

1. Apologies for absence were received from Jamie Smart and Michael Wood.

2. The minutes of last year's AGM were accepted as published on the Society's website.

3. Officers' Reports

3.1 Financial Report

Slides were shown by the Treasurer Simon Greengrass illustrating the following:

Income for 2015
Expenditure for 2015
Historic income since 2001-02
Historic expenditure since 2001-02
The budget for 2016

Special mention of Joan Farrer's £2k donation which has been added to the water fund and matched from the club's funds.

Q. How much does Maldon AS pay for the C&B canal compared to the other 3 clubs?
A. Just under one third.

3.2 Membership Report

Slides were shown by the Membership Secretary Paul Kyffin illustrating the following:

Current 2015-16 membership numbers by category
Seasonal membership variation
The number of memberships sold at tackle shops
Night permit sales
Membership fees for the 2016-17 season

The membership secretary stated that we have 240 new members this season, sold 31 half price winter tickets and 87 members joined on the cheque spread.

Membership is the highest since the 2000-01 season but we have never had an increase for four consecutive seasons.

A huge thank you to John, Sam, Paul and Keith at JP Tackle for selling 353 memberships this season, an increase of 10 over last season. Unfortunately Specimen Angling had to close but has recently re-opened. WASS should be back on the list of agents next year.

All 110 standard night permits sold out by mid June and two were re-sold when two night members were banned for leaving litter. All 50 Howells night permits sold out by the end of April. There are 23 people on the waiting list for a Howells night permit. Howells night permits are reserved for existing members until the 1st April. Nine winter three rod upgrades were sold.

Paul explained how the small increase on subs and £5 on the price of a night ticket in addition to selling ten more standard night permits next season will help cover the cost of keeping the portaloos at Slough House Farm and Howells all year round.

The other main change is to increase the concessionary age from 60+ to 65+.

- Q. Steve Willis asked why existing concessionaries should have to pay an extra £26 if aged between 60 and 64 when they have already been a concessionary for at least one season?
- A. The executive committee admitted that this aspect of the age increase had not been carefully thought through and subject to ratification at the 3rd Feb committee meeting it is hoped that all existing concessionaries can continue to join as concessionaries and the 65+ ruling will only apply to new concessionary members.
- Q. How does the age change affect concessionary matches?
- A. The decision on who can fish concessionary matches rests with Keith, the Concessionary Member Secretary, after all an over sixties trophy already exists on the calendar.

3.3 Senior Match Report

Russ Samuels told how the turnout for senior matches has been reasonable on the canal but not so good on our stillwaters. Suggestion from the floor that amalgamating with CAA and fishing matches on both clubs' lakes might improve attendance. Bill Woollcott stated that interest in the canal should not be underestimated as over the course of a season 756 competitors have fished in five hour matches and there have been 265 bookings at £3 per peg.

Slide shown of Chairman Mal Gardiner receiving the Tom Martin Memorial trophy from Britt at Bog Grove as winning team captain, the individual winner on the day was Alan Hare.

Slide shown of the prize winners at the Howells carp match final – Andy Flower was runner up, Graham Surridge won the final with 118lb of carp and Tosh Welton won the Alan Hare cup for the largest carp caught in any match for his capture of the Breezeblock at 28lb 14oz in the final.

3.4 Concessionary Report

Keith mentioned how he has been permanent pegging all of our larger lakes and that this is not just for matches but for management of the fisheries as well as it helps control litter. Little Parks and Little London are still to do. Keith will run more pairs matches and he thanked everyone who has attended his matches throughout the season.

3.5 Head Bailiffs Report

Head bailiff Shaun McGuinness thanked all of the bailiffs for their hard work and told how night time bailiffing has been stepped up. We do need some more bailiffs and anyone interested should speak to Shaun after the meeting.

3.6 Fishery Management Report

Paul Kyffin ran through the main work parties, maintenance work and fish stocking carried out in each month of the previous year (see separate report) and stated how he can't take any of the credit for this work as it is all down to Paul Kemp, Jamie Smart and their team of hard working volunteers who also supplied all of the photos for the slide show. By popular request some catch photos of carp, perch, bream, tench, grass carp and pike were included along with the two winners of the photo competition, Andy Flower and Dan Thornett.

Q. Will the new stock pond at Beckingham Hall be used just to grow on carp?

A. The initial stocking was intended to be all carp but some of the eggs turned out to be rudd. In the longer term there is no reason why other species cannot be introduced.

3.6 Publicity Report

Paul has brought hoodies, beanies, shirts and caps along which can be purchased after the meeting.

4. Election of Officers

President & Vice Presidents: Ted Watson, F J Capon and Alan Hare were proposed by Simon Greengrass, seconded by Paul Kemp and retained by unanimous vote.

Chairman and Rulebook Secretary: Malcolm Gardiner was willing to stand for re-election and was proposed by David Spalding, seconded by Keith Leverett and returned to this position unopposed by unanimous vote.

All of the other existing committee members were willing to stand for re-election:

Secretary and Vice Chairman: David Spalding

Treasurer: Simon Greengrass

Fishery Management Officer: Paul Kemp

Assistant Fishery Management Officer: Danny Gower

Membership and Minute Secretary: Paul Kyffin

Senior Match Secretary: Russ Samuels

Concessionary Match Secretary: Keith Leverett

Head Bailiff: Shaun McGuinness

Publicity Secretary: Denise Kemp

Other members: Pete Newell, Dean Andrews, Peter Harden, Sam Gower, Dave Brock and Jamie Smart.

The Chairman asked if anyone else was interested in joining the committee and Greg Fowles put himself forward.

All existing committee members were proposed by Kim Naish, seconded by Iain Fraser and re-elected on block by unanimous vote. With the committee now numbering 16 (the maximum allowed) it was agreed to discuss the future of those committee members not present at the AGM at the next committee meeting and decide if Greg can be co-opted to the committee at this time.

5. Proposals

None.

6. Any Other Business

There was a lively discussion about the future of the C&B canal. Bill stated that we always seem to get the short end of the stick from the navigation company. Kim asked if we had been notified about the towpath closure while the new viaduct is being built at the Army & Navy roundabout (we were). Cyclists, walkers and canoeists all seem to be favoured over anglers. At Browns Wharf we are having to fish from the 'wrong side' but this land will soon be built on as well. The people living in the flats have put up signs saying 'No Fishing' as they consider the canal bank to be their garden. The Secretary responded that we are trying to arrange a meeting between the canal company, us and partner clubs but that Hugh Turner has postponed this meeting twice already. It was re-iterated that we will not bailiff areas that we are not allowed to fish, eg between moored boats. Dave Brock outlined the serious situation that has arisen at Heybridge Basin. It was agreed that the outcome of the meeting with the canal company will be communicated to members.

The membership secretary has a long list of members entitled to discounts ranging from 10% to 100% for helping out at working parties and bailiffing. Please mention this when rejoining so you don't get over-charged!

Thank you all for attending and the best of luck for the end of the season.