the FL/AT structural relationships to ensure we meet the independence requirements of the legal authorities, our collaboration with AT over the past year has continued to flourish to mutual benefit.*

*Over the past 7 years FL has grown from one and a half solicitors to a team of four solicitors, a legal executive, a paralegal and a legal secretary. This success is entirely due to the support of members. Thank you for that. However as I mentioned earlier, the demand for FL's services from members is continuing to grow relentlessly and was at a record level over this past year. The team is already working a full stretch so without more funds we simply cannot deal with your growing demand. In addition, the cost recovery regime has now changed fundamentally such that the level of cost recovery potential for FL is majorly reduced. As you are aware, cost recovery has been a significant source of funds for FL in prior years, and we need to plan on much less from that source in future, which means we need to find the funds from other sources.*

*So please continue to be generous, and please get your club members to join us or buy raffle tickets, or make a donation to our cause. We need more individuals to support us and AT if we are to avoid the need to increase club and fishery subscriptions markedly.*

*Please continue to support us. Please continue to spread the word.As you will hear from Mark in the next section of the meeting,the challenges to protect what we love are great. But with your support we can preserve what we have treasured since our childhood for subsequent generations."*

**3. Approval of minutes of prior year AGM:** DV presented the minutes of the

2014 AGM to the meeting and sought comments on those minutes. David Kent proposed the minutes as a true record and David Moore seconded the proposal. All those present voted in favour of adopting the minutes as a true record.

- 4. Election of Officers:** DV confirmed that all members of the FL Committee had indicated their willingness to continue in office. They were as set out in the notice of meeting: Dick Vincent, Jim Glasspool, Tim Goode, Mike Heylin OBE, William Howarth, Mark Lloyd, David Moore, Andrew Nathan, George Stephenson and Andrew Wallace.

DV asked for a proposer for the resolution of the continued appointment of all the existing officers. Proposed by Kelvin Allen. Carried unanimously by a show of hands. DV declared the motion was carried.

DV reported that the Fish Legal treasurer, Stuart Sharp, had indicated that he will not be standing for re-election for the coming year, as he will be taking on new roles within Angling Trust. DV thanked SS for his excellent work and service to FL over the past 5 years or so and wished him well for the future. DV reported that FL Committee member, Tim Goode has put his name forward to succeed Stuart in this role, that TG has many years financial experience and that he is confident he will do a great job for Fish Legal. DV sought a proposer for TG's appointment. Proposed by David Moore. Carried unanimously by a show of hands. DV declared the motion carried.

- 5. Approval of the accounts for the period ending March 2015:** DV advised that the annual accounts of Fish Legal for the year ended 31 March 2015 together with the auditors' report thereon had been laid before the meeting. Before asking for the proposer to propose the motion to adopt these accounts, DV asked if there were any questions on these. There were no questions raised.

DV asked for a proposer of the motion to adopt. Proposed by Kelvin Allen and seconded by David Kent. Carried unanimously by a show of hands. DV declared the motion carried.

- 6. Appointment of auditors:** DV thanked the current auditors, Bostockwhite, for the service they had provided over the past year and reported that they have indicated their willingness to be reappointed for the coming year.

DV asked for a proposer to adopt the motion for the appointment of Bostockwhite as auditors of Fish Legal for the coming year. Proposed by David Moore and seconded by Sarah Collins. Carried unanimously by a show of hands. DV declared the motion carried.

- 7. AOB:** DV reported that he had not received any prior notification of any other business. DV brought the meeting to a close. He thanked all for their attendance and participation.

Meeting closed at 12:45pm.