

These minutes are draft and will not be formally approved until the 2017 AGM

**Angling Trust Subscribing Members Association
Annual General Meeting 2016**

Minutes

18:00, Thursday 13th October

Marriott Forest of Arden, Maxstoke Lane, Meriden, CV7 7HR

In Attendance for Angling Trust Ltd:

George Stevenson – Chairman and Director
Mark Lloyd – Chief Executive
Dick Vincent – Director
David Kent – Director
Sarah Collins – Director
Chris Mills – Director
Guy Mawle - Director
George Graham – Director
Tim McPherson - Director
Georgina Miller – Company Secretary

In attendance – AT member Clubs:

Long Eaton Victoria	David Kent
Trident Fishing Club	David Kent
Soldiers and Sailors Fishing Club	David Kent
Invicta (Cams) FC	David Moore
Warrington Anglers	William Malpass
England Fly Fishers Assn	David Moore
Tring Anglers	Dick Pilkington

In attendance – Other member organisations:

Get Hooked on Fishing	Sarah Collins
Thames Forum and CRT	John Ellis

In attendance – Individual Members:

Dick Vincent	Mark Lloyd	George Stephenson
David Kent	Sarah Collins	George Graham
David Moore	Chris Mills	Brian Owen
John Ellis	Tim McPherson	Guy Mawle
Dick Pilkington		

Apologies:

Roland Caley

Proxies:

- - 480 Individual and club proxies had been received.

1. Welcome from the Chairman:

George Stevenson introduced himself as Chairman of the Angling Trust, welcomed all to the Angling Trust members AGM, The Chairman acknowledged that there had been some problems reaching the venue due to an accident, this delayed some members. The Chairman introduced Richard Vincent (Chairman Fish Legal) and Mark Lloyd (Chief Executive AT & FL)

Mr Stevenson welcomed all members who had been able to attend the meeting. He extended his and the Boards condolences to Roland Caley who has suffered a family death. He thanked Roland Caley for great improvements in financial monitoring and reporting, this has allowed the tasks for the Board to be more focused on strategy and development. Thanks also to Georgina Miller for timeliness on Governance tasks. Most importantly the Board would like to extend their thanks to all the staff and volunteers for all the work that is done behind the scenes to make the organisation a success. The Board would like to pay special thanks to Dick Clegg who is retiring after 30 years of working within the competitions field.

The Board would like to thank Mark Lloyd for the huge amount of work above and beyond his role. It is his effort and dedication that has made and continues to make the Angling Trust the force it is for fish and for fishing.

Minutes of 2015 AGM: GS presented the minutes of the 2015 Subscribing Members Association AGM, these were seconded by Sarah Collins. There were no comments on the minutes. All those present voted in favour of adopting the minutes as a true record.

- 2. Election of Nominated Directors:** George Graham was proposed for election as a nominated Director. This was proposed by Tim McPherson and seconded by Guy Mawle. The motion was passed unanimously in the room and by proxy.

- 3. 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 I'm going to restrict it to saying a very big thank you particularly to Roland Caley and Georgina Miller who have both instilled an element of confidence on the governance side of our business but most importantly 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 all those who have served on the Board and given wise and generous counsel - they have given freely of their time to guide the Angling Trust as Directors during the course of the year.

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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!

The Angling trust expanded rapidly in the year to March 2016, and has continued to do so, primarily due to our winning a new four year contract with the Environment Agency. The National Angling Strategic Services Contract was won following a competitive tendering process and is worth about £1 million a year, funded by rod licence revenue. The contract requires us to deliver even more angling participation projects, roll out the volunteer bailiff service nationwide, run angling forums, provide advice to clubs and fisheries and distribute approx. £200,000 through the Angling Improvement fund. Though certain cynics have suggested that this contract inhibits our independence and our ability to challenge the Agency – I would refute any such suggestions and stress very strongly that we will continue to challenge any failure by the Environment Agency to fulfil its duty to maintain, improve and develop fisheries.

We are doing battle on a huge range of issues affecting fish and fishing on behalf of our Members, and we have never once shied away from criticising government or its agencies.

Our competitions continued to expand, with many of them heavily over-subscribed. Riverfest, which we launched just a few years ago, has become an established feature in the match calendar. Once again our National Teams brought home an array of medals – rivalling the haul of Team GB in Rio, but sadly – despite our best efforts – receiving little recognition from the media!

Membership numbers and income both grew, although not as fast as we would like! But enabling us to generate a solid financial outturn (after a poor equivalent a year earlier). This year we have revamped the riparian and fishery owner membership package – based around an exciting new insurance tie up – and are looking to expand this category of membership. 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:

Mark Lloyd gave a brief presentation of Angling Trust's activities (PowerPoint slides attached to the end of these minutes).

The Trust is pleased to report that income has increased and that the accounts for the year are showing a surplus. The appointment of Roland Caley has provided greater levels of financial control and reporting. It was stressed that Angling Trust needs to grow individual membership to improve financial stability and club members should be encouraged to join Angling Trust as individual members

The presentation covered areas including Brexit, Poor marine fish stocks, poor freshwater fish stocks, political influences, political representation, poaching and crime, predation and invasive species, Performance and Participation

[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.

The meeting was followed by the Fish Legal AGM