

BRYNMILL & DISTRICT ANGLING CLUB
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2023
The Poppy Lounge, Sketty on the 22nd March 2023 at 7.30pm

30 Members attended

MINUTES

1. CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME

John Harris welcomed everyone to the meeting, and explained that we haven't held an AGM since April 2019 because of the Pandemic. He said that he was very pleased with the general atmosphere and moral of all the members and how much improved everything within the club was compared to previous years.

He expressed his thanks to Carl & Steve for their input on the administration, particularly on the implementation of Clubmate & Stripe, the on-line membership & payment portals. He advised the members that The Club has decided not to issue membership cards this year as everything is now on line, however this may be reviewed in light of possible intermittent failures of the Clubmate system. He particularly expressed his thanks to David Thomas and Paul Rastatter for their work on the Half Round Ponds in clearing the lily beds of the bottom pond and for keeping the ponds in such good condition, and also to Jason Bradley and his Bailiff Team for all the excellent work carried out on the Fendrod.

He said he was very pleased with all the work recently carried out on the lakes including the new pegs on The Fendrod which are fully accessible from the Car Park and are great for disabled anglers as well, and also the 3 new carp platforms that Mick Butler had built for us, and the recent tree work carried out to open up more pegs and make them safe. He also said he was very pleased with how good the fishing on both lakes was and how much it had improved over recent years.

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS AGM

The previous minutes were from the last AGM were not read out as they were from April 2019 and mostly irrelevant. Member were given the opportunity to read the minutes online prior to the meeting.

3. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

4. SECRETARY'S REPORT

Steve Herman said that since our last AGM in April 2019, our new License agreement with Swansea Council for 10 years plus an option to extend for a further 2 years has all been signed & sealed. Since then, with the help of a third part provider a new website has been created with comprehensive information about the club all in one place, including information on how to join and buy a permit, our club rules, a blog, photo galleries, venue details including maps and photos etc, and a new online payment platform called Clubmate for memberships, permits, day tickets, and guest tickets, and he also advised members that there's a Clubmate app now available to download for free, with all membership information is now stored in one place.

Following the recent Pandemic, we had a massive increase in membership in 2020/21 season to 458 members, 260 of which were night permit holders, which meant that the lakes were far too busy, so the committee had decided to cap the number of night permits to 150. We now have a waiting list for night permits.

Over the last 3 years work has been carried out on both lakes. On the Half Round Ponds the access lane has been resurfaced, 5 new pegs paid for by a grant from the NRW have been built, numerous fish stockings have been carried out including carp, tench, roach, perch, rudd & crucians with more to follow, & a winter feeding program has been implemented The club has created 2 fishing ponds for all species and to suit all types of angling styles. Steve thanked David Thomas & Paul Rastatter for all the work they do there keeping the place so nice, for everyone to enjoy, and how good the quality of fishing is. The Fendrod Lake has also had numerous carp stockings, with over 100 carp stocked in the last few years, plus we've carried out winter-feeding programs where necessary & introduced medicated pellets to resolve an intestinal virus the fish had. 5 new pegs have been built and partially funded by the NRW, at the shallow end of the lake by the Car Park, and 3 Carp platforms 29, 38 & 42 have been raised & restored, and Steve thanked Mick Butler & team for their excellent work there. Tree surgeons were employed to remove the fallen tree on peg 33, & to trim back & remove overhanging trees between pegs 20 & 42. Thanks to Ryan Thomas & Gareth Westacott for this work. Fishing wise the lake continues to provide excellent quality fishing, amazing carp of all shapes sizes & strains, both small & large, and also specimen bream. Steve said that in his opinion The Fendrod is best carp fisheries in Wales. He thanked Jason Bradley & his Bailiff team for their efforts on the lake over the last few years.

The Club is also hoping this year to introduce a free children's coaching program, this will be run by Chris Lloyd who is currently

waiting to get his Level 1 Coaching License from Angling Cymru. More details of this will be made available in the next few months.

Finally, Steve passed on his congratulations to Natalie Hall – Welsh Ladies Carp Team Member – recent winners of the Tri-nations competition with England & Scotland & 4th place in last year's world Championships held at Linear Lakes in Oxford, resulting in a round of applause from everyone which was well deserved.

5. TREASURER'S REPORT

Carl Tonner began by explaining that since the previous AGM in 2019 many things have changed, The Club permits and payments are now completely online and members payments are made through the secure Clubmate website and processed by a worldwide payment portal called Stripe. Carl went on to describe how the payment system operates, and how payments are taken from members payment cards and paid into the clubs bank account via Stripe which is based in San Francisco, minus a percentage fee, and that the club cannot see or access members bank details or card numbers, and that the system is totally safe to use. Clubmate charges the club for the use of the website and adds service charges, day tickets have a 50p per transaction charge. The club no longer has printed permit books or collects money at the bankside. Membership can be viewed on the bailiffs' smartphones via the Clubmate app. All the club's income is from Clubmate website sales, there are no cash transactions.

