WEST WILTS FLY FISHERS GUILD

 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

 11TH AUGUST 2021

 CHAIRMAN & TREASURER’S REPORT

My Reports are for the year ending 31st December 2020 which is a while ago from today and even longer since we were able to last meet in March 2020. Covid restrictions meant that we couldn’t meet and worse initially we couldn’t fish. We also had to find a new meeting venue after the owners of Shaw Country Hotel finally found a buyer. Roger and I met with Emma and the twins and thanked them on behalf of the club for the excellent service they gave us and especially for our annual dinner which was always first class. Hopefully you find The Bradford Leigh Hotel equally as comfortable for both our meetings and our dinner.

Although we couldn’t meet as a club, normal administration continued with excellent take up of membership renewals and we stocked the River Frome which we were able to fish later in the year. We couldn’t organise any bank or boat fishing outings which meant we were able to save on some of our budgeted costs i.e. fishing subsidies, the annual dinner and speakers but conversely we weren’t able to raise any raffle income. Our membership of The Angling Trust/Fish Legal came to the fore in that their negotiations with the Government highlighted the health benefit of fishing and the low risk of covid in the outdoors which resulted in be able to restart fishing earlier than many other activities.

Now to financial matters – Guild Membership remained the same as 2019 at 41 which included 24 river and 4 coarse fishermen. We budgeted for a loss of £317.08 but finished the year with a surplus of £234.45 mainly due to not spending on speakers and subsidising the dinner and fishing outings.

Our finances are in excellent shape and although we continue to budget to reduce our surplus we have a very healthy accumulated fund. Considering the restricted activities permitted in 2020 your committee decided that 2021 Guild membership would be free to existing members and that the cost of fishing the River Frome would remain the same at £40 per member. The coarse fishing ticket remains unchanged at £60. We propose to subsidise one bank and one boat outing by £15 per member plus a similar amount will be allocated per member and partner for the dinner. With these subsidies and mindful that we have accumulated a large surplus we propose to budget for a loss of £682.50 for 2021. I would like thank Annette Bond for the help she gives me in finalising the accounts and for auditing them.

I thank the membership for their continued support during these extraordinary times and make special mention that the activities of the Guild are made possible by the commitment and diligence of our Secretary and River Keeper Roger Henderson whose regular email communications were so important during 2020, Alan Kerr our Membership secretary who also manages and looks after our website. Both carry out other task and we are very fortunate to have their support. With Alan leaving at the end of this year (December 2020) we will need help on the committee if we are to continue to provide the sort of Club we all enjoy. I would also like to thank our Vice Presidents Malcolm Bond and John DeCesare whose advice and support of the Guild are much appreciated by the committee.

Are there any questions regarding my report or about the accounts?

Jon Jonik Chairman & Treasurer

11th August 2021