

Wyvern Region (Angling Trust)

Minutes of the Teams call committee meeting held on 3rd April 2024

Present :- A Parker, J Parker, M Spiller, J Stanford, C Sweetland, D Horrill, G Jones and N Phillips.

Apologies :- Tiny, R Albones and J Roe.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the Teams call meeting. Grant Jones from the A T was joining us to give any updates plus C Sweetland was joining us to chat about juniors and the England junior teams. The Chairman also welcomed Dave Horrill along to tonight's meeting, many will already know Dave from the angling scene.

It was sadly reported that we had lost Mike Hodge recently. Mike had been poorly for some time. We will try and find out more details on any dates for his funeral.

Chairman's Report

Thank you for attending tonight's meeting.

Sadly, I have to inform you that Mike Hodge has passed away, Mike was very well liked and respected member of the Rodbenders club based in Plymouth. He will be sadly missed by the Plymouth angling fraternity. Our thoughts go out to his wife Maureen and the family.

I would like to welcome Dave Horrill to our committee, Dave is a well-known active Plymouth Angler whom I have known for over 50 years and possesses a wealth of knowledge on Sea Angling.

In the last set of minutes, I mentioned that Wyvern was more than being responsible for putting on three competitions, well how wrong was I, things during the last 3 months have certainly had a great involvement between the region and the clubs, namely the Salcombe netting and the Specimen Award Scheme. We can discuss later in Matters arising both of these topics.

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 continue to tap into their resources for committee members and help.

On the 10th of February we held our annual presentation evening as usual at the British Legion at Alphington, it was very well attended and it was pleasing to say that all of the major trophy winners were in attendance, but once again it was evident that certain clubs despite sending in entries were not present to collect their awards. Many thanks to all that helped in putting on the event and a big thank you to Matt Mander for giving a talk plus questions and answers on the D&S IFCAs.

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

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, but 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

Welcome to tonight's meeting for April. I guess we could say the last quarter has been turbulent for clubs and the AT regions. Problems that were raised by us for the future of the running on the SAS within the AT. At present we are in a more settled spell in the running of the SAS. The correspondence that MS and the Wyvern received from Mr T Sutch where appalling, it's a good job he has now gone!

I have personally attended a fair few meetings recently, Defra, IFCAS, Exe Estuary to name a few. So, lots going on still.

I'm pleased to say that the presentation evening went well back in February. A good crowd gathered to watch the awards etc and it was nice to see Eric Gerry and his wife attend. Eric kindly did our handing out of the awards for us.

I'm also very pleased to say that at the recent D and S IFCAS meeting at the racecourse at Exeter went well and in our favour of trying to stop netting for Mullet in the Salcombe area.

Lastly, I have just had a chat with a concerned angler from the Plymouth area about signs that are going up all around Sutton Harbour about no fishing.

Angling Trust Updates (Grant Jones)

The Chairman thanked Grant for joining us tonight and giving us updates on the following issues.

1/ Berry Head and Hopes nose had not much happening currently probably to do with the weather recently. Ideas of perhaps monitoring remotely with cameras or even drones have been discussed. As the weather and fishing improves things will start to happen at these sites! One question raised from the meeting was, could we simply try and get feathering stopped at these sites? Would that help?

2/ Salcombe mullet netting had been voted on recently at the IFCAS meeting and pleased to say the proposal didn't get through to allow netting for six months. A big thank you to everyone who challenged this proposal and helped to stop this happening. It just goes to show that if lots of RSA get behind campaigns things can happen!

3/ Grant confirmed that the specimen award scheme (SAS) will return to how it was last year with Eric Gerry. It would then be looked at moving forward to see how any updates or changes could be made to work for the future. Mike made a statement to say that it was such a shame all the fuss happened recently by the two new individuals who were put in charge of this long standing competition. All they needed to do was listen!

4/ Chris Sweetland on behalf of the England under 16 shore team gave an overview of things happening and also funding issues of getting teams to these championships etc. All sorts of different ways have been thought about in how to help raise money to assist these sort of teams in the future. Chris was also trying to raise the profile of getting new juniors who might be interested in looking at representing their country in the future from all parts of the country.

Matters Arising

1/ Encouraging news had been received from harbour master (Cameron) at Salcombe recently. He had apologised for things that have happened in the past and made things difficult to discuss within their department with our event. He is more than happy to accommodate the date we have suggested. He also had a few plans on trying to make our event run much smoother moving forward.

2/ Hopes Nose and Berry Head. See any updates in Grants report.

3/ Still need to catch up with Tiny about a date for the Wyvern junior open. It was still hoped to secure a date in August.

4/ The Lyme Bay Reserve continues but not so many meetings are taking place, down to around one a year. The CIC is now running the meetings.

5/ A short chat was had again on the hooks being left on the beach at Slapton after our open event back in January. The poster from the vets was still being looked at, as a few updates were needed. Talks of perhaps having a litter pick at Torcross during/after the event plus also providing extra litter and line bins. It would also be good to perhaps take part in a litter pick that is going to be arranged by locals through the Summer! Mike will try and contact the lady who had so much to say at the time.

Treasurer

John reported so far 18 clubs had paid up towards the FOM and Castle Trophy. One of the entries is from Tony Deeks a member of Paignton SAA, Tony decided to carry on and pay the £10 for himself and family since Paignton SAA withdrew from the event at the end of last year.

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-to-date scales certificates as and when they become due.

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 and the junior open in August once a date had been set.

The monthly photo competition continues to be supported. Many thanks to Tom at West Bay and Darren at the Tackle box for their support.

Any other business

1/ It was reported that the Navy had now erected a fence at St Johns Wood near Plymouth. We need to try and get more info, perhaps at the next port of Plymouth meeting during July. Parking at access to fishing marks were still taking a hammering locally and definitely we need to keep a close eye on things.

2/ There was a quick discussion on the recent Skate and Rays FMP's So much was happening all at the same time with many FMP going through.

3/ There was a chat about a pollution incident (DVT) from a paint industry on the Yealm. Basically there was a large spill into the river at some point and the industry want to do a clean up but currently waiting on the findings from the MMO if this can go ahead.

4/ Dave Horrill reported that the next Plymouth meeting for the port of Plymouth would be towards the end of April. It was also reported that there was a lot of funding (6 million) that was due to be spent at Dartmouth and Brixham. Discussions soon on how this money might be spent.

Meeting call finished at 21.35

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