

The Annual General Meeting of the Fowey Rivers Association was held on Wednesday 18th April 2012 at Boconnoc

Present

Anthony Fortescue (President)	Bill Smith (Chairman)	Roger Brake (Treasurer)
Jon Evans (Secretary)	Roger Furniss	Barry Pearn
James Ashby	Dave Johns	Jonathan Price
Bill Eliot	Paul Jordan	Mick Smith
Richard Elliott	Ivan Lyne	Godfrey Tucker
		Dan Wyton
Ann Champion	Gary Champion	

Apologies

Richard Grieve	Christopher Matthews	Rob Williams
Tyson Jackson	Simon Toms	Neil Yeandle

1. Minutes of the 2011 AGM

The minutes of the AGM held on 20th April 2011 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 providing the hospitality of Boconnoc for the AGM.

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

1. The closure of the Wainsford hatchery and planting out of the last fish in August. The equipment was now in store at Boconnoc and this is thanks to the generosity of Anthony Fortescue. The hatchery team was thanked for its work over the years.
2. The Environment Agency had funded a feasibility study into the long term needs of the St Neot which had been adversely impacted by the Colliford dam but for which there had been no mitigation for salmon loss. The study was being undertaken by APEM which has a good reputation for quality work. The report should be available shortly and was expected to be presented to FFRG on 28th May 2012 at the EA office in Bodmin. Members of the FRA were invited to come to the presentation and play a part in developing the future direction for the St Neot.
3. Richard Grieve had been appointed as catchment manager for three days per week. His report would be presented later.
4. The walkover surveys had been undertaken by WRT and although the work is not yet complete for the whole catchment, an interim report was given to the last FRA committee meeting. Richard Grieve will help to complete the survey work and assist with the data entry onto the WRT mapping system.

5. The second year of fry index surveys had been received and the third year's work commissioned from WRT. This is part of an ongoing programme of work to identify stock levels at all stages of the life cycle and this will be incorporated into other data such as walkover information and counter data. The information was useful and interesting showing for example the relative paucity of juvenile salmon in the Draynes although sea trout stocks were very good.
6. Ocean Fish had withdrawn their application to run a fish farm at Hawkstor. This was very much down to Tyson Jackson and Eoin Donnellon who had mobilised support and pressure. It was possible that Ocean Fish would resubmit their application in the future.
7. The counter data showed that the fish runs in 2011 had been better than suspected with sea trout only just below the ten year average and the third best salmon run in nine years.
8. The Draynes team had again undertaken magnificent work and thanks were due to them. Visits had been arranged to see the outcomes and the resulting redds.

The Chairman's report was noted

4. **Treasurer's report**

The Treasurer presented the accounts for the year 2011/12. Total income for the year was £20,919 and expenditure £23,590. There was a deficit of £2,671 carried forward to the balance sheet. It was noted on the i/e report that there is an outstanding unresolved invoice for £7,000 from the CFA for hatchery services provided at Wainsford over two years. It was recognised that if the FRA agreed to incorporate, the company would need to be able to reconcile this debt as part of its management of the assets.

Bill Eliot reminded members that the Association was the beneficial owner of fishing rights on the upper Draynes. This was recorded in the Land Registry although the purchase had been undertaken without the advantage of incorporation or the use of Trustees.

It was agreed that the accounts should be adopted and the Treasurer was thanked for his very clear presentation.

5. **Catchment manager's report**

In Richard Grieve's absence, the Secretary presented his report.

Richard had developed the role and had undertaken the following activities

1. Hatchery
 - Managing the day to day activities at Wainsford before closure of the hatchery
 - Distribute the final Salmon fingerlings from Wainsford Hatchery
 - Dismantle Wainsford, transport and safely store the Hatchery equipment
2. St Neot
 - Survey St Neot for pools and spawning gravel as additional input for

- the APEM study
3. Riparian mapping
 - Make a list of Riparian owners for the whole Fowey Catchment
 - Implement Anquet mapping software to record Riparians
 - Map trash dams & migration blockages.
 - Total lengths surveyed : Main Fowey over 29 miles, Cardinham over 5 miles, Warleggan nearly 8 miles, St Neot nearly 5 miles, The Trenant Stream over 4 miles: 136 Riparian owners
 4. Liaison
 - Liaise with outside organisations such as Enterprise Mouchel, Westcountry Rivers Trust and The Environment Agency
 - Liaise with the Fishing Clubs on The Fowey such as Lanhydrock, Glynn Syndicate, LDAC & Restormel Anglers
 - Liaise with Riparians to introduce the FRA and to help with problems.
 5. Hatcheries Forum
 - Attend the SWRA Hatcheries Forum to share knowledge with other Hatcheries in the region.

Richard's report was accompanied with excellent photographs.

The catchment manager's report was accepted.

6. **Election of Officers**

It was agreed that the present Officers should be re-elected en bloc.

7. **Restructuring the FRA**

The Chairman introduced the proposal to restructure the FRA and to set up a company limited by guarantee to manage the legal and financial affairs of the Association. To support this, the constitution required updating. The constitution had been considered in some detail, a draft circulated widely for consultation with the committee and other constituents, and revisions made.

The paper on the table was the final proposal which had been approved by the committee. The AGM was asked to consider the revised constitution, and after discussion it was proposed, seconded and unanimously agreed for adoption.

The adoption of the constitution provided the necessary underpinning for the establishment of a company limited by guarantee. The company is required because

1. At present the committee carries unlimited liability for any eventuality or accident
2. It is necessary to have legally binding agreements to secure contracts, financial arrangements and land and property transactions. This is essential to secure the Association's financial future.
3. It is necessary to limit the liability of members. It is recognised that this will also require insurance as an additional safeguard.

It was noted that the proposal to move ahead on this path has been considerably helped by Alan Hawken who has great experience in these

matters both from ECLP and the Rivers Trusts movement.

It was proposed, seconded and unanimously agreed that the FRA should establish a company limited by guarantee to manage the legal and financial affairs of the Association.

It was expected that the company would be registered in time for the next round of sanctuary agreements on the Draynes and elsewhere. Bill Eliot repeated his proposal that the Association should purchase sanctuary water which would bring riparians and farmers on board with conservation schemes.

8. Annual Address: Gary Champion AAPGAI

Gary said that he gave talks all around the world but it was a particular pleasure for him as a Cornishman to be talking to a local organisation in Cornwall. He then gave a fascinating account of his fishing career from boyhood starting on reservoirs in Cornwall such as Argal, Stithians and Siblyback. He said that he had been fishing at Eyebrook reservoir as a boy and at the time had regarded that as the end of the world. However, as his career and skills developed he found that the world had become smaller and his fishing and coaching experiences had got greater.

His travels had ranged from Argentina to Iceland by way of Hampshire chalk streams and the eastern seaboard of the USA and species ranged from Dorado to Salmon and Sea Trout by way of Bluefish and brownies, all caught on fly. He suggested that the UK had much to learn from other countries' anglers about catch limits and conservation.

Gary also showed us the range of the flies he used all of which he tied himself. They were not only immaculately tied but many of them were very small, size 22 for example and successfully taking fish over 10lb.

The venues around the world and the fish caught were all beautifully illustrated with photographs and videos.

Gary then answered questions from the audience.

Anthony Fortescue delivered a vote of thanks to Gary for his excellent presentation and expressed his admiration for the quality of his talk and the beauty of the contents of his fly box.

The meeting closed at 9.25 p.m.