

Petersfield & District Angling Club

AGM Minutes

Venue	Petersfield Community Centre
Date	13th February 2024
Time	7:00pm

1a. Attendees	32 members & Steve Chapman was in the chair.
1b. Apologies	Jim Stevens, Ian Jennings, Steve Rayson, Brian McKay, Clive Blount, Clive Richards, Chris Knight & Derek Wood
1c. Approval of Minutes	Proposed: Barry Favell Seconded: Pete Lemon

2. Chairman's report:

Steve Chapman (SC) welcomed those in attendance and thanked the officers & committee members for their continued support in what had been a challenging season with weather conditions (drought/floods etc) affecting fishing and the fish too.

SC reported changes within the committee, with members having served or serving their final term, resulting in vacancies in senior positions (**Treasurer, Membership Secretary & Match Secretary**, the latter two positions would require acting/shadowing successors for the coming season with complete control from 31st March 2025). **SC** had urged for more to step up and join the committee to help with taking the club forward.

SC reported the membership intake had been pleasing and stable, since the huge influx shown during Covid, which had put the membership to capacity.

SC informed the membership of the planned introduction of a new electronic membership application format (ID cards), would be available from March 2025, this would also include an administration fee (TBA), this would improve all fronts of administration tasks, such as paperwork and the hours the associated with it.

SC reminded the membership of changes to fees for the 2024/5 season.

New Junior memberships a £5 fee, existing junior members renewing shall remain free.

Senior Citizen eligibility age to rise to 67+, although no changes to fees and current 2023/4 senior citizen members aged 65+ to remain eligible for the concessionary rate.

SC announced the retirement of the members handbook from 31st March 2025, as the club will be making a transition to electronic and paperless memberships. (club rules would be available via a QR code attached to members ID card or downloadable from the website).

SC also announced the abolishment of Car Park permits from 31st March 2024, these were deemed as no longer viable as members vehicle registrations are now logged on the clubs database and now accessible to officers.

2.Chairman's report cont:

SC reported the **PDAC Development Programme** continue to support and develop young anglers, events held during 2023/4, backed by the **Angling Trust** had been successful, with events well over subscribed, plans for 2024/5 were to increase the number of events from two (2) to three (3). The programme would continue throughout 2024 with outreach campaigns at various community events, promoting the club and "Get Fishing" events. **SC** requested for more support from members to help with the programme.

SC reported the **Angling Trust** had now enforced guidelines and procedures to be followed at club events regarding the safeguarding of children and young adults, therefore a compulsory appointment of Welfare Officer/Lead Designated safeguarding Officer must be made. **SC** explained future public events would consist of DSO deputies, covering event organising, coaching and venue safety, with a welfare officer in a lead role to ensure policies and procedures will be met. **SC** stated he had started to compile **risk assessments** to all PDAC venues (to be listed at each venue and the website).

Shaun Ireland (Sec) had explained the appointment of a **Welfare Officer** was now a compulsory requirement by the clubs insurers (**Angling Trust**) and if not met, the clubs insurance would become void. **SI** added the welfare role also included the safeguarding of all members, officers and volunteers. **SC** thanked **SI** for the clarification of information.

SC reported he had recently attended a meeting representing the PDAC at Midhurst (River Rother Summit) arranged by various organisations. Those in attendance were: National Trust, South Downs National Park, Southern Water, Stantec, Environment Agency, Sussex Wildlife Trust, various local & district councillors, various university biologists/scientists' and officers from Cowdrey & Barlavington estates to form the "**Rother Action Group**" with plans to make improvements to the river. **SC** reported the PDAC were the only angling club in attendance with plans to join and assist the project, he also planned to contact other angling clubs with rights to the river to form a larger representation from angling. **SC** to release further information and it's progress via the club's monthly newsletter.

SC announced a new long-term lease had been agreed and signed, for **Harting Combe**, plans to secure funding for improvements were in motion to improve access from the car park and the entire length of the new-bank pathway to a standard to match that of the opposite bank, also transforming one (1) swim for disabled angling.

