

Minutes of IBM Hursley Fly Fishing Club AGM

These are the minutes of the IBM Hursley Fly Fishing Club Annual General Meeting, held in the Osman Room of the IBM Hursley Club house on November 20th 2013, at 7pm.

AGENDA

- Apologies for absence
- Minutes of the last AGM
- Matters arising from the last AGM
- Treasurer's report and approval of accounts
- Secretary's report
- Chairman's report
- Election of the committee
 - Chairman
 - Treasurer
 - Secretary
 - Committee members
- Subscriptions
- Organisation of Club outings
- Presentation of trophies
- AOB

MEMBERS ATTENDING

Tony Hogg (Treasurer)
John Wiseman (Chairman)
Melita Saville (Secretary)
Andy Parker
Clive Kennedy
Dave Day
Paul Blythin
Ken Jones (Committee)

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Pete Dean
Rod Patterson
Neil Postlethwaite
Paul Eslinger
Derek Antrobus
Mark Wilson

MINUTES OF THE LAST AGM

The minutes of the last AGM have been available online to all members after last year's AGM, and a copy was available for inspection at the AGM. They were accepted unanimously. (Prop: Tony Hogg, Sec: Paul Blythin)

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE LAST AGM

None

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer's report was circulated to all members at the meeting and accepted (Prop: Andy Parker, Sec: Paul Blythin). The Treasurer's report is not circulated with these minutes because it contains financial data. Those people who were not at the AGM who wish to review the report should contact the Treasurer or Secretary.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

The Secretary's report was circulated to all members at the meeting. A copy of this report is in Appendix A of these minutes.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman's report was read to all members at the meeting. A copy of this report is in Appendix A of these minutes.

ELECTION OF THE COMMITTEE

Chairman: John Wiseman

Secretary: Melita Saville – to be supported by members if pressed for time

Treasurer: Tony Hogg

Committee: Ken Jones, Andy Parker, Paul Blythin

SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 2014

The current subscription will again remain unchanged at £5 per member for the upcoming year. Youth anglers are eligible for subsidy if they have their own membership to the Club.

ORGANISATION OF CLUB OUTINGS IN 2014

There were some reflections on the trips in 2013:

- Fish seemed to be generally smaller this year.
- Meon Springs catch-and-release was good.
- Try to set trips in the calendar early so that people can plan around them.

The meeting discussed venues and target dates for 2014. The decision reached was:

- March 15th – Wherwell (booked)
- April 5th – John O'Gaunt. This will be the Spring Cup. (booked)
- May 10th – Church Paddock.
- June – this might be a bye if the IBM National Championship is held at Rutland in late May (although this is not looking hopeful). If there is no Rutland trip, the committee will allocate a venue for June.
- July 12th - Wherwell. (booked)
- August 2nd – Holbury
- September 6th – Manningford – but to be reviewed if there is poor water at Manningford. If so, John O'Gaunt will be the substitute.
- October 4th – Church Paddock. This will be the Club Championship.
-

The Wherwell and Church Paddock trips will be offered only on Saturday due to the preference for booking the venue for exclusive Club use. The other trips will be offered on both a Saturday and Wednesday.

The committee may change any venue in the event of changing circumstances or unavailability.

Dates will be publicised on the Club website.

Additional outings

The Club would like to encourage members to collaborate in events outside the organised trips. The Secretary will ask permission to share members contact details to encourage this. In the meantime, any suggestions or invitations can be distributed through the Committee.

PRESENTATION OF THE TROPHIES FOR THE 2013 SEASON

Club Champion (Church Paddock, October). Won by Paul Blythin with a bag of 13lbs. Runner-up was Tony Hogg with 10lbs 4oz.

Spring Cup (John O'Gaunt, April). Won by Pete Dean with 13lbs. Runner-up was Dave Day with 11lbs.

Biggest Rainbow (John Turner Cup). Won by Paul Blythin at Church Paddock with an 8lb fish.

Biggest Brown (Church Paddock). Won by Clive Kennedy with a 2lb 10oz fish.

AOB

Encouraging new anglers

Although membership is no longer falling, the Club would welcome new members. Suggestions include offering a come-and-have-a-go day. The Club members can supply kit and support for a day to save people having to commit or purchase kit up-front. Anyone interested could pay only the cost of their fish. No fishing license is needed if Tony or Paul, as registered coaches, are present. We will look for opportunities to publicise this through the IBM Hursley Club.

If any members have other suggestions during the year, please pass them to the committee for action.

Fly Dressers Guild society events

The events offered to the Club through Paul Eslinger are highly recommended. Any possibility of publicising these ahead of time would be very welcome.

APPENDIX A.

Secretary's report

Welcome to this year's Secretary's Report. This will be my last for a while. Due to family and work commitments and after 3 years, it's time to take a break and hand over to someone else. The role is not onerous, thanks to the generous support from Tony Hogg and John Wiseman, and I will support my successor as best I can.

Welcome too to Derek Antrobus as a new member to the Club this year.

We managed a full set of trips again this year, including several that had a real Club feel to them of enjoying both the fishing **and** the company. We also changed some of our venues. It will be interesting to hear your feedback at the AGM on this year's trips.

