

A meeting of the Fowey Rivers Association
was held on Wednesday 21st January 2009 at Lostwithiel Social Club

Present

Godfrey Tucker (Vice Chairman, in the chair)

Roger Brake (Treasurer)

Roger Furniss (SWRA)

Tyson Jackson (Water resources officer)

Dave Johns (Liskeard)

Ivan Lyne (Bodmin Angling Association)

John Pearce (Bodmin Angling Association)

Arthur White (Liskeard)

Robbie Williams (River Co-ordinator)

Jon Evans (secretary)

Apologies

Mike Bryant (Newbridge)

Paul Eliot (Chairman)

Anthony Fortescue (President)

Alan Hawken (Glynn)

Roger Lashbrook (Commercial interests)

Dave Phillips (Lostwithiel)

1. Ray Burrows

The committee stood in silence in memory of Ray Burrows to remember his many years of service to the Camel and Fowey, and for the long and full life he had lead.

2. Minutes of the meeting held on 15th October 2008

The minutes of the committee meeting held on 15th October 2008 were agreed.

3. Matters arising from the minutes

1. Catch limits. It was agreed that the present catch limits should be maintained for 2009 and 2010.

2. Canoeing. The signs had not yet been installed. We are waiting for the Halfway House and for Natural England for the Draynes Car Park. It was suggested that Treverbyn Bridge might be another suitable site for a sign.

Roger Furniss gave a summary of the national position. The BCU is now taking the position that riparians have no right to prevent open access on grounds derived from the Domesday Book. A meeting is planned for the coming Saturday unless they pull back. However, in August, the Angling Trust will suggest to Sport England that public funding is being used inappropriately for lobbying.

RW

4. Finance

The Treasurer reported that expenditure had been £1,644.22 and income £1,045 since the last report. Arthur White said that he would send a further invoice for the SWRA subscription. There is still £15,000 waiting in the SWW accounts and it is hoped that this will be part released at the next

meeting of the FFRG when some further invoices will be presented.

JE

5. **Hatchery**

Roger Furniss reminded members that he had presented a paper to the committee last summer. The net buy out is no longer significant, and the St Neot will never be a productive spawning river again. SWW says that it has no further responsibility for Colliford although there has never been any compensation for salmon. The suggestion that Stannon mitigation should be used for the Fowey has been dismissed by the CFA. The EA has closed the Colliford hatchery at a saving of, conservatively, £80,000 per annum. The EA is on the back foot over their mismanagement of the Park licence. There is a meeting on 27th January to review the next steps in relation to the Park application approval. There is a need to get the EA to recognise that Colliford has had unforeseen consequences on salmon spawning in the St Neot, and the Fowey overall.

All this means that there is considerable urgency over the funding and tenure of the Wainsford hatchery, and Paul has said that unless it is properly funded by April he will close the hatchery. It would then be extremely difficult to open it again.

The matter will be dealt with at the 27th January meeting with Judy Proctor at the EA, and will also be a main topic at the upcoming meeting of the FFRG.

6. **Bloodstock programme**

Robbie Williams presented the current situation at Wainsford. Eight hens and three cock fish had been taken to the hatchery, and 35,000 eggs are currently being incubated. The team of volunteers was continuing to provide daily cover, many lessons have been learned and much experience gained.

Paul is now in better health and the incubation boxes and growing tanks are being set up. The eggs will be put into the gravels as soon as they hatch. Additional tanks are being erected to handle 20,000 Camel eggs.

Robbie is documenting everything, with photographs, for future reference and use.

7. **River report**

Tyson Jackson reminded members about the work funded through WRT at Maidenwell, and the almost immediate use that had been made of the new spawning beds. Lessons about siting and stream flows had again been learned.

There seems to have been very good spawning this year particularly on the Upper Draynes. There also seem to be good stocks of smolts.

Talks have been given to the Fowey Yacht Club, the Rotary and the S and TA.

The hunt is still on for suitable gravels for 2009 work. The Donderry quarry is still closed and the limerick material is too sharp for spawning beds.

8. **2009 Schemes**

The Bulland fencing work is currently being completed. Further fencing could be done at Lewarne Wood, and south facing streams such as the Clinnick, and sites on the Cardinham.

9. **Bag limits.**

Roger Furniss reported that Robert Hurrell is studying the sea trout sizes to provide evidence about a suitable "slot" size which could become part of an extension to the voluntary bag limits.

Club AGMs should consider their own position but in the meantime the 2010 limits should be the same as 2009.

10. **AGM**

It was noted that the AGM would be held on 15th April 2009, and that it should be proposed that the officers are all reappointed.

11. **Fowey Harbour**

The Secretary reported that Sir Michael Thompson had informed him that

1. Commercial port activities were being run down and this has resulted in the reduction of employees by the Harbour Commissioners by about 50%. Consequently, the risks of pollution are diminished to the benefit of fisheries.
2. There is a serious move to re-develop the dock area for industrial use connected with the development of renewable energy sources by marine technology.

12. **Warleggan**

It was noted that there is a potential weak spot below Panter's Bridge on the Warleggan at which fish might be taken. It was suggested that Mr Masters might be willing to designate this as conservation. A budget of £500 for a five year lease was suggested and Robbie agreed to investigate.

RW

13. **ACA payment**

It was agreed that a subscription should be taken out with the Angling Trust and Fish Legal at approximately £150.

RB