SC announced the Exchange books for 2024/5 will now be available from committee member **Steve Elliott**, details to be published in the handbook and website. **SC** showed thanks to **Clive & Derek Blount** for acting as exchange book trustees for many years.

SC finished his report by asking those in attendance to remember the members that were sadly lost over the season and no longer with us: **John Lowe, Stephen Hintze, Paul Quinton, John Clarke & Michael (rasher) Leggatt.**

3. Treasurers report:

SC presented the treasurers final report (available on request to the secretary).

Jim Stone queried for a more detailed breakdown. **SC** explained the information had not been provided, but ensured breakdown costings will be included in future, he informed the meeting, he would be acting treasurer if the role not likely to be filled before the 2024/5 season starts.

SC requested the report be accepted, proposed by **Kris Collins** and seconded by **Steve Sherwood** & carried.

4. Vice chairman's report:

Andy Reed (AR) thanked **Darren Stone** for organising and the running of the 2023/4 Knockout Shield & Plate competitions. **AR** reported the 2023/4 Supercup team had failed to reach past the first round of the event.

AR thanked the match sub-committee members for their support and input over the season and preparations with planning for the up coming match season. **AR** shared various match fees for 2024/5 involving away matches would rise, due to increase of venue fees. **AR** suggested, either match fees be increased or pay-outs be reduced. **AR** provided a spreadsheet with breakdown of fees, costs, including replenishment of match fishing equipment and pay-outs for the past season. The spreadsheet would be made available to the membership. **AR** also suggested keep sake trophies be withdrawn to increase pay-outs.

AR informed the membership of scheduled **Get Fishing** events for 2024/5 and requested for those wishing to volunteer to make it known to him, **AR** thanked those that had volunteered their free time with events over the current season, but emphasised the importance of members support to ensure the events go ahead and the long-term beneficial impact it has on the club.

AR announced the evenings raffle proceeds would go towards **PDAC Development Programme's** funds, **AR** explained that donations of second hand tackle received from members, was sorted, cleaned up, some had been retained for development use, some passed down to junior members and items that were deemed not suitable, were car booted by **Ian Jennings** to generate further funds to purchase of resources, bait & replenishment of equipment for coaching and events.

AR stated, donations are a vital contributor with helping the programme to continue.

AR Reiterated the request for members to help run the club by joining the committee, **AR** stated those that may be interested, but not sure if they would have what is expected of them, members would be welcomed to sit in on meetings to get a feel for it and current committee members would assist to help those considering a role to settle in, **AR** expressed the importance to have a full functioning committee to help keep the club moving forward.

AR confirmed that he will be relinquishing his role as **Match Secretary** in March 2025.

AR finished by offering his thanks to **Kris Collins** for his support he had shown throughout the season.

5. Fisheries Management report:

Pete Lemon (PL) thanked the fisheries team & bailiffs for their continued support with looking after the waters. **PL** showed appreciation to **Jim Stevens & Pete Marchant** for their efforts and support throughout the season and to those that had supported him when required.

PL expressed only a few work parties were well attended, he would liked to have seen a good balance, but thanked those that had supported the parties by attending.

PL expressed he found the season had been very testing for him and stressful at times and reminded the membership that those holding management roles within the club are not qualified, but volunteers. As fisheries manager, he had dealt with matters with the guidance from various authorities and had learnt a great deal from it and likely to learn more whilst continuing to conduct his role.

PL shared the fisheries report for each water:

Bopeep Pond:

Siltex early 2023

Siltex due February 2024

Two (2) attempts of weed removal, first attempt, only a small amount removed, only to accommodate fishing due to water conditions. On the next occasion, all the weed and the large patch of lilies had been removed. The general maintenance (mowing & trimming) had be on going throughout the season.

East Pond:

General maintenance throughout the season.

Harting Combe:

Lilies had been sprayed, swim fronts replaced on various swims and general maintenance.

PL announced, planned works for 2024 on the new bank footpath and swims, although subject to funding approval.

Rother:

General maintenance including removal of fencing prior to the season, lack of support from **EA** to remove fallen trees and snags from the river.

