

Minutes of the Angling Trust Subscribing Members Association AGM 2017

Angling Trust Subscribing Members Association Annual General Meeting 2017

10:00am Saturday 18th November 2017

West Midlands Golf Club & The Lake at Barston, Marsh House Farm Lane, Solihull, 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
George Graham – Director
Yvonne Webb – Director
Donna Harris - Director
Tim McPherson - Director
Georgina Miller – Company Secretary
Roland Caley – Chief Operating Officer

In attendance – AT member Clubs:

Barbel Society	Chris Jones
Nottingham Anglers	Ian Wilks
Nottingham Piscatorial Soc	Dale Whittaker
Tring Anglers	Dick Pilkingotn
British Carp Study Group	Anthony Preston
South Cerney Angling Club	Craig Hunt

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
Peter Fieldhouse	Sarah Collins	George Graham
Mark Wilton	Peter Cobb	Brian Owen
John Ellis	Tim McPherson	Steve Clamp
Dick Pilkington	Martin Bobbett	Neil Berry
Philip Chamberlain	Colin Mencave	Gary Wright
Roland Caley	Chris Jones	Ian Wilks
Dale Whittaker	Kelvin Allen	Steve Bowyer
James Champkin	Clive Copeland	John Flood
Dave Harper	Peter Neal	Mark Owen
Yvonne Webb	Maria Alvey	Tony Bostock
Anthony Preston	John Cheyne	Craig Hunt
Martin Salter	Martin Walker	Dennis Hunt

Proxies: All voting papers were collected prior to the commencement of the meeting. The total votes cast by individuals and clubs was 622.

Welcome from the Chairman:

George Stevenson introduced himself as Chairman of the Angling Trust, welcomed all to the Angling Trust members AGM,. The Chairman introduced Richard Vincent (Chairman Fish Legal) and Mark Lloyd (Chief Executive AT & FL)

Welcome and thank you for attending. The Angling Trust is all about our membership and this day is all about you. Providing you with information, giving you the chance to ask us questions about what we do and how we do it and the opportunity to make suggestions for improvements.

I'm constantly impressed by the range and scale of work carried out by the Angling Trust. Every day, the team of staff and volunteers does hundreds of things to protect and improve fish and fishing. Some of them are very small, many don't get reported in the press, but collectively they are vital to the future of angling. Consultation responses on issues ranging from tidal power to agricultural subsidies are submitted. Long meetings, often in the evening and at weekends, are attended. Press releases are issued. Campaign videos are posted on Facebook. Letters are written to MPs and Ministers. All these things and more ensure that the angler's voice is heard by people who are making decisions that might affect our beloved sport. We are, first and foremost, the representative body for all anglers, and all fish.

But we do so much more than that! Hundreds of competitions are organised, tens of thousands of people are helped to discover the joys of fishing, or to learn a new discipline, hundreds of thousands of pounds of rod licence funds are distributed to clubs and fisheries, hundreds of volunteer bailiffs patrol our rivers and lakes, almost weekly regional forums are organised around the country, guidance about our fishing customs is given to tens of thousands of Eastern European anglers and invasive species are stopped from spreading. You'll hear much more detail about these initiatives and others from the senior management team shortly.

All this work takes a lot of time and dedication from the staff and volunteers involved, some of whom are here today. I'd like to thank you all for everything that you do. Some of the work is funded by Sport England, the Environment Agency and the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation, but these sources of funds are by no means guaranteed in the future. If angling is to be protected and improved over the coming years, we need to recruit more members, and particularly individual anglers. Some of you will hear at the workshops this afternoon about our new initiative to pay a one-off £10 commission to our member angling clubs for each new member they sign up in 6 months. Our club membership continues to grow, but only a small fraction of the 400,000 members of affiliated clubs are individual members of the Angling Trust and Fish Legal. If you like what we do, and want us to do more of it, please help us with this very important initiative.

Over the next 5 years, this country is likely to go through a massive political upheaval. There will be a lot of decisions made that will affect fish and fishing. We need more resources to stand up strongly for your interests, and the interests of all anglers, to ensure that our voice is not lost in the clamour of other voices. Although our finances are stronger than they have ever been, and we are achieving more than ever, the future is uncertain. We must secure more support from the millions of people who go fishing if we are to continue to thrive in the future.

If you're at this meeting, then you and/or your club or fishery must be a member already, and I'm very grateful for your support with your subscription and any donations and entries into prize draws you make. Without your help, we could do nothing, and fish and fishing would be all the poorer.

Over the last year, we have co-opted two new Directors, Yvonne Webb and Donna Harris, who bring new skills, experience, knowledge, contacts and some very welcome additional diversity of perspective to the board of the Angling Trust. Both Yvonne and Donna are here today and I'm sure that you will join me in welcoming them to the Angling Trust.

We also asked for the membership to nominate, and later vote for, a board member to add to the other three nominated Directors. From an initial field of 8 back in July, 3 candidates put themselves forward for nomination and we invited all our members to vote for them before this meeting. This is the first time that we have had more candidates than spaces on the board, and we are very grateful to everyone who applied to volunteer to serve on the board. If you haven't received the highest number of votes, then we will look at other opportunities for you to get involved in the work of the Angling Trust and/or Fish Legal over the coming year. Georgina Miller, our Company Secretary, has confirmed that the candidate with the most votes is: Peter Neale. Welcome to you Peter and thank you to all our members who took part in this democratic process to ensure that the membership has a voice at our boardroom table.

Minutes of 2016 AGM: GS presented the minutes of the 2016 Subscribing Members Association AGM. There were no comments from the floor on the minutes. All those present voted in favour of adopting the minutes as a true record.

Election of Nominated Directors: Three candidates stood for election to a single vacancy for Nominated Director. Peter Neale, Brian Clark and Paul Eslinger. The vote was close but the clear winner was Peter Neale. The election of Peter Neale to the role of Nominated Director for a term of three years was proposed by Neil Berry and seconded by Anthony Preston. There was no objection from the floor and this motion was carried

Questions from the floor: There were no questions.

The meeting closed at 10:18 and was followed by the Fish Legal AGM