**West Wilts Fly Fishers Guild**

**Annual General Meeting**

**Wednesday 11th August 2021 7.30pm Leigh Park Hotel, B-on-A**

**Present:**

Jon Jonik (President & interim Treasurer), Roger Henderson (Secretary), Gerry Barnes, Colin Burbedge, Robert Eadie, Simon Steel, Jonathan Owens,Malcolm Bond, Tim Pullen, Peter Marshall-Bailey, David Edwards, Bryan Hussey, Richard Cripps,

1. **Apologies:** John De Cesare,John Sheppard, Charles Freemantle, Mike Brewin, David Little, Mick Marchant, Neil Soni, James Moore.
2. **Approval of minutes of the 2020 AGM**

Approved unanimously. No amendments.

1. **Report from The President**

See copy attached

Acceptance of President’s Report proposed by Colin Burbedge and Seconded by Malcolm Bond – The meeting voted unanimously in favour.

1. **Report from The Treasurer**

**See** copy attached

Jon invited questions about Guild finances but none were raised.

Acceptance of Treasurer’s Report proposed by Bryan Hussey and Seconded by Robert Eadie. The meeting voted unanimously in favour.

The meeting voted unanimously to approve the accounts.

**Elections:**

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

Officers Nominee

Chairman - Jon Jonik during the interregnum

Treasurer - Jon Jonik

Secretary - Roger Henderson

Membership Secretary - vacancy

Ad hoc Member - vacancy

President - Jon Jonik

Vice Presidents - John DeCesare

Malcolm Bond

Auditor - Annette Bond

Re-election of the above Guild Officers was proposed by Richard Cripps and Seconded by Peter Marshall-Bailey. The committee and officers were re-elected ‘en bloc’.

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**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**

1. **Apologies**

See above

1. **Minutes of March 2020 Guild meeting and Matters Arising**

Accepted without amendment. No matters arising

1. **New members**

Jon welcomed new members who have joined since our last meeting March 2020

1. **‘Friends of the River Frome’ update**

Jon and Roger have been in dialogue with Friends of the Frome throughout 2020 and 2021. In May 2020 Friends of the Frome published their ‘Frome River Strategy’ which has been accepted by Frome Council as a policy document to inform town development inc planning applications. The River Strategy document is accessible via a link on the WWFFG website. Whilst much of the strategy is Frome town centric, elements of the five aims will have the potential to directly benefit the WWFFG stretch of The Frome e.g.:

**Aim I - Maintain & Improve the ecological quality of the river**

1.7 – Control invasive non-native species inc. Himalayan Balsam and North American Mink.

**Aim 3 – River Pollution**

3.3 - Support work with farmers and landowners to improve management of riverside land and reduce surface water run-off and pollution.

3.5 – Seek removal of Combined Sewage Overflows and improve Sewage Treatment Works

**Aim 5 – Nurture interest in the river and ensure its condition is monitored.**

5.6 – Regular river fly and other water quality monitoring

5.7 – Establish robust systems for reporting pollution to the Environment Agency

1. **Angling Trust & Fish Legal and Wild Trout Trust** communications to all members

As WWFFG is a group member of The Angling Trust it was agreed by the meeting that email communications from The Angling Trust will be forwarded to members to keep them informed.

Malcolm Bond will contact the Chairman of the Angling Trust to be a guest speaker at a Guild meeting in 2022.

1. **Committee vacancies**

Jon asked members to consider taking on key roles to help the Guild run smoothly.

Jonathan Owens offered to take on the role of Membership Secretary.

Simon Steel offered to manage the website.

Jon will follow-up with Jonathan and Simon.

1. **River Frome update inc. fly-monitoring**

Roger thanked members who had helped with bank work sessions and stocking – so far this year 15 members have given up their time on various occasions. The bank work sessions this year clearing access, had been more vital than usual because the rain and heat had meant very rapid growth of nettles and brambles.

Fly-monitoring - five members had undertaken the training provided by The Bristol Avon Rivers Trust (BART) which consisted of an on-line course in June and a practical river session in July. We now have two more fly-monitoring sites registered with the Environment Agency – one downstream of the site which we have monitored since 2015, on beat 10 at the ladder access point and one upstream of the Packhorse Bridge on Langham Farm. The three sites will provide a more balanced set of data because between them they have a full range of invertebrate habitats – including areas of silt, stones and weed beds.

Next stocking at Tellisford – Monday 23rd August around 12noon

Reminder to send in Angler Returns after trout season ends on our stretch 15th October.

1. **Guild Programme for remainder of 2021:**
2. **Social fishing outings – bank and boat**

Members reported that Chew is not fishing well and Blagdon has suspended bank fishing due to excessive weed growth.

The Committee will look at the possibility of having a social bank day on a small stillwater such as Manningford or Lechlade

1. **Guest Speakers**

Richard Cripps will give a talk on ’Hedgerows’ at the October meeting. Agreed we need to organise guest speakers for 2022. Members are asked to suggest potential speakers (with contact details)

1. **Guild Dinner Friday 26th November**

This will be at Leigh Park Hotel. The menu will be distributed as soon as it is available. Robert said that Mary has offered to do the Table Quiz.

1. **AOB**
2. Suggestion that WWFFG should be affiliated to The Graying Society. The committee will look into this.
3. Photo Competition – please email photos to Roger at rogerhenderson@hotmail.com

**Date of next meeting – Wednesday 8th September 7.00 for 7.30pm start**

Venue – The Dudley Room, Leigh Park Hotel, Leigh Road, Bradford-on-Avon, BA15 2RA