Nyewood Ponds:

June:

- Top pond closed due to spawning
- Top pond reopens
- Water levels drop
- Regular water testing commences
- Very little, to no feed entering the ponds
- Tampering to feeder stream detected, diverting stream away from the ponds

5. Fisheries Management report cont:

July:

- No feed entering ponds at all
- Pegs 1-6 and pegs on opposite south bank on top pond closed due to low water levels
- Keep-net ban on both ponds enforced
- Discussion held with landowners to improvise a temporary repair to feeder stream
- Fisheries team construct temporary fix to feeder stream
- Net limit reduced to 30lb for matches
- Feed now entering the ponds

August:

- Member reports sign of damage to one fish caught from bottom pond
- Reports of fish mortality from bottom pond
- Further fish mortalities and damage visible to fish caught from bottom pond
- 14th Aug. Mortalities reported and incident logged with EA
- Member reports visible sores on fish caught from bottom pond
- Fisheries team close both ponds as a precaution, still awaiting a response from EA
- Temporary keepnet ban enforced on all waters
- 15th Aug. Situation reported to EA again.
- Water testing continues
- EA visit ponds, test water quality, results found satisfactory, recommendations for daily testing morning & evening
- EA satisfied live fish samples seemed healthy, but did show some signs of stress and mechanical damage, maybe due to recent low waters levels, effecting the Biomass, tests should confirm this
- Photographs of fish mortalities provided by the club, also sent to laboratory for inspection.
- 21st Aug. Ponds reopen with EA approval, no matches permitted on bottom pond
- Further reports of fish caught showing signs of sores from bottom pond
- Further reports of fish mortalities from bottom pond
- 29th Aug. EA satisfied situation contained to bottom pond. Bottom pond closed until further notice as recommended by EA, top pond remains open
- EA collect live samples, sent to Cambridge laboratory for examination

September:

- Water quality testing continues
- Aerators deployed, active daily
- Further fish mortalities from bottom pond
- EA report incident to Fish-health inspectorate (Cephas)
- Cefas visit Nyewood to collect samples for testing
- 5th Sept. Cefas issue designated notice to close ponds during investigation for suspected KHV disease
- Nyewood complex closes
- Feeding programme introduced during closure as recommended by Cephas
- Cephas report testing proved negative for KHV & Carp Edema Virus
- 21st Sept. Designation notice lifted
- Nyewood complex reopens to members

5. Fisheries Management report cont:

October:

- EA advised on improvements, introduction of oxygenating planting and to reduce fish density to improve biomass and recommendation for culling of aged & infected stock
- 2nd Oct. EA release final report (attached, page 12)
- Committee discuss EA report, quotations for netting & culling requested
- Various contractors contacted for quotation, response very slow and some with no availability for 2023/4 netting window
- Three contractors submit quotations, in the region of £3000, two excluding culling, third stated culling chemical would be additional charge.

November:

- Club officials meet with landowner to discuss EA report and proposal for permanent fix to feeder stream, proposal to costings were found acceptable, landowner to discuss proposal with neighbouring landowner, where breach was originally made
- Committee agree to release funds for netting
- Further fish mortality reported

December:

- Committee approve netting plan, to net both ponds, over 2 consecutive days and remove selected stock
- Window of opportunity missed due to unavailable contractors

January:

- Fish mortalities continue
- EA contacted regarding continuation of mortalities
- 26th Jan. EA visit Nyewood to carry out further tests
- 31st Jan. EA report recent mortalities, a continuation of losses due to the density and conditions in the water.
- EA reiterate, an assessment of fish density followed by either a re-distribution or removal of fish would be wholly beneficial to the remaining stock and the overall quality of angling
-

PL reported the situation remained ongoing, a total of forty-four (44) Carp were lost to date.

PL announced Keep-nets will only be permitted for bona-fide matches on all PDAC waters and all nets must be dry prior to any match.

