

Minutes for

Berkeley Estate Fishing Syndicate AGM 2017

Date: Thursday 30th March 2017

Location: The Berkeley Arms, Berkeley

Ser	Subject	Remarks/Possible points	Actions
1	Welcome	RP – 2016 could be described as a development year – 2017 set to be the same - Focus remains on providing members with enjoyable & challenging fishing in a friendly, open syndicate - Founding Member Jonathon Bingham’s passing remembered	
2	Apologies	TA - Apologies received from; S.Aldridge, M.Brewin, C.Creswick, R.Forley, J.Fuller, J.Green, A.Jenner, I.Mock, N.Pearse, S.Williams - Minutes of last AGM displayed for all members present. Minutes signed off as correct and accepted by Roger Holman on behalf of the membership	
3	Syndicate Report	RP – Thanks to those members who have contributed throughout the year - Particular thanks to those who have attended WPs & the Monitoring Teams - Strong relationship with Estate as silent partner – letting BEFS get on with fishing - Development Programme ongoing and supported by a Rent freeze - Membership healthy for 2016 with 104 members (not to exceed 110) - 2016 was a busy year with numerous achievements including; New Membership Secretary + Membership cards Electronic banking and payments New Website – to be central information hub for members – supported by emails Updated Documentation - ongoing – Members Information Pack / Constitution / Policies - Still a need to capture true costs of running syndicate – too reliant on a few members funding costs out of own pockets - Insurance has been reviewed - Plans to continue with annual Newsletter prior to AGM – all other communications including Monthly Newscasts through website & email	

4	Annual Accounts	<p>DC - Accounts in good order</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Move to electronic accounts complete - Internal Audit Complete - Auditors WG&Co yet to complete External Audit – should be complete in coming weeks <p>Fee of £50 waived for donation to charity.</p> <p>Key Costs in Year</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rent - Insurance - Website - WP Tools <p>Income in Year</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - £5,500 gives surplus of £1,500 ('true costs' estimated close to surplus figure) <p>RP – Membership fees remain at £55 – Concerns looking to future with demographic of membership – perhaps need to attract more 'younger blood'</p>	
5	River Report	<p>RP:</p> <p>Overview – River remained in good health throughout 2016 – No extreme conditions flooding/low water – no signs of distressed or damaged fish other than by predator birds</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Himalayan Balsam addressed at several WPs, members encouraged to pull up when seen - Detailed River Survey (RS) is required - RS along with advice from EA will identify required enhancements to river ecosystem - Requirement for training on certain tools <p>Work Party (WP) – 11 Full WPs – 78 member attendances total (not 78 members) Total hours 245 (£1530 @ volunteer rate £6.31)</p> <p>River Walked 1-2 times per month to assess WP tasks, identify problems/issues Total Hours 101 (£637 + travel costs @ £187 for 1 member)</p> <p>Scientific Monitoring – To assess health & wellbeing of river & ecosystem 1 member @ 153 hours / estimated travel costs @ £156</p>	

6	Scientific Report & Catch Returns	<p>RFP – Same 6 sites being tested – data returns since 2011 – 4 trained members + 2 members recently started – additional volunteers welcome, see Martin Wise - Mayflies showing strongly – Stoneflies rare</p> <p>Catch Returns (CR) – only 33 received for analysis (8 didn't fish/11 Nil /15 CRs) = 65% of members failed to submit a return this year – Total 1146 fish reported from 15 members (1536 reported in 2016) – Damery highest return @ 460 fish / Middle Mill @ 297 / Cascades @ 141 / John's field @ 113/ Meadow @ 108 – biggest fish BT 16" / Grayling 16" / Chub 18" – More Grayling (57%) caught that Trout (35%) – other species recorded = Dace, Roach, Eel, Minnows, Perch, Bullheads -Requirement to encourage the need for catch returns & other/additional ways of collecting this data -Requirement to provide fish protection from predator birds at Cascades</p> <p>Water Testing - Testing for Phosphates / Ph / Water & Air Temperatures – 2nd year of data collection – data starting to show patterns – Good correlation between BEFS data and EA data – Chemistry has been stable at all times – No effect identified from either of the major road systems or from agricultural land interacting with our river</p>	
7	The Year Ahead	<p>RP: 2017 is the Year of the Volunteer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Work Party Leader required to help run 2-3 WPs per year - Tools & Equipment Manager required (Update: this post been filled Apr' 17) - Documents Manager to review & update as necessary (Update: role filled Apr' 17) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Need to continue to identify & capture 'True Costs' of running BEFS - Website to continue to evolve as required to meet the needs of members - Training for members for RFP skills, Tool & Equipment usage & maintenance - River Survey to be completed - Document Review is underway - Insurance being reviewed - Berkeley Show June 2017 - Increase relationships in local community - Bankside get together – social event, potentially July/August - Encourage younger anglers from local community – ideas welcomed 	

