

1. Apologies for absence were received from Hugo Bibby, Julie Stuart, Pat Mott & Dave Harley.

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

### 3. Officers' Reports

#### 3.1 Financial Report – Simon Greengrass

The Treasurer presented the Society's financial report and talked through his slides on the screen:

Income for 2018  
Expenditure for 2018  
Historic income since 2001-02  
Historic expenditure since 2001-02  
The budget for 2019

The increase in guest ticket income was due to the Paypal account finally being unlocked. The portaloos cost increase of £1k was due to us having to cover the cost of the portaloos stolen from Slough House Farm. We have erred on the side of caution when setting the budget for 2019.

Q. Dan Gower asked which waters should have portaloos?

A. Howells, Totham Pit and Slough House Farm.

Dan commented that budgeting to spend £4k on portaloos seems excessive when we have only budgeted £1k for buying fish stocks. We are looking into the possibility of buying our own portaloos and paying to have them serviced on a less frequent basis, especially during the winter months when they aren't used as often. Another member countered that female members expect to find toilets on our fisheries as other local clubs have them, and this could be one of the reasons for our drop in membership. It was suggested that with forward planning this issue could also be addressed by using a pop-up tent.

#### 3.2 Membership Report – Paul Kyffin

Slides were shown by the Membership Secretary illustrating the following:

Current 2018-19 membership numbers by category  
Seasonal membership variation  
The number of memberships sold by our agents  
Night permit sales  
Membership fees for the 2019-20 season

The total membership is 779 down 116 on last season. We had 191 new joiners this season, sold 38 half price winter tickets, 59 members joined on the cheque spread and we sold 6 winter three rod upgrades.

Membership was the lowest since the 2012-13 season.

A big thank you to Sam, Paul and both Johns at JP Tackle for their continued support and for selling 357 memberships this season, a decrease of 45 compared to last year. Kim at Angling Essentials sold 23 memberships and Ronnie Crowe sold one.

All 60 Howells night permits sold out but only 79 of the 120 standard night permits were sold. There are just 3 people on the waiting list for a Howells night permit.

The fees for next season have increased slightly but we have kept them the same for juniors and under 12s. The price of night permits, guest and day tickets will also increase slightly so we can hopefully meet our budget for 2019.

There were no questions regarding the Society's membership.

### **3.3 Fishery Management Report**

Paul Kyffin ran through a list of the work parties and maintenance work carried out around our fisheries during the previous year on behalf of Paul Kemp and then handed over to Dean Barraclough who detailed the huge amount of work carried out at Totham Pit. None of these works could have been achieved without manpower. We now have aerators with air stones on standby if we suffer an oxygen crash at any of our fisheries.

- Q. Geoff Green complimented Dean on his presentation and asked about the fish stock levels in Totham Pit?
- A. Ben Norrington from the EA will carry out a fish survey for us and wants to get actively involved in the regeneration of this fishery.
  
- Q. Bob Gower asked if the swims that have been closed off in Colliers Bay at Totham Pit will be re-opened.
- A. There are no immediate plans for this as they were the most dangerous swims to access on the lake, but if a digger can be got in there and the access improved then a swim in this area could be re-opened in the future.
  
- Q. Bob asked about the hand rail erected at Totham Pit and stated that he had not received a reply to his letter sent to the committee on this subject?
- A. If Bob supplies us with new fittings and camou paint we will improve the appearance of the hand rail.
  
- Q. Bob asked about three signs in trees threatening to ban people for fishing in the wrong place or for leaving the gate open and asked if we would really ban people for such minor offences?
- A. The signs are worded along the lines of 'Don't be the next person to get banned' and individual incidents would be reviewed by the committee prior to disciplinary action being taken. The owners are considering installing CCTV so they can see who is leaving the entrance gates open.

Overall Bob said he is pleased with the majority of work carried out at Totham Pit and he is pleased to see the lake coming on.

- Q. Alan Hare asked if the owner of Whitehouse Farm can be asked about minimising water extraction this year following the extremely low water level last summer?
- A. He is growing potatoes this year so unless we have a lot of rain the water level is likely to get just as low, but fortunately we only lost one fish last year.