Shaun Ireland queried the number of fish likely to be removed. **PL** stated he was unable to put a number to it, as not knowing the size of the current stock and to how many fish are likely to be damaged, only netting of the bottom pond would give official number, worst case scenario, it could be in the region of 1000lb of fish. **PL** added the **EA** had offered to assist with guidance when netting. **AR** shared, when the club was once a member of the **Hants/Sussex Alliance**, in the early 1980's, **Hilsea Moat** had an outbreak of red algae, causing a huge loss in fish and the remaining stock were relocated to **Nyewood Bottom pond** without any notice. **AR** stated, at the time, the club had no idea of the size, age or condition of the Carp, but if they had survived and still existed; then they would be 40+ years old, in which time repeatedly caught, this could had been a contributor to the recent fish deaths. **AR** expressed, if a disease was present, then a lot more fish would have been lost. **PL** stated the situation was contained to the bottom pond only. **PL** added, the **EA** had indicated the stock were undernourished, lacked signs of growth and a breakdown to the immune system were visible, likely affecting their healing abilities.

Graham Potter queried if various fishing methods may had contributed to the damaged fish. **PL** expressed his concerns with the use of 3lb test curve rods and suggested reducing this, he also expressed heavy elastic by those using poles could also be a contributor, as mechanical damage could be caused by all types of anglers (carp, match & pleasure).

5. Fisheries Management report cont:

Jim Stone acknowledged the removal of fish would benefit the pond, but queried if up to 75% of stock were affected, then that would be a huge amount. **AR** stated, the club would be guided by the **EA** with the process of netting and they would recommend which fish to remove. **PL** stated he was thankful that plans to net both ponds in November had not materialised, as cross stocking was discussed to balance the stock, this may have escalated the situation.

Graham Potter stated that information to members regarding the situation had been lacking, allowing speculation to grow with rumour mongering being the only source of information. **PL** declared the information from the authorities had been slow and the club could not make any speculations of the situation until the reports had been confirmed, **PL** stated, he was aware that some members had created rumours of KHV.

Graham Potter added, any information released to members would have been helpful. **SC** stated, the club had learnt from this and would make improvements to notify the membership in the future.

Graham Potter requested clarity regarding the use of keep-nets, **PL** reiterated, Keep-nets would no longer be permitted on all PDAC waters, unless a bon-fide match.

Darren Stone expressed the bottom pond over the years seemed to had been regularly stock, old stock passed on from other waters and compared it to a “Retirement Home”. **SC** reassured members, the club would do it’s upmost to rectify the situation to put the pond in a better state. **PL** informed members that the club were currently in negotiations to have the pond netted, hopefully in the coming months. **SC** confirmed the fish removed would not in a resalable condition and would be culled to improve the biomass and quality.

SI praised **PL** for his efforts and members expressed their appreciation with a round of applause.

6. Proposals & Motions:

6.1. SC presented the proposal to amend to the PDAC constitution to include a Welfare Officer/Lead DSO role within the Management Committee.

Ray Lincoln queried if the role included safeguarding. SC confirmed it would be to ensure policies and procedures were in place to safeguard children & vulnerable adults.

SC stated, he would be applying for training (safer events: NSPCC) and his employers would put him through First-Aid training.

Proposal	Proposer: Steve Chapman Second: Andrew Reed	Votes		
		For	Against	Abstain
Amendment to PDAC constitution. 2. Management Committee. section 2.6. "Junior Liaison Officer " to be replaced with "Welfare Officer & Supporting DSO's" Role descriptions & duties document attached to agenda, pages 4,5 &6.	Notes: <div style="text-align: center; color: green; font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">CARRIED</div>	31	0	0

6.2. Darren Stone presented the proposal to approve guest tickets, only for Nyewood ponds and they would be limited to two (2) books to be held in the same format as exchange books and available from Steve Elliott in Buriton.

Graham Potter requested clarification as past discussions had indicated guests were not approved within the lease agreement and also not covered by the clubs insurance. SI confirmed that guests were now covered by insurance. SC stated that permission was also granted by the landowner. AR stated, the appropriate checks were carried out before to the proposal was considered.

