

**BRYNMILL & DISTRICT ANGLING CLUB
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2024
The Poppy Lounge, Sketty on the 27TH March 2024 at 7.00pm**

27 Members attended

MINUTES

1. CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME

John Harris welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies of Absence were received from David Thomas, Chris John, Carl Owen and Jason Hoare.

He expressed his thanks to Carl & Steve for their input on the administration, David and Paul for all their hard work on the Half Round Ponds, and the rest of the committee and the bailiffs for all their hard work over the last year and in particular, thanked our outgoing Head Bailiff on the Fendrod Lake Jason Bradley for all his efforts and welcomed Kevin Thomas as the new Head Bailiff.

The recent stockings of Carp on the Fendrod both lakes had gone very well, and he was pleased that the Club had developed a good working relationship with Simon Scott of VS Fisheries and the help he has given us in developing a stocking program of excellent quality carp.

The Half round Ponds also had been stocked with more Crucians and Roach, and an introduction of a small quantity of F1 Carp.

The fishing on the Half Round Ponds had massively improved this year after the club hired a weed cutting boat and operator for 5 days to remove the excessive amount of the pond weed in both ponds, and he thanked Jamies and Corey Ayres, Charlie Bath and Carl Owen for "baby sitting" the weed cutting boat overnight, which helped avoid the daily transportation of the boat and reduced the overall cost of the hire.

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS AGM

The previous minutes were from the last AGM were read out and everyone agreed they were an accurate account.

3. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

4. SECRETARY'S REPORT

All memberships are now on Clubmate

Memberships for the 2023/2024 season were as follows; -

150 Day/Night members
78 Day members
57 Juniors
7 Committee
6 Bailiffs
298 in total

The club sold 271 day tickets

There are 48 anglers on the waiting list for Day/night permits

Clubmate is now working well after several upgrades. It has a good communication hub with an email facility to all members. The Phone App works best on newer smartphones apple iOS and android type phones, and even better on Laptops or Desktops with Windows

The Club is now half way through our 10 year license agreement with Swansea Council.

This year the Club affiliated to Angling Cymru again for £350 which include all insurance costs. AC offers Coaching courses; Sports Wales funding & aligns with the CCS & the NRW

The cost to join Angling Trust £ £672 including insurance so was not seen as value for money.

5. TREASURER'S REPORT

All the club's income is from the Clubmate website sales. There are no cash transactions. The income has risen from the 2022 year and in 2023 was over £21,000. About £2000 of this being day ticket sales. The club is bound by its licence with the council to have day tickets available on at least six days of each week. The licence only gives us the right to fish on the Fendrod and Half Round ponds and to keep the fishing pegs and bankside in good order. No other permissions exist to interfere with the dam or remove silt, or to add islands. the licence expires in 2029.

A large proportion of the club's income comes from the sale of night fishing permits - mostly to carp anglers. In 2023 the club spent almost £18,000 on platforms and carp stock for the Fendrod. Further sums were spent on tree cutting.

The Half Round ponds had a small stocking of mixed fish and professional removal of weed growth - about £5000 in all.

The total spend for the 2023 year was over £26,000. this gave a deficit of just over £5000. (see balance sheet)

Perhaps some consideration could be given to introduce Tench into the Fendrod in 2024? As bottom loving fish they will be less likely to leave the lake during a flood. There is a few Tench between 3lb. and 6lb. present in the Fendrod, but they are few in number.

6. MATCH SECRETARY'S REPORT

John Clements explained that no matches had taken place over the last year, and that there was a lack of interest from the members in holding any matches on the club waters. He advised members to contact him if they want to hold any matches and he would be more than happy to make the necessary arrangements. He also said he would consider holding matches on the Half round Ponds.

The carp anglers have made a request to hold a 24-hour Carp match in April and this is going to be arranged by Natalie Hall with the full support of the Club. This is likely to involve the closure of the lake for 1 day to accommodate all the competitors.

7. FENDROD LAKE

The Fendrod was stocked with 50 C4's from VS Fisheries. Steve explained that the club has been getting fish stocking advice from Simon Scott, and has advised that we stock the same strain to avoid prolonged and intermittent spawning, and to stock more males than females. The fish stocked had already seen excellent growth rates despite the lack of natural food in the lake, and Simon advised that we feed pellets to get extra growth rates if required and to keep the fish healthy, but that anglers baits seem to be doing a good job already.

Over the last few months, the lake has been flooded 5 times, and we have lost a number of fish over the weir. Unfortunately, there is not a lot we can do about this. The raising of the chains on the weir has been discussed with the Council on a number of occasions. The Council will not allow the club to raise the chains any higher than they are already, furthermore the club is not allowed to block or restrict the flow of water by any means. The lake has been designed to take flood water and to prevent the flooding of houses & businesses situated in the Tawe valley flood plain.