8	Proposals	<p>Membership of Angling Trust with Fish Legal “Proposed that BEFS become a member of the Angling Trust & Fish Legal” Proposed – Roger Patrick (Chairman) Seconded – Terry Staniforth (President) PASSED by Members present</p> <p>Membership of Wild Trout Trust “Proposed that BEFS become a member of Wild Trout Trust” Proposed – Roger Patrick (Chairman) Seconded – Alastair Ferguson (Member) PASSED by Members present</p> <p>Reimbursement of Travel Expenses in Agreed Cases “Proposed that travel costs be reimbursed to any member carrying out work on behalf of BEFS only when requested and agreed by BEFS Management Group” Proposed – Roger Patrick (Chairman) Seconded – Steve Davies (Member) PASSED by Members present</p> <p>Catch Return Encouragement through fees/penalties “Proposed that Catch Return rates are too low and members should be encouraged to submit a return by either reduced fees for those who submit or increased fees for those who do not. Proposed – Alan Jenner (Member) REJECTED – concerns that this is not the right method, is hard to manage & potentially a negative/unfriendly approach</p> <p>No Further Proposals from Members</p>	
9	Any Other Business	<p>MW – Voluntary Bailiff Scheme (VBS) in place nationally – any members interested in learning more or participating should visit VBS website</p> <p>GL – Middle Mill (Temporary Foot) Bridge should be rebuilt as is currently unsafe RP – this has been identified and is on the list for work to be completed</p>	

		TA – Orvis shop in Bath offering fishing clubs 10% discount for members on full price fishing items, in store, only. Members would only need to show membership card to qualify	
10	Next AGM & Notable Dates	<p>AGM 2018 – Thursday 29th March 2018</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MG Meeting 6th April 2017 - Berkeley Show Saturday 25th June 2017 - Bankside get together – TBC 	
11	Closing Remarks	<p>RP – Wish to ensure BEFS is seen as a friendly group & that members can interact & enjoy their fishing. Support is sought from members for upcoming changes. Without volunteers we face an increasing challenge in continuing to set the standards we do so we can enjoy our fishing</p> <p>- BEFS will continue to work closely with the Estate & relevant agencies. We will continue to manage, monitor & maintain the river as we do.</p> <p>Enjoy the River & Remember your Catch Returns!</p>	
	Meeting Closed	21:10 – Full set of handwritten notes supplemented by printed Powerpoint slides held by TA	

	<p>Questions raised from Membership (marked by related section)</p>	<p>(3) Roger Holman – H&S, Cows in the fields dangerous and can knock people to floor RP – Members fish at their own risk & must take personal care & make judgements on what is safe. This is not a common problem & should be considered part of rural life MW – farmer is taking steps to separate herd from public</p> <p>(5) Roly Halzgrawe – Could we get regularly updated graphs on website of catch returns by beat/area? MW – There is not enough live/current data at any given time but could be if we submit catch returns through a different system</p> <p>(5) Tim Smith – relating to claiming back expenses for kick testing – what if we do not want to claim back costs? RP – No member will be forced to take reimbursement but it is right and fair that it should be offered @ 40p per mile</p>	
13	Date of next AGM	Thursday 29th March 2018	

Signed off as a correct representation of the meeting:

Roger Patrick: _____ **Date:** _____

Counter Signed By one syndicate Member

Name: _____ **Signature:** _____ **Date:** _____

