



**Minutes of Annual General Meeting
Held on Wednesday, 14 March 2018
The Angel Hotel, Abergavenny**

1. The Chairman welcomed members, their guests and non-members. The following committee members were present:

Harry Legge-Bourke (Chairman)
Jonathan Carthew
Mike Cowburn
Gary Davies
Tony Rees

2. **Apologies:** Paul Bowen, John Butts, David Hampshire, Jonathan Hampshire, Alan and Helen Harrison, Huw Jones, Myfanwy Wade, Brian Williams
3. **2017 AGM Minutes:** The Chairman asked if there were any comments about the 2017 AGM Minutes. There were no comments and the Minutes were passed.
4. **Re-election of Officers:** All the Committee members were re-elected. There were no dissensions. The Committee is as follows:

Chairman	Harry Legge-Bourke
Deputy-Chairman	Helen Harrison
Hon. Treasurer	Jonathan Carthew
Hon. Secretary	Huw Jones
Membership	vacant
Principal Tidal Waters to Usk Bridge	Mike Cowburn
Deputy Tidal Waters to Usk Bridge	Brian Williams
Principal Usk Bridge to Crickhowell Bridge	Gary Davies
Deputy Usk Bridge to Crickhowell Bridge	John Butts
Principal Crickhowell Bridge to Brecon Bridge	Charles De Winton
Brecon Bridge to the source	vacant
Coarse Fishing	Tony Rees
Principal Industrial Rivers	Mike Gulliford
Deputy Industrial Rivers	Stewart Matthews

5. **Finances:** the Chairman said that the main expenditure was linked to supporting the Angling Trust (<http://www.anglingtrust.net>), Fish Legal (<http://www.fishlegal.net>) and SACC (Sustainable Access Campaign Cymru - <http://www.accesscymru.org>).

ACTION: A copy of the accounts will be put on the website.

6. **Fishing Byelaws update:** great volumes of correspondence have descended on the Welsh Government and its elected representatives. UFA was against mandatory catch and release but the Chair took the advice from the NRW executive and passed mandatory catch and release "under consideration". (4 years for the Usk while all other rivers on 10 years). Still await a final decision.

UFA objected to the Severn and Wye nets continuing to operate because it shows double standards. It agreed to support statistical fishing analysis (£200) but with some objections.



7. **Access update:** things seemed to have gone quiet for the present due to working on Brexit.

there were two guest speakers: Andy Schofield, Head of Fisheries at Tidal Lagoon Power (<http://www.tidallagoonpower.com>) and Mark Lloyd, Chief Executive of Angling Trust and Fish Legal (<http://www.anglingtrust.net>). The Chairman welcomed both speakers. Andy spoke first.

8. **Voluntary Access Agreement (middle river):** progress has been made with the Abergavenny Canoe Club - the UFA Chairman and Principal Usk Bridge to Crickhowell Bridge, Gary Davies, hope to facilitate agreement for access between Crickhowell bridge and Abergavenny bridge. They are working with riparian owners to agree a formula – all are aware of the problems on all sides, but keen to see definite progress this year.

ACTION: the Chairman will continue to focus on achieving a solution to this issue.

9. **Tidal Lagoons' update:** at the present it is looking unlikely to progress this year due to costs and feasibility doubts. UFA members agreed to continue to support the Angling Trust and Fish Legal (£2,000 each) to keep the pressure on.

10. **Fishing Eating Birds (FEBs) news:** it is possible that the Welsh Government may use the Usk Catchment for a pilot scheme. With 40% mortality due to FEBs on the lower river this year, with only a small run of smolts expected, the Usk is very vulnerable. The Brecon weir delays smolts and is a major hazard to smolts.

NRW (Natural Resources Wales) may possibly do a sonar tagging experiment to monitor movement and gain some accurate facts.

ACTION: the Chairman asked for everyone to keep photographs of FEBs coming in, especially at breeding season. UFA will push legal precedent that NRW should be protecting the river.

11. **Welsh Water/Dwr Cymru progress:** the WUF (Wye and Usk Foundation) is putting pressure on Welsh Water/Dwr Cymru. Major works are ongoing, but they are behind schedule. There were two notable releases of water in 2017.

12. **Pollution issues:** there were four pollution incidents last year on the river and all could have been avoided.

ACTION: the Chairman asked everyone to remain vigilant and report anything amiss to WUF.

13. **River clean up:** sadly this never happened. The Chairman will try again this year. It does give good PR.

14. **Membership:** UFA needs to gain more members, especially the younger generation.

ACTION: Riparian owners, who let out their fishing, are asked to encourage their anglers to join.

15. **AOB:** the Gliffaes hotel will be the venue for next year.

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