

A meeting of the Fowey Rivers Association
was held on Wednesday 9th January
at the Lostwithiel Social Club

Present

Dr Bill Smith (Chairman)

David White (LDAC)

Rob Williams (LDAC)

John Tisdale (Treverbyn)

Nigel White (LDAC)

Matt L'Estrange (Lanhydrock)

Apologies

Paul Jordan

In attendance David Chapman (WRT)

1. **Minutes of the meeting held on 24th October 2018**
Agreed.
2. **Matters arising**
Letter from Chairman to clubs regarding a new secretary: the chairman had not done this. It was agreed that it would be appropriate to send out for circulation before the AGMs
Action WHS
3. **Treasurers Report**
The Chairman presented the report in the Treasurers absence. It was noted that SWW had credited the account with £3164 as reimbursement of the Draynes rentals. There were no other significant changes. All felt it appropriate to continue with the fry surveys on an annual basis for the time being.
There were no questions arising.
4. **Secretarial Vacancy**
The need for succession planning of FRA officers was stressed. There are no volunteers currently for the vacant secretary post. Clubs will approach members to try and find a volunteer. The Chairman will circulate a letter to clubs and fishery owners seeking a nomination.
5. **Net Limitation Order renewal**
The Chairman had had a discussion with Simon Toms regarding the current state of play. The order is currently on the minister's desk awaiting sign off. The need for annual consultation and agreement with the EA on the restrictions was again stressed. It was hoped that there would be a meeting with the EA in February.

6. IFCA update

John Tisdale updated the meeting on the current state of play. Cornwall IFCA is considering the introduction of a new bye-law specifically aimed at protecting salmonids in estuaries and inshore waters from unintentional entanglement in gill nets. To this end they have been conducting an information gathering exercise to determine the experience of both commercial fisherman and recreational anglers engaging with salmonids in the marine environment. This information has been / is being collated and is being used to inform the structure of the proposed bye-law. The intention is to present the draft regulations at the next CIFCA meeting in April. However this date is not fixed and may be subject to drift. The current bye-law related to this issue was passed in 1986 and whilst still on the statute book is NOT being enforced. I understand that this is because of legal advice to CIFCA that it is not enforceable in the courts.

7. **Hatchery Update**

The chairman reported that the target of 10 hen and 10 cock fish had been achieved before the 15th December. Most of the hens were grilse. So far all bar 1 hen fish had been stripped and 40,000 eggs laid down so far. All eggs appear to have been fertilised and are developing normally. Members of the committee expressed a wish to visit the hatchery. LDAC to liaise with Richard regarding a suitable date.

8. AGM arrangements

The AGM will be held on Wednesday April 10th. WHS to request permission to hold the meeting at Boconnoc. There was discussion about a speaker. Kate Hills, SWW chair of the Park and Stannon committee was suggested. RW agreed to contact. WHS to provide the liquid refreshments and RW to source the pasties. Members were asked to attend early to help with the setting up.

9. WRT report

Dave Chapman updated the meeting on the work that had been undertaken on the weirs and the river bank works. Ben Gallant at WRT had undertaken considerable river bank and habitat improvement on the St Neot and some of the main river. Members were keen to view the work and it was agreed that WRT would set up a visit for anyone interested in February.

Fry survey.

The draft fry survey results are very encouraging and showed the best salmon fry results for at least six years. We are awaiting the results of the EA surveys and the results will then be circulated. It was good to see that fry were again found in the Cardinham following the removal of the trash barrier in 2017. Fry were also found for the first time above Ladyvale bridge following the easement undertaken by WRT. Trout results were generally excellent.

10. There was now other urgent business.

Dates for next meetings:

AGM	10 th April
Committee	3 rd July
	9 th October

