

A meeting of the Fowey Rivers Association  
was held on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> October 2016 at Lostwithiel Social Club

**Present**

Dr Bill Smith (Chairman)	Ivan Lyne (BAA)
Chris Bryant (LDAC)	John Tisdale (Treverbyn)
Matt L'Estrange (Lanhydrock)	Jon Evans (Secretary)
Paul Jordan (Treasurer)	

**Apologies**

Roger Furniss (Glynn)	David White (LDAC)
Rob Williams (LDAC)	

**In attendance**

Richard Grieve (Hatchery manager)   Giles Rickard (WRT)

1.    **Minutes of the meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> July 2016**

The minutes of the committee meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> July 2016 were agreed.

2.    **Matters arising**

1.    **Treworkey.** The Treasurer reported that there were no deeds for the Treworkey Estate so Mr Hall made a Statutory Declaration. However, under the Prescription Act of 1832 an automatic right to a property cannot be claimed unless the occupancy has exceeded thirty years. The Land Registry is now looking for other possible claims of ownership. The lawyers are now trying to find a more mutually agreeable solution to the purchase proposal. This may involve a long term lease of perhaps 999 years. This would have to be acceptable to Mr Hall. A further report will be given at a future meeting.
2.    **Riverfly training.** Giles agreed to organise Riverfly training specifically for the Fowey. The cost would be likely to be £2,000.
3.    **Fry survey.** **The Chairman** advised that FRA would, as previously agreed, carry out a 2017 fry survey with WRT

3.    **Accounts to October 2016**

The Treasurer introduced his report on the position to October 2017 and stated that the FRA's financial position was still precarious. The SWW procedures had proved difficult to get to grips with and funds had been slow in coming. The SWW processes had taken time to understand and use effectively. The situation should be resolved when the SWW agreement is signed and implemented and the hatchery management funds are transferred three months in advance. In the meantime, cash flow remains extremely tight.

The apparent position seems very healthy but although the total assets are £36,000 commitments such as the Treworgey purchase, the unclaimed funds of £9,000 still with FRRG, unclaimed pledges for Treworgey, the real position is that the residual funds in the bank amount to £572.

The sustainability of the FRA had been discussed at the last meeting. One option for increasing income had been to convert voluntary donations in some clubs into components of the annual subscription. It was considered that this should not be done until the riparians and clubs/syndicates (Newbridge, Rivermead, Wainsford, Boconnoc, Treverbyn et al) that did not contribute anything had been formally asked to support the FRA.

The financial plan would be discussed again after consideration outside the meeting.

#### 4. **Hatchery report**

Richard Grieve was welcomed to the meeting and reported on the current position. He said that the hatchery is now open for business.

The agreement with SWW is that they will provide FRA with a working hatchery. Any omissions such as equipment needs will be catered for within the agreement. All the regulatory requirements have been completed and the help of Bruce Stockley from WRT has been invaluable, particularly with the discharge consent.

The Wainsford equipment stored at Pengover had been taken to Colliford and installed. It was agreed that Trevor Sobey should be thanked for his kindness in supporting the hatchery by storing the equipment for so long.

JE

The water temperature had been as high as 19°C but has now dropped to 12°C. There is a 8lb hen fish, caught by Richard, in residence and this is the trigger for starting once or twice times daily checks. A mechanism for cooling the egg tray water had been investigated and it was hoped that this would be provided by SWW. This would reduce the number of deformed hatchlings because the nearer the temperature is to 8°C when the fish are stripped the fewer the deformities will be.

A phone line is installed but can only be used for the alarm systems. The low water alarm has been triggered accidentally a number of times and it is essential that a process is established for responders to follow.

RG

The trap had been installed at the St Neot junction, and was being checked and cleared regularly of leaves. When the major leaf fall came, the wing walls would be raised to allow the leaves to pass down the river. The Didson had showed that there were likely to be fish at the trap from December to mid January which is the end date for the fixed engine order. It is hoped that the

trap will be successful but in the meantime, rod caught fish would be very welcome. Successful anglers should contact Richard direct and he would then collect the fish and transfer it to Colliford.

The volunteers needed to support the hatchery work were still below the number required. Jon Hake was invaluable but the old team from Wainsford were no longer available and new people were needed. The actual opening of the hatchery should help recruitment because there was now something to show. The recruitment process needed to be stepped up and a working rota implemented because Richard cannot be expected to cover the whole process seven days a week.

An official opening was discussed and it was noted that SWW might wish to use the opportunity for some positive PR for their conservation credentials.

Richard was thanked for his very useful, timely and informative report.

## 5. **2017 Newsletter**

It was agreed that the 2017 Newsletter should contain

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|----------------------------|---------|
| 1. Chairman's introduction | BS      |
| 2. Finance                 | PJ      |
| 3. SWRA                    | RF      |
| 4. CIFCA                   | JT      |
| 5. Riverfly                | GR      |
| 6. Hatchery – Two pages    | RG + PJ |

The copy deadline would be the beginning of December to enable LDAC papers to be posted in mid December. The preferred word content is 400/450 per page, less if photographs are included. All contributions to JE please.

## 6. **SWRA meetings**

The Chairman reported on the SWRA meeting held the previous day.

1. Roger Furniss had previously announced that he was retiring at the next SWRA AGM. This would be a definite retirement from SWRA but he would continue to work with the RAs in which he had fishing interests – Teign, Exe and Fowey. Individual Council members would undertake lead roles on e.g. Canoeing and there would be greater communication and networking between Council members. An alternative administrative/secretarial service was being arranged and the number of meetings would remain at four per year.
2. Nick Lintott gave a very interesting presentation about his trip to the Halladale and Helmsdale hatcheries. He drew particular attention to the link between temperature and date/time. The nearer the water temperature is to 8<sup>0</sup>C or less, the better the results will be in terms of

- reduced numbers of deformed fry.
3. Voluntary Bailiff Scheme. AT had agreed to provide a half day of Nevin Hunter's time for the South West provided there were 30 people willing to be trained as voluntary bailiff's. It had been proposed that the SWRA should fund this from its accumulated reserve.
  4. River reports. Most rivers in the South West had had a fair season so far but there was currently very little water. A predominance of grilse and few multi sea winter fish was noted.

7. **Cornwall IFCA Estuarine byelaw 2017**

The draft byelaw and covering letter from the Cornwall IFCA had been previously circulated. The possible response, prepared by the Secretary with help from Roger Furniss and John Tisdale, had also been circulated and was discussed.

It was agreed that the paper, with some minor improvements proposed by RF should be used as the FRA's formal response.

JE

Ivan Lyne was asked to encourage the Camel Association also to respond. The Fowey paper was offered as a possible draft.

IL

8. **River reports**

There were reports of fair grilse numbers and poor bigger salmon numbers. The low water levels were not encouraging catches.

9. **Pollution incident**

RG reported that there had been a pollution incident on the Warleggan. GR reported that it appeared to have been a milk spill but there did not seem to have been an associated fish kill.

10. **Next meetings**

Committee	18 <sup>th</sup> January 2017
AGM	19 <sup>th</sup> April 2017
Committee	19 <sup>th</sup> July 2017
Committee	18 <sup>th</sup> October 2017