

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

Present

Bill Smith (Chairman)

Roger Brake (Treasurer)

Jeff Eliot (Wainsford)

Stewart Fullwood (Bodmin AA)

Chris Janes (Riverbed management)

Anthony Fortescue (President)

Dave Johns (Liskeard)

Roger Lashbrook (Commercial interests)

Robbie Williams (River Co-ordinator)

Jon Evans (secretary)

Apologies

Roger Furniss (SWRA and Glynn)

Tyson Jackson (Water resources officer)

Ivan Lyne (Bodmin AA)

John Pearce (Bodmin AA)

Godfrey Tucker (Vice Chairman)

Arthur White (Liskeard)

1. Paul Eliot

The Chairman asked members to stand in memory of Paul Eliot, and remember the work that Paul had done over many years and the improvements he had made to the river and the salmon stocks. We should also remember the man, his warmth, his compassion and his energy.

2. Minutes of the meeting held on 15th July 2009

The minutes of the committee meeting held on 15th July 2009 were considered and agreed subject to a correction in item 10 which should read 35,000 eggs not 235,000.

3. Matters arising from the minutes

1. Canoeing. The Chairman reported on the present position based on Roger Furniss' email of 19th October. From this it seemed that an informal agreement would be possible without the over zealous criteria of the BCU head office. He circulated a possible basis for such an agreement using a template agreed for the River Waveney which had been used on the River Exe. It was agreed that the Secretary should now get in touch with Richard Hobba and see if such an agreement might be the basis for a new agreement for the River Fowey. The Secretary should report back to the next meeting.

It was noted that many of the people canoeing on the Fowey were holiday makers and other users not affiliated to the BCU. It was also noted that the possible signs at Golitha had been referred to the higher echelons of Natural England and no progress had been made. It was agreed that there was little sense in pursuing this further.

2. Park Pit. The Secretary reported that the minutes of the meeting

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on 27th January with the EA, which was required by the Regional Director after the formal complaint, had not been received despite two written reminders. The Secretary should follow this up with Judy Proctor and report back to the next meeting.

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He also said that he and Tyson had made proposals to Robert Hurrell for a joint project for the Trenant spawning beds. No further progress is likely to be made until summer 2010.

3. Hawkstor Pit. The Secretary reported that there appeared to be no movement by Ocean Fish at Hawkstor.

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4. Mink. It was reported that a number of mink had been caught and killed. David Dawson would require consent from all landowners particularly on the smaller streams for work in 2010.

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4. Finance

The Treasurer tabled the accounts showing the balances and income and expenditure for the year to date. Income is £13,355 and expenditure £4,279. There is £12,515 on current account and £15,542 on deposit. The Secretary reported that there were outstanding sums of approximately £500 to come in from Restormel Anglers members' voluntary contributions and about £500 yet to be submitted for hatchery expenses related to the oxygen distribution system and other minor improvements.

The accounts were noted.

5. FRA funding and membership subscriptions

The Treasurer had circulated a paper setting out his ideas and proposals for funding the FRA, and Roger Furniss had made some suggestions to complement the Treasurer's proposals.

It was noted that there is now a predictable income for the foreseeable future from SWWV of £12,500 which is subject to the expenditure decisions of the FFRG in which the FRA is a major player. The current arrangements are that this should be split 50:50 between projects and recurrent funding, although the proportion might vary from year to year. There are two other annual sources of income although the amounts are variable; these are from anglers' donations, which vary from club to club, and from the Camel Fisheries Association which is specifically for hatchery work undertaken for the Camel. It was noted that the hatchery work had been undertaken by Paul on a free labour basis in the past but that this could not continue and we would no longer be able to rely on a hatchery service on the cheap. Additional costs would be Jeff's labour and the requirements of chemical treatments and the discharge consent.

The Treasurer had made three specific proposals

- I. The FRA should endeavour to maintain contact with all significant riparian owners directly and encourage them to support the work which is done to maintain the health and value of the river. They should be asked to make an annual financial contribution based on

- an agreed formula.
2. Clubs and syndicates active on the river should be asked if they would adopt a common policy whereby they agree to a levy as part of their annual subscription replacing the current voluntary donation. How this would be assessed would need to be agreed to ensure a fair distribution which reflects numbers of members, yield from the fishery and acknowledge multiple memberships.
 3. The FRA takes active steps to promote its role to fishermen, riparian owners and other interested parties by producing an annual newsletter to be available to all participating parties and which could be sent out to all club and syndicate members preferably at the time of their AGM's or with renewal reminders.

Roger Furniss had also proposed that the FRA should have a much improved database enabling direct debits and renewal notices, and that the FRA should appoint a dedicated Membership Secretary. The Treasurer agreed with these propositions but said that he was unwilling to undertake the membership role himself.

The discussion then opened up and the main conclusion was that it was essential to get more anglers interested and supportive of the work done by the FRA to improve the fishing and the habitat. This would require better publicity for the work done and greater involvement of more people. The Direct Debit proposal was fully supported. However, this would also require the production of a "Business Plan" which set out aims and objectives that were clear and easily understood, and some financial targets and agreed plans over a period of years. This would require improved information and an annual newsletter setting out what the FRA had achieved for Fowey anglers, and which should be championed and promulgated through the club representatives at club meetings. It would help if a website could also be set up similar to the one for the Camel, with a webcam based at Wainsford showing river conditions.

It was agreed that a meeting of Rob Williams, Stewart Fullwood, Jeff Eliot and the three officers of the FRA should be called quickly to develop these ideas, devise an information sheet, no more than a single page, by the end of December in time for discussion at club AGMs. Roger Lashbrook said that he was willing to pay £50 towards the printing in exchange for an advertisement for his tackle shop. £10 per head was suggested as a direct debit contribution, or a single larger amount.

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6. Hatchery

Jeff and Rob reported that the hatchery was now ready for business with a hen fish already in the tank. It was agreed that, rather than open up catching broodstock to all anglers, selected people with experience of handling fish, should do this. The target should be eighteen hens, which should enable a minimum of 50,000 fry to be planted out.

It was also agreed that the hatchery volunteers should be included in the

visits to see the Draynes Team's results, and join in the Christmas lunch.

7. **2009/10 projects**

There is a specific proposal from Roger Furniss that the project funding should be used to support Fry Index Surveys without which it is felt that the juvenile fish should not be planted out in competition with the wild fish. Dylan Bright has been asked if he has the capacity to do this and what the costs might be. Chris Janes said that he thought that comprehensive redd counts should also be undertaken.

The Chairman said that he and Tyson would be walking the Catchment to survey sites for other habitat development work. They would then be able to put forward propositions for FRA and FFRG consideration.

It was proposed by the Chairman, and agreed by Jeff, that the webcam should be located at Wainsford. Installation costs would be met by the FRA.

Rob Williams proposed that funding should be set aside for the construction of a water pump and nozzle that would help clean gravels on the Draynes. A similar pump had been made for the Exe and had proved very successful. It was agreed that the pump should be leased for trial purpose for a couple of days rather than purchased. It was also agreed that Jim Rowe should be consulted about available equipment.

8. **Dates of 2010 meetings**

Committee	27 th January 2010
AGM	21 st April 2010
Committee	21 st July 2010
Committee	20 th October 2010