Proposal	Proposer: Steve Elliott Second: Darren Stone	Votes		
		For	Against	Abstain
Members Guest Permit/Nyewood Ponds Only. a) Two guest permits be made available any given week. b) One permit made available to any adult* member for one day use, three times a year. c) Members may only use a permit once for any named guest. d) Members must book permits in advance, collect the day before use and returned the same or following day. e) Permits held by Steve Elliott. (Buriton) f) Fees set at £10.00 Adult* (Full adult, senior citizen & registered disabled)	Notes: <div style="text-align: center; color: green; font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">CARRIED</div>	29	2	0

6. Proposals & Motions cont:

6.3. AR presented the proposal, the past two (2) years, the club had offered “early bird” half year applications from 1st September at outreach campaigns held in August, indications had shown a good uptake. **Ray Lincoln** queried the change in release dates. **SC** confirmed the current dates were 1st October– 31st March and the new dates would be 1st September– 31st March, this would be an additional month to the permit. **Ray Lincoln** suggested a summer permit. **SC** stated, the club would probably see a decline in membership. **AR** stated, with rental increases, the club must find a way to increase funds. **SI** confirmed this year, of the sixty-four (64) half-year applications received, twenty (20) were submitted in the first two weeks of September. **Ray Lincoln** requested clarity with the current temporary “One Rod Only” rule that had been enforce on Nyewood. **PL** confirmed the rule would now become permanent due to a spate of members losing rods whilst fishing with two (2).

<p align="center">Proposal 3.</p>	<p>Proposer: Shaun Ireland Seconder: Andrew Reed</p>	<p>Votes</p>		
	<p>Notes:</p> <p align="center">CARRIED</p>	<p>For</p> <p align="center">31</p>	<p>Against</p> <p align="center">0</p>	<p>Abstain</p> <p align="center">0</p>
<p>Half Year Membership fees.</p> <p>a) Half year membership applications released 1st September.</p> <p>b) Fees to be set at 60% of full year membership.</p>				

7. Election of Officers:

The **Chairman** read out the list of candidates and reminded members that no nomination had been received to fill the position as Treasurer, he also added that **Geoff Grimes and Andy Reed** would be serving as Membership Secretary and Match Secretary for one (1) season respectively.

SC read out the formal candidates received to join the committee were, **Sean Crowley & Steve Rayson**

AR called for members from the floor wishing to fill vacancies, **Rob Grant & Dom Davies** had offered their services to join the committee.

Position	Name	Proposer	Secunder	Votes For	Against	Abstentions
President	Mike Parr	Geoff Grimes	Graham Potter	31	0	0
Chairman	Steve Chapman	Mark Weston	John Forster	31	0	0
Vice Chairman	Andy Reed	Pete Lemon	Steve Elliott	31	0	0
Secretary	Shaun Ireland	Graham Potter	Andy Reed	31	0	0
Welfare/DSO	Steve Chapman	Kris Collins	Darren Stone	31	0	0
Treasurer	remains vacant			31	0	0
Membership Sec	Geoff Grimes	Jim Stone	Dominic Davies	31	0	0
Match Sec	Andy Reed	Kris Collins	Geoff Grimes	31	0	0
Fisheries Manager	Pete Lemon	Rob Grant	Ken Heighes	31	0	0
Ord Mem	Ian Jennings	Darren Stone	Pete Lemon	31	0	0
Ord Mem	Steve Elliott	Dominic Davies	Kris Collins	31	0	0
Ord Mem	Darren Stone	Alex Munday	Graham Potter	31	0	0
Ord Mem	Sean Crowley	Pete Lemon	Ray Lincoln	31	0	0
Ord Mem	Steve Rayson	Andy Reed	Darren Stone	31	0	0
Ord Mem	Rob Grant	Geoff Grimes	Jim Stone	31	0	0
Ord Mem	Dominic Davies	Steve Chapman	Steve Elliott	31	0	0

The Chairman thanked those elected and also thanked the members present.

8. Break

9. Raffle, pickle/Jam sales & auction

(£230.00 raised)

10. Members Free Membership Draw.

winner: Steve Sherwood

11. Any other business:

PL requested for current bailiffs to re-apply for 2024/5 season, he also notified members that he would be accepting new applicants. (application forms are available from the website). **Steve Elliott** stated, bailiff duties was a great way to communicate, getting to know members and to educate them.