The NRW are aware that we are losing fish over the weir. They have told us that we cannot recover any fish that get further than the weir pool and into the river, and that it is illegal to move any fish from the river into the Fendrod. The NRW have also had reports of a net across the river below the weir and we have advised them that it's not us. We have no idea who is doing this.

Work parties/litter picks on Fendrod very successful, thanks for everyone that attended. We will be organising some more.

8. HALF ROUND PONDS

Paul Rastatter reported that the fishing on the Half Round Ponds had dramatically improved following the removal of the pond weed, and following the recent stocking felt that no more fish were required for the foreseeable future.

Following the winters increased level of storms and rains the bankside of the ponds has become very waterlogged and muddy, and work is required to remedy this and we need to look at replacing a number of pegs with more substantial platforms. Paul will meet with Mick Butler who will provide a quote to the club for this work.

9. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

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

10. PROPOSALS FROM MEMBERS

- (i) Day Peg 36 down the channel to be closed, (creating a safe area) either (a) permanently or (b) closed 1 October to 31 March as a compromise. Proposed Tim Wright and Seconded by Chris Powell. 2 members voted for this proposal and 19 members voted against this proposal. This proposal was rejected.
- (ii) Day Peg 36 to be closed from 1st April to 30th September only and opened during the winter/colder months from 1st October to 31st March. This proposal is more in line with the concerns around large numbers of fish using this area of the lake to hold up in the colder months and then potentially being lost during unavoidable flooding which happens several times each year. During the warmer months the chances of flooding is much less and more often than not the fish move into the rest of the

lake and into shallower water which is the other end of the lake. Proposed by Aaron Collard and Seconded by Kevin Thomas. This proposal was withdrawn.

- (iii) In addition to Proposal (ii), to better combat the fish holding up in the channel, I propose the banning of all loose feed and pre-baiting around the day peg to ensure a limited amount of bait is used to avoid creating a feeding response/ zone. Small items of feed in the form of Solid Bags and or PVA mesh bags can be used and attached to hook baits etc. as this is only often used to encourage a single bite at a time. (It was also discussed and agreed that this proposal only affects anglers targeting carp, and does not affect match anglers targeting other species). Proposed by Aaron Collard and Seconded by Kevin Thomas. 20 members voted for this proposal and it was passed.
- (iv) I propose that 3 rods are allowed on Peg 38, this was reduced to 2 rods a number of years ago to help with the number of fish being snagged up and lost (possibly tethered) in the fallen tree. This fallen tree along with a number of other snags and overhead branches has now been removed and this rule is now redundant. Proposed by Steve Herman and Seconded by Kevin Thomas. This proposal was unanimously agreed by all the members and was passed.
- (v) No fishing down the channel from the snag point.
Proposed Tim Wright and Seconded by Chris Powell
This proposal was withdrawn.
- (vi) Silt survey, to find out if Siltex is a viable option for the club. (professional company to do the work)
Proposed Tim Wright and Seconded by Chris Powell.
This proposal was agreed by all members present subject to the Club Secretary seeking permission from the Council, the NRW and the Enterprise Manager to undertake the survey.
- (vii) A maximum 72hrs time on the lake, then off for 48. (kicks in after the 1st night). Proposed Tim Wright and Seconded by Chris Powell. 2 members voted for this proposal and 25 members voted against this proposal. This proposal was rejected.
- (viii) New islands for the lake, break it up a bit. (these can be purchased) Proposed Tim Wright and Seconded by Chris Powell. 2 members voted for this proposal and 25 members voted against this proposal. This proposal was rejected.

- (ix) **The use of bait boats. I appreciate that in previous years the use of bait boats was used inappropriately but would advocate some rules when using them such as boundary zones for pegs. If there are set parameters when the zones are set then there should be no real issues. I would therefore ask for at least a trial period. Proposed Paul Phillips and Seconded by Les Payne. 3 members voted for this proposal and 16 members voted against this proposal. This proposal was rejected.**
- (x) **A number of proposals were submitted by Liam Grice but had no seconder, and Liam was not present at the meeting. Therefore, these proposals were not considered, however all of the points raised by Liam were discussed and agreed by the members as they had been raised elsewhere. Steve agreed to speak to Liam separately about the points that he had raised.**

11. GENERAL BUSINESS

Restocking 2024

The secretary will look at ordering some C5 carp from VS Fisheries (number depending on cost) and also some Tench for The Fendrod.

Work on Lakes

Work parties and Litter Picks on the Fendrod to remove litter, overhanging trees and snags to be carried out as soon as the weather and bankside conditions improve. Litter Pickers will be purchased by the club. Peg numbers (plaques) to be purchased and installed on pegs with wooden structures.

New pegs to be installed on the Half round Ponds.

Permits

Permit prices to remain the same. Steve agreed to re-introduce guest tickets which the bailiffs can issue so they keep tabs on how many tickets have been issued.

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

The meeting closed at 9 pm