Carl provided a full balance sheet for 2021 & 2022, together with a summary of incomes from Stripe for 2022 which includes all permit and day ticket sales totaling £15350.12 (day ticket sales are 10% of this figure) less the Stripe commission, plus a summary of all expenditure for 2022. Carl explained that taking into account recent 2023 expenditure for various projects the club had around £28000 left in the current account. A copy of the accounts is attached. Some of this amount would be made available for future fish stockings for the Fendrod Lake.

The accounts reflect the changes that the pandemic affected the club and caused a huge increase in membership which put undue pressure on the clubs' waters. The club took the measure of increasing the membership fees for night fishing and limiting applications from out of area anglers. By the 2022 season the numbers had dropped dramatically and the lakes became more accessible to local anglers. Total sales remained similar because of the increased membership fees.

The club has also undertaken to pay professionals to carry out work on the clubs' waters, rather than use the very small pool of volunteers.

6. MATCH SECRETARY'S REPORT

John Clements explained that because of the Pandemic no matches had taken place over the last 3 years, however he was hopeful that future matches on both the Fendrod Lake and The Half round Ponds could be organized over the coming season depending on the interest from the membership. He went on to say that he had seen an improvement in the relationship between the match angling section and the carp anglers whereas in previous years carp anglers fishing in bivvies had been obstructive.

7. HEAD BAILIFF'S REPORT - FENDROD LAKE

Jason Bradley reiterated that the general atmosphere amongst the anglers on the lake was much improved, and that on the whole the bailiffs had a good relationship with most of the members, although a few anglers still needed to be brought in line now and then. He said that a number of carp had been seen/caught recently that were trailing rigs and leads, and with torn mouths, and that the bailiff team would be carrying out rig checks on all members to ensure that they are using carp safe rigs.

Jason also asked that all anglers be vigilant whilst fishing as the increased number of swans on the lake had resulted in them getting hooked and snapped off, and having rigs hanging from their beaks. He said this is not a good image for the club as members of the public had witnessed this. He also said that we now have a better relationship with Swan Rescue, as he had helped to remove a few rigs from stricken swans himself. He asked all members to be aware that we share the lake with members of the public and to behave appropriately to avoid any confrontations.

Jason explained that the Spawning Protocol introduced last season, whilst initially not well received by all the members, had proven that allowing the fish to rest without angling pressure had significantly reduced the number of fatalities when compared to previous seasons.

Jason said that once the weather improved he would be organizing some work parties to clear some sunken snags in the lake, and to remove rubbish and debris scattered around the lake following the winter storms, and a general tidy up of the lake including any weed removal as required.

Jason reported that all the recent stockings had gone well, and that there was now an estimated 250 carp in the lake, with a good number of 30lb plus fish and a lot of 20lb plus fish. Further stocking of more fish would be discussed by the committee over the coming months to determine the best sources and sizes required.

Jason also reported that 2 members had volunteered to become bailiffs, and following DBS checks he hoped they would be coming on board soon to replace the recent bailiffs that have left.

8. HEAD BAILLIF'S REPORT - HALF ROUND PONDS

David Thomas reported that the fishing on the Half Round Ponds had dramatically improved following the removal of a lot of lilies beds, but unfortunately a lot of weed is now appearing where the lilies once were, and that he would soon be organizing work parties to remove some of this weed.

David also said that 28 double figure carp had been moved from the bottom pond to the top pond by Paul and himself, but he asked members not to move any carp themselves in case anyone saw them and reported them.

More roach and crucians are due to be delivered shortly, and David said that he didn't see any need to stock anymore fish after this stocking for the time being, as he didn't want to overcrowd the ponds with too many fish.

9. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

All members present voted unanimously to re-elect en-bloc the existing officers and committee.

10. PROPOSALS FROM MEMBERS

Andy David made 2 proposals but as he wasn't present at the meeting so they were disallowed.

Chris Powell had also made the same proposals so these were considered by the members; -

1. Permanent closure of day peg 36 – no one seconded this proposal.
2. 72 hours on the lake then 48 hours before you can return to lake. Seconded by Gareth Seymour. Vote 4 for the proposal, 7 against the proposal.

Neither proposal was passed.

Jason Bradley proposed a new rule for the day ped 36 – casting from day peg only, no walking down the bank and dropping your rig in and no baiting poles allowed in this peg. Seconded by Nigel Thomas – Vote 20 members voted for this proposal – passed.

Jason Bradley proposed that the Club consider joining the Angling Trust as an affiliated member. This was discussed and it was agreed that the committee would look at this over the next few months, as we had already paid and joined Angling Cymru this year.

11. GENERAL BUSINESS

No general business was discussed, it was agreed that the committee would meet every 3 months to discuss further plans and stockings

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Natalie Hall expressed her thanks to Jason Bradley and the Bailiff Team for all their work and support on the lake.

The meeting closed at 9 pm