Graham Potter suggested with damage to Carp, would the committee considered banning Paste hook-bait for a year, **Darren Stone** expressed, ground-bait must be included as same ingredient. **PL** stated, the objective would be to get **Nyewood** bottom pond netted, then implement and assess changes accordingly.

PL advised members of temporary closures to Nyewood in the for coming weeks/months for maintenance and netting.

AR queried if the membership would like for the monthly social evenings be reinstated, these had seized due to covid. **AR** reminded members of the alliance with residents of Herne Farm, the raffles held, raised two thirds of the money to finance the purchase of a defibrillator which is mounted on the wall outside of the Herne Farm venue. **PL** queried if the club should have its own defibrillator, **AR** stated, the club should have one, specifically for matches and events and especially if locations are out of the way, **AR** added the costs would be in the region of £900. **Graham Potter** expressed it had been discussed before, but strongly recommended “**what3words**” be listed at all PDAC venue, it had been proven as a useful tool for emergency services to navigate to isolated locations, **SI** stated that this had been introduced to the handbook for the coming season and will also be listed on venue notice boards. **SC** suggested the reinstatement of social evenings, could help to raise funds for a club defibrillator. **AR** to follow up and source venue.

SC reminded members that work parties for 2024/5 will be announced with confirmed dates, with plenty of notice and requested for members to attend.

Graham Potter expressed his thanks to the committee.

SC thanked all those that had attended the meeting.

The chairman closed the meeting at 10:06pm

EA final report, 2nd Oct. 2023:

Summary:

The mortalities at Nyewood ponds are likely to have been linked to a combination of factors, including the external condition of the fish (lesions, poor bodyweight, mechanical damage), current environmental conditions (potential blue/green algae bloom, low dissolved oxygen levels).

The presence of secondary bacterial infection is indicative of existing poor health and conditions at the fishery rather than a direct driver for the mortalities themselves.

The majority of the symptoms described on site and pathologies noted during examination are suggestive of chronic stressors that are often linked to fishery management practices (such as high stocking densities, and heavy angling pressure).

The fish examined were unlikely to have been entirely representative of those affected on site (due to rod and line capture and the difficulties obtaining a representative sample from incidents affecting lower numbers of fish).

However, the presence of these pathologies throughout the population indicates an underlying problem at the fishery, with those affected to date likely having succumbed to the physiological challenges that such damage and infections can bring.

Mechanical damage is indicative of repeated capture and handling, which can lead to debilitation and secondary infections (such as the bacterial infection identified in this sample). The poor bodyweight of the fish examined and limited recent growth identified through scale analysis suggests that there may not be sufficient resources within the fishery to support the current fish population; growth can also be impacted by stressful fishery conditions.

Environmental conditions at the time of sampling were sub-optimal, with a high abundance of blue/green algae present, low dissolved oxygen levels and a number of findings indicating high organic loading. These conditions are likely linked to the high stocking density at the fishery, with increased nutrient input through fish waste (leading to higher risk of harmful algal blooms), higher biological oxygen demand etc.

Virology report: Negative for Spring Viremia of Carp (SVC), Koi Herpesvirus (KHV). and Carp Edema Virus (CEV).

Membership Data 2010-2023

	Members	Adult	Sen Cit	Reg. D	Stu	Jun	Juv	Assoc	New	Retained
2010	208	97	56	23	2	7	19	4	51	157
2011	227	114	63	17	2	10	18	3	51	176
2012	221	108	69	18	0	15	6	5	53	168
2013	235	104	84	19	2	14	6	6	44	191
2014	227	107	79	18	1	10	7	5	54	173
2015	178	85	70	11	0	3	7	2	34	144
2016	181	89	69	5	1	2	11	4	36	145
2017	233	121	82	4	3	7	9	7	81	152
2018	282	137	92	10	0	27	7	9	109	173
2019	349	162	102	15	3	24	28	15	138	211
2020	450	214	127	17	5	28	32	27	193	257
2021	436	196	116	14	3	41	34	32	145	291
2022	409	157	116	12	1	46	34	43	125	284
2023	422	149	123	15	4	50	36	45	118	304