

Wyvern Region (Angling Trust)

Minutes of the Watts App call committee meeting held on 12th April 2023

Present: - A Parker, J Parker, M Spiller, J Stanford, P Cottell, W Thomas and J Roe.

Apologies: - Tiny, R Albones and N Phillips.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the Watts App call meeting.

Chairman's Report

Since our last online meeting we have put on two major events. Firstly, the Wyvern Open Shore held at Slapton Sands which attracted 130 anglers to the South Hams to fish the annual Angling Trust Wyvern Open Festival. Some competitors traveling from South Wales and the Isle of White. The weather conditions on the day saw a strong to gale force west / south-westerly wind with occasional heavy blustery showers for the five-hour event. Whiting, Dogfish, Smoothhounds, Spotted Ray and Small Eyed Ray were caught during the event. A total of 52 competitors returned to the scales with fish to record. The results were announced within half an hour of the close of scales at the Festival Headquarters at the Stokely Farm Shop. The main sponsor was Julian Shambrook of Anyfish Anywhere Ltd, a major fishing tackle manufacturer, based in Torquay. All the sponsors for the day were thanked for their continuing support each year. Also, a big thank you to Stokely for their hospitality and providing an excellent venue. The worthy winner, of the event was Tom Travers of Honiton S.A.C, he recorded a Whiting of 1.225lb and a Spotted Ray of 3.25lb giving him a total of (153.89%). He was.

presented with the top prize of £200 cash and the Brixham Bowl. Other tackle prizes to the value of £800 were awarded down to 12th place, these were presented by Julian Shambrook. It was also very encouraging to see a junior Archie Sweetland from Honiton SAC take 11th place in a competition which attracted 130 anglers. The team prize was won by team "Anyfish Anywhere" comprising of Rob Marshall, Julian Shambrook, Marcus Ward and Pete Hutchins with a Total of 251.87%. Once again, a big thank you to all who helped put on the event.

At the end of January, we put on our presentation evening. This year thankfully it was much better attended with roughly around the 75 mark. A big thank you to all who attended to collect their awards, only a few clubs sent no representation, also several clubs relied on a few individuals to collect all their awards. I personally cannot see the point of being entered for an award and someone else asked to collect it.

Once again, many thanks to Richard Daw (Tiny), for keeping the website running, doing an excellent job. This has proved to be a vital tool in keeping people informed and continuity in the Wyvern Region. The Regional Voluntary Group meetings (RVG) which are held 2 monthly on Teams, has made a bit of headway in my opinion, details of which will be covered later in the meeting. A lot has been happening on the political front on angling regarding funding for angling, HPMA's, MPA.s and FMP's. Details will be covered later in the minutes. As I report every quarter we are as a committee getting smaller, none of us are getting any younger, but it is encouraging that we have a few new committee members who have joined us. A step in the right direction.

Secretary's Report

Mike welcomed everyone to the call. As Alex has already mentioned we have had the Open Shore and the Presentation Eve, both seemed to have gone well with a good attendance. The buffet provided by the RBL had gone down well and worked out much easier for everyone not have to worry about doing it.

Lots of hot topics around currently with MPA, HMPA and FMP etc. Got to try and stay on top of things the best we can as there are plenty on the way!

Treasurers Report

John reported that a couple Castle Trophy entries had been received from clubs online. We have £180 in the pot for the Castle Trophy this year. The Presentation evening at the end of January had cost us in the region of £150. This was for the buffet we ordered via the RBL.

Matters Arising

1/ The Presentation evening had gone well with a good number of winners coming along to collect their awards. The buffet that the RBL provided was good and saved us a lot of Time and preparation.

2/ The Open shore at Slapton was well attended once again. The Stokely farm shop also did us proud again.

3/ It is still generally thought that we are short on the ground as a committee. Many thanks to Tiny for helping us no end and keeping the website up to speed.

4/ Hopes Nose and Berry Head still rumbles on in the background. Guessing it will all start up again real soon.

5/ Still need to look at a date for the junior open with Tiny at West Bay SAC. Mike to chat to Ben at West Bay club.

Fish Recorder

Paul reported that not there is not much to report. All results make there was to Tiny and go up on the website for all to see. If your club would like to join our competition, please sent your payment of £10 to Paul or Mike.

Paul asked if we could update our posters with Sidewinder instead of Kiddy.

Website updates

Mike had spoken with Tiny, and all was well. Tiny reported everything was up to date. Many thanks to Tiny for doing a great job.

RVG updates

The Glasgow angling vouchers had finally been sorted out.

Hopes Nose and Berry Head is under watch once again.

Yes, Bass should be accepted to record even when we are under catch and release.

HMPA areas are building slowly with more on the cards like Alum Bay in the North. These are a no go for everyone.

MPA are different again which does allow recreational fishing. There will be more MPA on the way in the second instalment.

There are several funding opportunities for clubs etc to help in getting fishing up and running etc.

The fisheries manage plans (FMP) had been running locally but poorly attended by the RSA.

Sand eel fishing was again being looked at again by such groups as the RSPB. It is felt that mass Sand Eel fishing commercially is not doing any favours at all especially when used as fertiliser etc.

Any other business

1/ Mike stated that he had been in contact with the Salcombe youth hall recently and it looked like we would be able to use the hall again possibly for the small boat presentation on the Sunday pm.

2/ Wayne commented and said the open shore at Slapton went well and seemed to run really well.

3/ Mike to speak to Juliun for a suggested date for our Slapton open in January. Possibly the 7th.

Meeting call finished at 21.20.