

The Annual General Meeting of the Fowey Rivers Association
was held on Wednesday 21st April 2010 at Boconnoc

Present

Bill Smith (Chairman)	Roger Brake (Treasurer)	Anthony Fortescue (President)
Harry Barnett	Tyson Jackson	David Reinger
Mike Bryant	Chris Janes	Mick Smith
Vince Chambers	Dave Johns	Trevor Sobey
Bill Eliot	Ivan Lyne	Simon Toms
Irene Eliot	Chris Marwood	Godfrey Tucker
Stuart Fullwood	John Pearce	Rob Williams
Roger Furniss	Adam Price	Danny Wyton
Richard Grieve	Jonathan Price	Jon Evans (Secretary)

Apologies

James Ashby	Alan Hawken	Brian Kirkpatrick
Eoin Donnellon	Anthony Kent	Colin Pinnells
David Ham		

1. Minutes of the 2009 AGM

The minutes of the AGM held on 15th April 2009 were agreed.

2. Matters arising

There were no matters arising

3. Chairman's introduction

The Chairman welcomed members to the AGM and particularly Irene Eliot .He thanked Anthony Fortescue for providing the hospitality of Boconnoc for the AGM for first time and such an excellent venue.

He drew attention to the sterling work being done by the Draynes team with Chris Janes and Rob Williams leading it, and the hatchery team lead by Richard Grieve and previously by Jeff Eliot. He also thanked the other officers of the Association for their assistance.

He reminded members of the achievements of the past year including the newsletter and the website development. Both of these need to be ongoing. Fund raising will always be of concern to the FRA but the more we involve people the easier it will become. Two specific developments are planned, the first is the height gauge at Wainsford and the second is the fry index survey which has been commissioned from Westcountry Rivers Trust and will enable us to obtain much better information for targeting management of the catchment.

4. Treasurer's report

The Treasurer presented the accounts for the year 2009/10. Total expenditure

was £12,905 He drew attention to the very large and continuing cost of the hatchery at £10,800, licences at £1270 and other expenses at £668. Income was £14,595 including £13,130 from SWW mainly for project work but also for renewing the five year sanctuary agreements. This came from accumulated funds from previous years. There is now an ongoing commitment from SWW to provide £7,500 to add to the existing £5,000 from the Colliford compensation. This will be from 2010 for five years. A study is being undertaken by the SWW which should provide additional compensation for salmon which had been omitted from the calculations at the time of the original public enquiry.

It was noted that the Camel Fisheries Association contributed £3,500 to the hatchery costs.

There are some expected increases in expenditure at the hatchery which cannot be avoided, particularly the discharge consent, fish feed and chemicals, although it was hoped that, as Richard Grieve became more knowledgeable, consultancy costs for Justin Ruscombe King might reduce although there would be an ongoing need for external review to ensure the health and welfare of the adult and juvenile fish.

The President said that the finances were very finely balanced and that income needs to be further increased if the development programme is to be maintained.

It was agreed that the Chairman should be added to the list of bank signatories, and the accounts were adopted.

RB

5. Secretary's report

The Secretary presented his report of work undertaken through the year including

1. Committee had met quarterly under new chairman
2. Publishing the newsletter to inform members and drum up financial support
3. Website being developed – it is very basic now but Eoin Donellon will improve it
4. Wainsford Hatchery
 - a. Adopted hatchery plan
 - b. Obtained the discharge consent
 - c. Been reviewed by CEFAS
5. Upper Draynes – continuing the programme of clearance by Chris Janes, Rob Williams and the team. Excellent fry and parr results, and good numbers of redds although the fish seemed to arrive late, although there were good redds at Palmers Bridge
6. The FFRG has met and agreed the SWW mitigation funding. There is £18,500 in the SWW bank for us including year 2010. It has now been agreed at £12,500 annually for five years with floor at £5,000 but may be supplemented by the Solomons study into unrecognised Colliford impacts on salmon. There is a new SWW programme – upstream thinking, similar to MIREs on Bodmin Moor (partnership with FRA - which is first to be permitted by OFWAT for a water company to fund

