

The Annual General Meeting of the Fowey Rivers Association was held on Wednesday 16th April 2014 at Boconnoc

Present

Anthony Fortescue (President)	Bill Smith (Chairman)	Roger Brake (Treasurer)
James Ashby	Chris Bryant	David Dawson
Bill Eliot	Roger Furniss	Richard Grieve
Chris Janes	Dave Johns	Paul Jordan
Roger Lashbrook	Mike Lindsell	Ivan Lyne
Barry Pearn	Jonathan Price	Giles Rickard (WRT)
Martin Ross	Mick Smith	Simon Toms (EA)
Godfrey Tucker	David White	Rob Williams
Dan Wyton	Mark Yates	Jon Evans (Secretary)

Apologies

Roger Copeland	Alan Hawken	Tyson Jackson
Chris Marwood	Chris Matthews	Adam Price
Bob Tetley	John Tisdale	Fred Tolman

1. Minutes of the 2013 AGM

The minutes of the AGM held on 17th April 2013 were agreed.

2. Matters arising

There were no matters arising from the minutes

3. Chairman's introduction

The Chairman welcomed members to the AGM. He thanked Anthony Fortescue for once again so generously hosting the AGM at Boconnoc.

He also welcomed Martin Ross, a previous AGM keynote speaker but now the Chairman of the Rivers Trust, the parent organisation for the FRA and the other River Trusts in the UK. He also welcomed other guests who were attending the AGM for the first time.

He reminded members of the notable events of the past year including

1. 2013 was the second best year ever for the Fowey according to the counter figures although this had not been reflected in salmon catches. For example the LDAC numbers were 56% down for salmon and 28% down for sea trout from the returns to date.
2. There seems to be good spawning on the upper Draynes
3. The hatchery programme had been started in October but despite great efforts by many people, no fish were stripped before the hatchery closed just after the end of the season. Reasons for high fish mortality seemed to be significantly related to very high water temperatures. Thanks were due to everyone who had been involved at all stages.
4. The SWW business plan had been very well received by OFWAT and it was highly likely that the St Neot regeneration programme of restocking, changes in water flows and gravel reintroductions would proceed, perhaps as early as

2015.

5. We now have four years figures for fry surveys from WRT and will be funding a fifth year in 2014. The WRT matrix of Defend, Repair and Attack is very helpful in setting priorities for future work. The figures also identified the great value in the small streams in the catchment, particularly for sea trout.
6. The Association has supported chainsaw training along with LDAC and RAL resulting in a very effective coppicing programme such as that at Lewarne.
7. Planning is proceeding with the design work for opening up Ladyvale Bridge. This is managed by WRT with EA and Forestry. This would improve the salmon run upstream of Ladyvale as far as Millpool.
8. Weirs had been examined by experts but none showed significant barriers to migrating fish.
9. He also thanked his colleague officers for supporting the work of an excellent Association.

The Chairman's report was noted.

4. **Treasurer's report**

The Treasurer presented his report.

The main activities of the FRA would be funded through the company in future and the association account would loan the company the funds required to maintain a credit balance in the account and pay outstanding invoices. These would then be reimbursed from SWW Colliford mitigation funds and other income from clubs and individual members. The balance sheet shows a total of £28,640 comprising £15,840 at the bank and the remainder loans to the company. Over £12,000 has already been committed as expenditure in 2014 and income will be derived from the SWW Colliford mitigation money and other income such as club and individual subscriptions. He emphasised that this other income, particularly individual members paying by direct debit, was essential because not all FRA activities could be recharged to the SWW funds.

It was agreed that the accounts should be adopted.

He also announced that he would be retiring as Treasurer.

The Chairman thanked Roger for all his work over the past eight years and welcomed Paul Jordan who has offered to stand as the new Treasurer.

5. **Secretary's report**

The Secretary said that the Chairman had already given a comprehensive report on the Association's activities. The 2014 programme would be developed from its existing draft so helpfully prepared by Roger Furniss and Giles Rickard. The committee would meet quarterly to ensure the successful development of both the river and the Association.

6. **Election of Officers**

Paul Jordan had been nominated as Treasurer and was elected. It was agreed that the post of Water Resources Officer was not required as a permanent position. It was

agreed that the post of vice Chairman should be left vacant until required. The officers were all elected en bloc to serve for the year until the 2015 AGM.

7. **Bank signatory**

It was agreed that Paul Jordan should be appointed as a bank signatory in place of Roger Brake. The other signatories are Bill Smith, Rob Williams and Jon Evans.

It was noted that two authorised signatures are required for cheques but on line banking can be undertaken individually by the authorised officers.

8. **Appointment of committee**

It was noted that Paul Jordan, who is now an ex officio member of the committee, leaves a vacancy from LDAC. Rob Williams proposed that David White should take Paul's position as representative for the middle river.

9. **Keynote speaker – Mark Yates, member of LDAC and RFC**

After the traditional beer and pasties, members were treated to a presentation by Mark Yates, wildlife photographer. Mark showed clips demonstrating the influence of equipment on the ability to film in slow motion. There were very informative and entertaining clips of fruit bats, fishing bats, anacondas and grizzly bears from around the world.

Mark was thanked for his presentation.