Cup winners

1. Spring Cup was held at John O'Gaunt in April. Pete Dean took the cup with a bag of 13lbs. Dave Day was again runner-up with 11lbs. Here's hoping for next year, Dave!
2. Club Championship was held at Church Paddock in October. Paul Blythin and Tony Hogg both caught respectable fish but Paul won with a bag of 13lb. Tony took runner-up with 10lb 4oz.
3. Best rainbow – an 8-pounder - was caught by Paul Blythin at Church Paddock as part of his Championship winning bag.
4. Best brown. Clive Kennedy took both first and second prize with two browns from Church Paddock: one at 2lb 10oz and the other at 2lb.
5. Best ...? This has previously been given for “best swan” and “best stone”. This year, Paul Eslinger takes it for “best gap”. Read the report for March's trip to Wherwell to find out more...

Changes of venue this year

New venues:

- Church Paddock

Venues dropped:

- Rockbourne
- Manningford
- Dever Springs

Trips

March

We started the season with the now-traditional trip to Wherwell. It was a bracing day with biting wind, making the bacon butties, pies and soup very welcome. Thanks to Tony, Andy, and John for those. Fortunately, the fish were also biting, even on dries when the wind dropped and the sun came out. We welcomed Jocky's son, Patrick, who caught his first fish on the fly. On an early season trip, it's common to forget something, such as a bass bag or priest. It is less common to forget your rod! Luckily, Andy had a spare so Paul E was able to continue with the day.

April

This trip was for the Spring Cup at John O'Gaunt. We didn't have many people at this trip but Pete, Dave Day and John Wiseman managed to get decent bags of fish.

May

We were represented at the 26th IBM National Fly Fishing Championships on Rutland Water. On the first day, bad weather kept the anglers on the banks but they were able to get out on the water on the second day. Hursley Cormorants (Bob Hanley, Jason Bridgen, Neil Postlethwaite, and Andy Parker) took the championship with 19 fish for 43lb 4oz. Bob also took first individual with 8 fish for 27lb 8oz. Congratulations!

June

This month's trip was to Meon Springs. This is a popular venue but perhaps too popular on the day of our trip as John described it "like a mini Paultons Park". Unfortunately, the lakes were weedy and the fish very small.

July

It was a gloriously hot day for a trip to Holbury Lakes. The manager there said that "an hour fishing before 11 is worth 2 after" and so it proved for us, with those who started early bagging up quickly. Andy and Tony spent some time trying dry flies and Clive reported a near-miss when the manager's dog tried to make off with a trout.

August

We made a first trip to a new venue for the Club: Church Paddock near Winchester. The owners made us welcome and, in spite of low water and tricky conditions, it proved to be an enjoyable day. Clive Kennedy took two cracking browns and Andy Parker had a 6lb 8oz blue.

September

We were back at Wherwell with 12 anglers for a day of good fishing, good company and good food. The fish were caught on dries, lures, and nymphs. The fish can be a modest size at Wherwell but Jocky had the best of the day with 5lb 13oz. Andy Parker was a match for the autumn weather with his new 13' 9" double-hander.

October

We returned to Church Paddock, following the success of the day in August. The owners were again welcoming, this time with bacon butties. There were still low water levels but good fishing, including this year's best rainbows. It was good to see 9 anglers out, and also to see Sue Patterson who has been unable to fish with us for a while.

Other news

- Fly tying. Club members have an open invitation to attend the Wessex branch of the Fly Dresser Guild that meets in Southampton. For more details, contact Paul Eslinger.

Chairman's report

Membership and Attendance: Welcome back to Josh & son, Neil, Bob and to new member Derek Antrobus.

Wherwell and Church Paddock were notably well attended and the refreshments added to an enjoyable club spirit. Special thanks to the bacon and sausage sandwich team and Melita for the delicious cakes at Wherwell and the hosts at Church Paddock who wanted to compensate for the low water levels and their inability to stock the larger sizes of fish.

Our club representatives did us proud at the National Championships in particular Bob Hanley taking the overall national trophy.

Following our last AGM discussion a new location was added this year, Church Paddock. General impression was that it provided a good venue for inclusion in our programme but was challenged due to very low rainfall this year especially for the championship in October. And this despite my frequent rain dances!

My thanks on behalf of the club to Tony and Melita for their committed support this year and I must say I'm sorry to hear Melita is relinquishing the secretary post and hope we don't lose our feminine touch to the club outings. Perhaps it's because she will focus on the cakes for next years trips! :-)

Of course thanks to everyone in the club for their ongoing support and attendance which makes these trips such a pleasant day out.

Thoughts for 2014

- Membership levels – Maintain current level, but would be good to attract new members perhaps with a new members starter event.
- Fees: Are these still at the right level?
- Participation: Can we encourage/enable stronger attendance? More bacon butties and cakes?
- Feedback to fisheries. e.g. Stocking policy this year seems to have been with smaller fish. Should we be using social media more to influence their service.
- Competition: should we have a full season prize/recognition?