

West Wilts Fly Fishers Guild

Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 13th February 2019 8.00pm Shaw Hotel, Melksham

Present:

Jon Jonik (President & interim Treasurer), Roger Henderson (Secretary), Alan Kerr (Membership Secretary), Gerry Barnes, Al Logan, Robert Eadie, Colin Burbedge, Andy Greatwood, Ray Buckley-Humphries, Robin Sewell, Clive Little, Malcolm Bond, Tim Pullen, Richard Arney

Apologies: Brian Hussey, William Arney, David Little, John Sheppard, Russell Bond, Mike Harris, Ged West

Approval of minutes of the 2018 AGM

Approved unanimously. No amendments.

Chairman and Treasurer's report:

Jon Jonik presented the report (copy attached) He thanked those members whose contributions had made 2019 so successful. He drew attention to the importance of our website which Alan Kerr manages and the need to develop the use of social media to reach out to potential members. Al Logan very kindly offered to take on the task of developing our social media presence.

Copies of the accounts had been circulated prior to the meeting and Jon reported that the Guild is financially sound. He informed members that the Committee had decided to keep subscriptions at the 2018 level. The Committee had also agreed to subsidise three Guild activities during the year - one bank and one boat outing by £10 per ticket and the Guild Dinner by £10 per person.

Jon invited questions about Guild finances but none were raised.

The meeting voted unanimously to approve the accounts.

Jon asked members to consider serving on The Committee.

Elections:

No nominations had been received to fill the vacant Committee positions.

Officers

Nominee

Chairman -	vacancy
Treasurer -	vacancy
Secretary -	Roger Henderson
Membership Secretary -	Alan Kerr
Ad hoc Member -	vacancy
President -	Jon Jonik
Vice Presidents -	John DeCesare Malcolm Bond
Auditor -	Annette Bond

The meeting voted unanimously to elect the above.

Close of AGM: There being no other business the AGM closed at 8.30pm.

Presentation of Trophies – see website for the full list of presentations made.

Part 2

Business meeting and Fly-tying

- i) Jon confirmed the social events in the 2019 Programme (available on the website)
- ii) The speaker at our March meeting will be Ian Mock the Director of the Bristol Avon Rivers Trust (BART). Ian spoke at a Guild meeting a few years ago about the formation of BART and in March we will get an update.
BART is developing river improvement projects with the Environment Agency one of which is to improve The Somerset Frome and includes our stretch. Jon and Roger have been involved with BART since its formation and will represent the Guild at meetings.
- iii) Alan Kerr thanked members for their subscription payments and will issue membership cards at the March meeting (Wed 13th)
- iv) Roger reminded members about the River Frome Bank Work session on Sunday 17th Feb. and thanked members who have offered to help.
- v) A discussion about stocking the Frome this year led to the suggestion that we include some bigger fish among the 12” to 14” fish planned. This will be discussed at the March Committee meeting.
- vi) The meeting unanimously approved two membership applications and welcomed Robin Sewell and Clive Little to the Guild.

Part 3

Fly-tying

This was the second of our fly-tying master classes and both Andy Greatwood and Ray Buckley-Humphries demonstrated a range of fly patterns - buzzers, parachute flies, pheasant tail nymphs, emergers, and diawl bachs etc. tyings which they have honed to perfection and use themselves. It was a fascinating and very informative session. We are very grateful to Andy and Ray.

CHAIRMAN & TREASURER'S REPORT

The one advantage being both Chair and Treasurer is it enables me to combine both reports which hopefully will speed up the meeting.

We have had a busy calendar which included river, bank and boat fishing outings and some interesting speakers. Peter Cockwill's extensive knowledge and experience of fishing for grayling in Europe and North America rather put into perspective our own local efforts and if anything, we should redouble our efforts to fish for them during the trout close season. Peter Tattersal of Wessex Waters surprised us with the importance they attach to river restoration and the funding allocated for local projects. Andy Greatwood's and Ray Buckley Humphries fly tying demonstrations were well received and will become more of a feature in the pre-season Guild meetings.

The Guild website is our main communication platform and I urge you all to make more use of it especially reporting your fishing outings and for storing photographs of venues and catches. It now

contains links to the data from our Riverfly monitoring on the River Frome with some great photographs of nymphs, hatching Grannon and Mayfly. We are now looking to use social media to reach a younger audience who then might be attracted to joining the Guild although we will need a member to run this initiative. Malcolm Bond had to cancel the skittles evening in April due to lack of support, but we had another very enjoyable Dinner here at The Shaw Hotel in November.

Our rivers continue to be lightly fished. We retained the Govier's stretch on the Mole for this season, but we will not renew as it wasn't fished. We have improved access to some of the lower beats on the River Frome, we've stocked twice during the season with rainbows and John Sheppard and Roger Henderson have continued with the very important fly monitoring and recording as members of the National RiverFly Partnership.

Now to financial matters – Membership numbers were slightly down at 40 which included 21 River plus 4 coarse fisherman and although we budgeted for a loss of £340, we finished the year with an actual loss of £282.68. As well as subsidising fishing outings we also contributed towards the cost of the Dinner. We had one exceptional cost items of £84.95 for our web domain name (5years) and again Gerry Barnes's Monthly, Dinner and Fishing raffles are generously supported and continue to make an important contribution to funds.

Our finances are in excellent shape and we have a very healthy accumulated fund. Your committee recommends that for 2019 the Guild membership remains at £40 and the cost of fishing the River Frome also remains the same at £40 per member. We will subsidise one bank and one boat outing by £10 per ticket and a similar amount will be allocated per person for the Dinner. With these subsidies and mindful that we have accumulated a large surplus we propose to budget a loss of £226 for 2019.

I thank the membership for their continued support and make special mention that the activities of the Guild are made possible by the commitment and diligence of our Secretary Roger Henderson and Alan Kerr our Membership secretary both of which carrying out additional duties. We are very lucky indeed to have such support, but we need your help if we are to continue to provide the sort of Club we all enjoy.

I would also like to thank Annette Bond for auditing the accounts.

Are there any questions either regarding my report or about the accounts.

Jon Jonik

Chairman & Treasurer

13th February 2019