- Q. Bob Gower asked about the poor flow on the River Blackwater above Station Road beneath the lattice bridge.  
A. This is controlled by the Environment Agency.

### **3.4 Head Bailiffs Report - Shaun McGuinness**

Shaun thanked the bailiff team for all their hard work and commitment over the past year. They meet once a month on the last Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm in the Jolly Sailor. Overall it has been a good year.

Dogs on Society fisheries was raised and it was clarified that committee members and bailiffs are allowed to have dogs with them and that other members can apply to the committee on an individual case basis under rule 5.9.

### **3.5 Concessionary Report – Keith Leverett**

Keith read his report from the winter newsletter covering topics including keepnet rules, pairs matches and catch rates on the river. This coming Tuesday's match is still on at the moment (*it went ahead at Bog Grove and 12 people fished with 14lb of fish landed*).

### **3.6 Publicity Report**

There was no publicity report this year as Denise has decided to stand down from the committee.

## **4. Proposals**

All of the proposed constitution changes (see separate attachment) were unanimously accepted on block.

## **5. Election of Officers**

Last year we were criticised for electing the committee on block so this year the election of officers to named roles will be done individually:

**President & Vice Presidents:** Ted Watson (President), Alan Hare and Bob Gower (Vice Presidents) were re-elected by majority vote with one vote against.

**Chairman and Rulebook Secretary:** Malcolm Gardiner was re-elected by unanimous vote.

**Secretary and Vice Chairman:** David Spalding was re-elected by unanimous vote.

**Treasurer:** Simon Greengrass has given us one year's notice that he wishes to stand down. No-one else was interested in acting as Deputy Treasurer to Simon at this time and Simon Greengrass was re-elected by unanimous vote.

**Fishery Management Officer:** Paul Kemp was re-elected by unanimous vote.

**Membership Secretary:** Paul Kyffin was re-elected by unanimous vote.

**Concessionary Match Secretary:** Keith Leverett was re-elected by unanimous vote.

**Head Bailiff:** Shaun McGuinness was re-elected by unanimous vote.

**Safety Officer:** Grahame Stuart was elected by unanimous vote.

**Other members:** Ryan Boot, Dean Andrews, Andy Thomas, Dean Barraclough, Iain Fraser and Peter Harden were re-elected by unanimous vote.

**Website Editor and Publicity Secretary:** Denise Kemp has decided to stand down from the previous role of Publicity Secretary and Mal thanked her for carrying out this position for several years. Phoebe Stuart was proposed, seconded and elected by unanimous vote.

**Minute Secretary:** Paul Kyffin has decided to stand down from this position to concentrate on his other role as Membership Secretary. There were no other nominees for this position from the floor so Paul reluctantly agreed to carry on until March (*now extended until June*).

**Senior Match Secretary:** There were no nominations from the floor so this position remains vacant.

**Assistant Fishery Management Officer:** Jamie Smart has stood down from this position which will not be filled at this time.

With fifteen officers elected for the forthcoming season there is one vacancy on the committee remaining.

## 6. Any Other Business

Q. Dave Sayward asked if we could revisit the braided mainline ban in relation to drop shotting which is a fishing method that is gaining in popularity, predominantly on rivers?

A. It was agreed that this would be discussed at the next committee meeting on Wed 6<sup>th</sup> Feb.

Chris Burt gave an overview with slides of his coaching days and thanked the Society and the committee for the use of our waters. Encouraging youngsters to take up fishing is now more important than ever as EA figures show that junior rod licence sales are 60% down on nine years ago. Chris also made a request for more volunteer coaches and anyone interested can contact Chris on 07917 781299 or [chris@candjb.co.uk](mailto:chris@candjb.co.uk).

Q. Bob Gower asked about the withdrawal of Russ Samuel's honorary membership?

A. Russ can still re-join but no longer gets a free membership.

Q. Steve Mason asked about the future of the Chelmer & Blackwater navigation?

A. Negotiations focussed on cost per mile and accessibility are progressing.

Finally Alan Hare thanked the committee for all their hard work.