

A meeting of the Fowey Rivers Association
was held on Wednesday 16th January 2013 at Lostwithiel Social Club

Present

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| Bill Smith (Chairman) | Fred Tolman (Lanhydrock) |
| Roger Brake (Treasurer) | Rob Williams (River Co-ordinator) |
| Dave Johns (LDAC) | Jon Evans (secretary) |
| John Tisdale (Treverbyn) | |

Apologies

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| Roger Furniss (SWRA/Glynn) | Godfrey Tucker(V/C / LDAC) |
| Ivan Lyne (BAA) | |

In attendance

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| Giles Rickard (WRT) | Bruce Stockley (WRT) |
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1. Welcome

The Chairman welcomed John Tisdale from Treverbyn, and Bruce Stockley and Giles Rickard from WRT.

2. Minutes of the meeting held on 17th October 2012

The minutes of the committee meeting held on 17th October 2012 were agreed.

3. Matters arising from the minutes

1. The Secretary said that the Newsletters had been distributed to LDAC and Lanhydrock clubs, and the Glynn. The remainder would be distributed to the FRA and RFC in time for their AGMs. JE
2. RW reported that he had been in touch again with Mark Easter from Natural England about Draynes car park signage. There had been no reply from NE Head Office and it was agreed that the FRA would erect a sign warning canoeists that the river was hazardous. A draft would be sent to NE giving them three weeks to comment before the sign was erected. Suitable wording to be drafted by the officers and RW. RW/BS/RB/JE
3. Catch limits had been agreed by LDAC incorporating an end of August season end for sea trout. These are now common to all clubs on the Fowey and are included in the official rules of LDAC.
4. Sanctuary contracts had been concluded for all sanctuary areas except Carkeet and the Masters water on the Warleggan. These would be completed shortly. The total cost would be £5,867 and GT would ask the Treasurer for cheques to be available from the end of January. GT and TS would then deliver them to riparians on the Draynes and the Warleggan. GT/TS/RB

4. Finance

The Treasurer reported on current income and expenditure for FRA and FRAL until March 2013. This showed a year end position of £12,725 to be transferred from FRA to FRAL. Bruce said that the EA had undertaken much of the Fry survey work and that WRT would not require the additional £2,600 in the accounts. This would add £2,600 to the FRA bottom line i.e. an out turn of £15,325. Cash at bank is £19,425.

RB

The accounts would be presented to the AGM in April.

RB

The existing FRA accounts would remain in use on account of the standing orders still payable to FRA.

It was agreed that proposals for 2013 would include

1. £5,200 for the fourth year of the fry index survey
2. £1,000 for volunteer expenses
3. £1,000 for administrative expenses including the AGM
4. £500 for SWRA subscription

Income would include £13,200 from SWW and an estimated £2,000 from individual and club subscriptions.

It was agreed that the accounts should be noted.

5. FRA membership

The paper circulated by the Secretary was considered. Proposed amendments would include

1. Eoin Donnellon not being a member but receiving copies of the papers
2. The other people receiving papers being Tyson Jackson and Mike Bryant.
3. Trevor Sobey has not been to a meeting for a year and Godfrey Tucker wished to resign from membership. It was agreed that Paul Jordan should be invited to join the committee.

It was agreed that the paper should be re-drafted for the AGM.

JE

6. St Neot option appraisal

The Chairman reported that the final APEM report had not been received. Simon Toms had done sterling work and persuaded David Solomons to review his data. This had had beneficial conclusions for the FRA. A further meeting of FFRG would be held on 12th February, and helpful advice had been received from SWW about the OFWAT criteria for assessing solutions for the St Neot.

7. Fry Index Survey 2012 – Bruce Stockley and Giles Rickard

Giles introduced the 2012 Fry survey report. He said that and that good survey coverage had been obtained and the EA quinquennial programme covering an increased number of sites had helped significantly. The methodology is for 5 minute timed surveys using the Kennedy Crozier protocol and this is sufficient to be comparable with full quantitative surveys. The fish are stunned, anaesthetised, recovered and returned. For the safety of the fish, the surveyors start with low conductivity readings.

The results show that the sites up to Wainsford and including the Cardinham are mainly in the B category; from Wainsford up to the Trentant mouth are in the C/D categories and above Trentant scores are generally E.

The three year comparative results are helpful in demonstrating which conservation activities have been more or less successful and are significantly related to Draynes clearances, the now closed stocking programme and in-river barriers.

The discussion then moved on to conservation proposals for 2013. These are based on the process described by Ronald Campbell from the Tweed Foundation – Defend areas with good stocks and habitat and ensure no decline, Repair areas with moderate stocks and habitat, and Attack areas with poor stocks and degraded habitat.

The whole catchment was covered in discussion and the following proposals were considered.

1. Behaviour changes among the fishing fraternity
2. Remove barriers such as those at Netherton Weir and Ladyvale bridge
3. Develop a solution to the Trezelland ditch problem and sand incursion
4. Try to cover more walkover surveys
5. Coppicing on the Cardinham possibly with the Forestry Commission or benefitting adventitiously from Phytophthera elimination work
6. Coppicing programmes upstream of Halfway House on LDAC property.
7. Develop a programme for using Country Sports Project funding

It was agreed that a meeting should be convened after the FFRG meeting on 12th February to develop the Country Sports Project plan.

It was agreed to repeat the survey in 2013. This would enable integration of the three years data with other work such as walkover surveys. The aim would be to shift the results one scale point up on the fry numbers.

Bruce and Giles were thanked for the report.

8. **Park Pit**

The Secretary reported on the last meeting of the Park/Stannon Environmental Group held on 4th December 2012. The Group had agreed a programme of broad leaf tree planting, wetland restoration, rabbit control, fisheries restoration and survey work all within the sum of £15,850. There was a similar programme for Stannon.

RW said that he hoped to be able to attend future meetings.

RW/JE

9. **AGM**

It was agreed that the Secretary should ask Anthony Fortescue if it would again be possible to hold the AGM at Boconnoc. David Pilkington from Arundell would be the keynote speaker. Funds for hospitality were contained in the budget for 2013.

JE

10. **SWRA**

The main item of interest to the FRA which was discussed at the last SWRA Council on 6th January 2013 was the proposal discussed by CEFAS at the Cornwall IFCA supporting rainbow trout rearing in Fowey estuary. This concerned the EA and SWRA on account of the threat to wild salmonids.

It was also noted that the AGM would be held at Arundell on 6th April 2013.

11. **Dates of 2013 meetings**

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| AGM | 17 th April 2013 |
| Committee | 17 th July 2013 |
| Committee | 16 th October 2013 |
| Committee | 15 th January 2014 |