- improvements on property not owned by SWW).
7. Park Pit is coming on line and new spawning beds will be developed in the Trenant Stream. In reply to a question from Bill Eliot, it was pointed out that the St Cleer pipeline would be used for Park water and this would result to a total loss to the Fowey system. Ground water is cheaper for SWW than surface water because the treatment requirements are less.
 8. Webcam at Wainsford – needs better height gauge
 9. Canoeing and the position of Canoe England although many of the canoeists seem not to be affiliated (or care)
 10. Agreement to fund the fry index survey and walk over survey. This has led to the idea that we need a habitat map generated from all parties and used as a management tool for catchment development
 11. Hawkstor Pit. There was a proposal for commercial exploitation by Ocean Fish. The current position is unclear and being monitored.

The Secretary's report was adopted.

6. Water Resources Officers report.

The WRO reported that the moorland water is now being managed much better as a result of improved moorland and farm management. The sand impacts seem to have reduced and the Draynes clearance programme has accelerated flows in the stream and is moving sand quicker.

SWW has a programme of £5m for Upstream Thinking to include fencing programmes and other programmes for reducing animal and other farming impacts. However, pesticides are still being found at Restormel.

The Park redds are already funded and it is hoped we will see this work being undertaken in August. The fry index survey will reassure us that the programmes being undertaken are valuable.

He asked all members to be vigilant and keep eyes open for unexpected developments and JCB's on the moor.

Richard Grieve drew attention to the massive deforestation in the Glynn valley and the vehicle tracks which could be a source of run off into the river. This is related to the SOD and its being sourced from Rhododendron Ponticum and Larch.

The WRO's report was accepted.

7. Election of Officers

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

8. Hatchery

Rob Williams presented his report on the hatchery. Paul Eliot and the team

reared 25,000 fry in 2008 and they were planted out mainly in the Warleggan. In 2009, Jeff Eliot joined the team and provided the resident manager. The season was very difficult for broodstock mainly on account of high water. However, 20,000 fry were raised. Photos of the juvenile fish were passed round the room. Jeff left to return to work and Richard Grieve took over the resident (well, nearly) position and Irene joined the team. This has proved most helpful. There are regular review sessions on Tuesdays.

It is expected that broodstock capture could be difficult but with everyone's help, not just with capture but also with transport but we are hoping to start in September.

9. Roger Furniss, Secretary SWRA

The Chairman introduced Roger Furniss who although currently the Secretary of SWRA is now the Chairman elect.

Roger, in his talk, covered the following areas

1. SWRA is a membership organisation and supports all rivers in the South West. Currently highest priority is a landfill site on the banks of the R Yealm. He has assisted the Fowey with many topics in 2009 but specifically Hawkstor.
2. The threat from Beavers seems to have been overcome
3. Canoeing is a major national issue and the continuing demand for public access despite the legal position of riparians and landowners
4. Hydrogeneration is an increasing problem and SWRA is opposed to any that damage fish or the environment. River organisations must aim to become involved at pre-application stage.
5. The hatcheries group under Nick Lintott's chairmanship and with WRT support should prove very valuable in developing best practice and in working with EA
6. From the point of view of the election and the economy, it is known that Grant in Aid will reduce whichever party is elected and the rivers will be required to look to their own destiny. The Fowey is in a good position but still needs to increase income, not only from its members but also from SWW as compensation and the Upstream Thinking source. It will also require more partnership working between FRA, EA and WRT, and other organisations as seem appropriate. A research base accessed via WRT will improve the planning and management of the river system.

Roger was thanked for his address.

10 Mike Bryant

Mike showed a video he had compiled of the broodstock programme from capture, stripping, growing on and planting out salmon from the Fowey and the Camel. This concluded with a wonderful evocation of the work that Paul Eliot had started at Wainsford and which was continuing as a lasting legacy.