

Usk Fishing Association

Minutes of Annual General Meeting

Held on

Friday 13th March 2015

The Angel Hotel, Abergavenny.

1. Approximately 40 members, their guests and non-members were present. The following committee members were also present:

Harry Legge-Bourke (Chairman)
Helen Harrison (Deputy Chairman)
Jonathan Carthew (Hon. Treasurer)
Huw Jones (Hon. Secretary)
Mike Cowburn
Brian Williams
Stuart Jarvis
Gary Davies
Tony Rees

Apologies: Tony Bostock, Nigel Braithwaite, Anne Braithwaite, Chris Brain, John Coombs, David Hampshire, Alan Harrison, Mark Roberts, Francis Sandison, Richard Taylor

2. **2014 AGM minutes:** The Chairman asked if there were any objections to the Minutes of the 2014 AGM. There were no objections: the Minutes were passed.
3. **2014 FEB license:** The Chairman explained the administrative error on the submission of the FEB license report, which technically put the UFA in breach of the license terms and led an official warning being given to the UFA.

Various contributions were given by Dave Collins, Guy Mawle and Mark Lloyd with regards to an application next year. The Chairman confirmed that the UFA would be applying for a license next year.

4. **Re-election of Committee:** The Chairman was re-elected for another year. Proposer Huw Jones, Seconder John Butts. The rest of the committee were re-elected 'en masse' Committee positions as follows:

Chairman	Harry Legge-Bourke
Vice-Chairman	Helen Harrison
Hon. Treasurer	Jonathan Carthew
Hon. Secretary	Huw Jones
Principal Tidal Waters to Usk Bridge	Mike Cowburn
Deputy Tidal Waters to Usk Bridge	Brian Williams

Principal Usk Bridge to Crickhowell Bridge	Gary Davies
Principal Crickhowell Bridge to Brecon Bridge	Charles De Winton
Deputy Crickhowell Bridge to Brecon Bridge	Stuart Jarvis
Coarse Fishing	Tony Rees
Principal Industrial Rivers	Mike Gulliford
Deputy Industrial Rivers	Stewart Matthews

The following Committee members were voted on by the members present:

Deputy Usk Bridge to Crickhowell Bridge	John Butts
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The following positions still remain unfilled. The Chairman is currently looking in to suitable and willing candidates.

Principal Brecon Bridge to Source	tbc
Deputy Brecon Bridge to Source	tbc

5. **Finances:** Hon. Treasurer gave a verbal financial statement. Accounts will be posted on the website.
6. **Guest speakers:** The Chairman welcomed guest speakers, Gail Davies from Welsh Water focusing on Extraction and Simon Evans with a general update from WUF.

Each speaker gave a 15 minute summary, which was followed by a short question and answer session. There were many contributions and questions from those present. Gail Davies kindly offered to come and give a more in depth presentation on what Welsh Water are doing and planning to do to minimise the issues that flow from water extraction on the Usk. The Chairman will look to arrange this.

7. **Voluntary Code of Practice:** The Chairman expressed concern over the lack of adoption of the Voluntary Code of Practice that were agreed at last year's AGM. The Chairman suggested that a list be drawn up and that people sign this otherwise he feared that mandatory catch and release will be imposed upon us.
8. **Voluntary Access Agreements (VAAs):** The Chairman urged us all to try to accommodate VAAs and look to reach agreement for water access. James Suter of Gliffaes Country House Hotel kindly offered a room so that a meeting could be held to try and reach consensus about access and egress points between Crickhowell and Abergavenny.
9. **Hatchery:** The Chairman informed the meeting that the hatchery at Abercynrig will remain open and possibly be turned in to a Visitor Centre. It was mentioned that maybe UFA could contribute some funds to this and could be involved in some way.

Peter Dent requested it to be noted that the wider membership were not consulted about the Committee's decision to oppose the hatchery and said that it should have been balloted

10. **M4 Extension:** The issue of the M4 Extension was briefly mentioned. The Chairman explained that the committee had discussed the issue and decided to adopt a 'watching brief' pending any developments.

11. **Tidal Lagoon:** The issue of the Swansea Bay Tidal Lagoon was discussed and concerns were raised over the potential threat to migratory fish. Mark Lloyd from the Angling Trust and Fish Legal informed the meeting that he had met with the CEO from the company behind the plans and said that he had raised concerns.

Mark Lloyd also gave notice of a planned Riparian meeting to be held in Ross-on-Wye on 18th April (now the 9th May) to discuss the Tidal Lagoon. Mike Cowburn will report back to committee.

12. **Pollution:** The Chairman was aware of 3 instances of pollution all of which were dealt with by NRW. The Chairman reminded everyone of the procedure if they aware of pollution taking place or the potential of it happening, which is to call the NRW pollution hotline.

13. **Website:** Helen Harrison updated the membership on the recent website changes and enhancements and discussed the possibility of setting up UFA social media accounts.

14. **NRW Engagement:** The Chairman conveyed the NRW's wishes that there was one voice on the river Usk with whom to communicate. The Chairman suggested that this should be the UFA.

15. **Membership:** The UFA has some 170 members, 70 of whom are now paying the correct annual subscriptions. The Chairman urged members to help with recruitment where possible.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and the meeting was closed.