

Wyvern Region (Angling Trust)

Minutes of the Watts App call committee meeting held on 17th January 2024

Present :- A Parker, J Parker, M Spiller, J Stanford, P Cottell, W Thomas, G Jones and N Phillips.

Apologies :- Tiny.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the WhatsApp call meeting. Grant Jones from the A T was joining us to give an update on the proposals at the Salcombe Estuary.

Grant mentioned that so far well over 250 responses had been made to Devon and Severn in relation to the netting proposals. This number was growing daily which is brilliant news. Watch this space for the time being. The big vote will be made at their next meeting which will be at the Exeter racecourse on 22 February.

The current state of play on the Pollack fishing is as follows. Commercial fishermen are not allowed to target them but area allowed 100k a month as a by catch. It is thought some form of restrictions will come in for angling some time this year, possibly bag limits, closed period or possible increase in min landing size. This could take a while to be introduced through 2024!

Chairman's Report

Welcome to the start of the new year and I hope things improve throughout 2024. I was bitterly disappointed at our AGM with not a single club present other than the committee. It is just not good enough and sorry to be frank about it. Where do we go from here. During 2023 we had a number of issues over Fish of the Month and weighing at sea, so where were these keyboard warriors, not present. Wyvern is not about putting on just three competitions a year, surely!

The Angling Trust mainly through the good work they are doing especially recent events have now picked up new members and clubs, we need to tap into their resources for committee members and help.

On the 10th of February we will be holding our annual presentation evening as usual at the British Legion at Alphington. Let's hope for a good attendance, especially from the trophy and award winners.

On the 7th of this month, we put on our Open Shore Competition at Slapton Sands again another successful event with an entry of 139, almost a record entry but above normal entry, we did have a few issues not on the day but following the event which we will need to address later in this meeting.

We need to be thinking about this year's future competitions, the Junior and the Small Boat

As I report, every quarter we are as a committee getting smaller, none of us are getting any younger. This was more than evident at the open shore. It is encouraging that we have a few new committee members who have joined us, but we do need more, to get back to our quota.

Secretary's Report

A busy time with lots going on currently. Work being done to get things ready for our presentation evening at the RBL. On top of this we are currently engaged with the SAS with the AT trying to stop it from failing with all the new rules and regulations! Salcombe Estuary is also taking time to get pressure on the IFCAS.

The next Exe Estuary forum meeting will be in early Feb at Exeter. Finally the Open Shore at Slapton went well but did come with big problems after the event on the Monday and Tuesday. More on this a little later.

Matters Arising

1/ No further news from Salcombe Harbour on our suggested dates.

2/ Hopes Nose and Berry Head all seem quiet now.

3/ Still need to catch up with Tiny about a date for the junior open at West Bay in 2024.

4/ No further news on weighing at sea within our FOM etc

5/ Wyvern insurance. At last we seemed to have come to a resolution concerning our Regions insurance. We have now joined the AT as a federation at the cost of £60 a year. This will give us our own insurance package.

6/ Angling Trust SAS update. Lots of communication currently with many unhappy clubs and fish recorders. We will write a strong e mail to Trevor Sutch and Danny Williams. Watch this space!

Treasurer

John reported there would be £200 for the Castle Trophy winner to give to his charity. Mike will check with the winner to see who he would like the money payable too. The Open shore competition held in January brought in around £860 The entry fee for the Castle Trophy is needed again from the 1st October 2023 for the coming year. So far 18 clubs had paid up towards this. We would encourage on-line payments to our bank account. If you require this information, please ask.

Fish Recorder

Paul asked that everyone fills in the FOM forms as accurately as possible and to please submit any record claims only on the correct yellow forms.

The results go out every month onto the Wyvern website for all to see. Any club needing the FOM form receipts back should enclose a SAE for Paul to use. Paul also asked that club do send him up- todate scales certificates as and when they become due. Paul was currently looking at updates to the FOM awards from the 1st Oct as it was looking likely that Paignton would not be joining us this year, which is a shame.

Website updates

Mike had spoken with Tiny, and all was well. Tiny reported everything was up to date and he would soon be working on a new poster for the small boats in September.

Any other business

1/ It was reported that the Navy was moving anglers on when fishing around St Johns creek when firing.

2/ It was decided we go for a slightly earlier start for our meetings at 7.30pm

3/ Mike reported that we got some bad press after our open shore at Slapton. A dog had been taken to the vets on the Monday with a baited trace in its mouth. The chances are that it could have been one from a competitor or it may not have been. We will never know, I guess. A lady had also complained about parking at around 6pm at the end of the event on the main road, she had also mentioned litter but could not back that up with any evidence. Mike contacted the vets and spoke with them about this. What we did say would be a good idea would be to come up with a poster looking at it from both sides, anglers not leaving hooks and traces around and dog owners not keeping an eye on their dogs when off the lead especially on beaches.

Some points for us to look at moving forward with the comp would be :- Parking before and after the event. Parking on the Torcross slip. Lost hooks and rigs and using a bucket to put spare rigs into. Litter picking after the event possibly.

Meeting call finished at 21.10