

## Guash Fishing Club Annual General Meeting Tuesday 20 March 2018 2000 hours at the Business Centre, The George Hotel, Stamford

### Minutes

1. Apologies: Darren Blackshaw, Adrian Trumper, Phil Tushingham, Richard Holman, Mike Blee, Dave Forrest, Peter barham, Peter Connor, Michael Dorr, Barry Harbott, Rob Adams, Duncan Butler.
2. Members Present:, G Alleyn, J Ball, M Benton, S Bonney, R Buck, F Butterworth, J Campbell, R Door, A Flitcroft, N Fox, C Fuller, R Spiers, W DeGale, C Hulbert, D Kittson, P Kittson, N Lodhi, D Lui, N McGhee, L Mclintic, D Neville, A Orvis, J Pawlyn, J Thompson, T Walker.
3. Minutes of 2017 AGM and matters arising: with the minutes of the 2017 AGM were approved without change.
4. New Committee members: Robin Buck, Adrian Forsell: Proposed by DN and JB. Both were elected to the committee nem con
5. Re Election of Committee members : Ian Walker: Proposed JB and NF. Re-elected to the committee nem con
6. Election of club officers – Chairman (Trevor Walker is standing), Treasurer (Steve Smith is standing, Secretary (R Spiers ) All proposed by CF and JC and elected unopposed.
7. Treasurer's Report - AO presented the accounts for 2017. Full details will be posted on the website. The income of £22025 overall loss of £6120.93 were noted leaving a balance of funds including the remaining EA grant monies £47632. The committee are aiming to gradually run down the club balance to closer to £20,000 excluding grants and continue to spend @£15,000 annually on river keeping to maintain as much as the Guash open as possible and to keep banks clear on both Welland stretches. There will be a gradual rise in fees of £10 increase per annum up to 2020 and this policy will then be reviewed.
8. Chairman/ Secretary Report – RS:
  - a. The club has 105 paid members and 8 hons. 2017 was again, an excellent season for those who managed to get out. There were 474 reported visits from the 92 catch returns I received – eventually. This means that 13 paying members did not submit returns despite the change in the rules and I shall write individually to them as this is the last year that we allow any grace over failures to submit returns. Over 1000 fish were caught and all but 80 were returned. Over half of all catches were from the Guash, and there was a marked improvement in visits and fish caught in the Haringworth stretch now that Bert has done such a good job making it accessible to anglers for most of its length. This is a 10 percent increase in visits over 2016, after a 5% increase in membership but I still manage to fish in pretty solemn splendour even at the height of the mayfly season at weekends so I don' think we have overdone the membership numbers. There seem to have been fewer poachers on all waters this year possibly because there are more of us out there more often.
  - b. On that note, members are asked to continue reporting poachers to the police via 101 and asking for Lincs police for the Uffington stretch, Leicestershire for the Guash and Northants police for Haringworth. Descriptions of them, their vans and registration numbers are helpful to the police and justified the police stopping one white van and nicki9ng the driver for another offence. As we are focussing our spend on river improvement again this year we have not considered employing wardens and the volunteer warden scheme by AT and the EA doesn't really suit our membership due to the remarkable level of fitness required of these wardens.
  - c. Talking of costs, Tony will be presenting the finances from last year and projections for the coming 3-4 years to explain the plans for increasing river keeping costs and slowly dropping our somewhat generous bank balance. As most of you will now know we have lost a small stretch of beat 6 at the Roman Camp at Great Casterton and the new map is on the website.

- d. Our river keepers John and Bert have done a magnificent job again this year keeping the banks clear and managing much more clearance work. Chris and Trevor will be taking us through the works carried out this year and plans for 2018/19 and we have generous support from the EA in doing this. There is also the germ of a plan to improve the Lower Welland stretch from Hudds Mill through its whole length and we are still in the early planning stages with EA, but we are expecting this to reduce some of the excessive reed growth we have on this stretch as well as making the water above Uffington Bridge more accessible on a sustainable basis. In the meantime the club has offered non fly-fishing memberships to a small group of coarse fishermen on the Hudds mill stretch for winter fishing. Of course this is already available to club members.
  - e. I would like to specifically thank Trev and Chris for all of the work that they have again put into the improvements.
  - f. We have again offered a day on the Guash to both WTT and S&T and bids for the WTT lots closed last weekend so we don't yet know what was generated.
  - g. Jonathan Thompson has set up the website and now handed over to me to maintain and update with his oversight and I hope to post monthly reports over the next season plus any items of general interest.
  - h. Our waiting list now stands at 19, mostly ex-members who have had to relinquish for a while so if you have any friends who want to get in without a hugely long wait now is the time for them to contact me.
  - i. I think that overall the club and our rivers are in very good shape and we continue to have an affordable and sustainable plan to keep the club running with access to a lot of extremely good trout water so I feel very confident in handing over chairmanship of the club to Trevor.
9. Rule change proposals : Additional sections to rule 2 were discussed to allow the club to comply with the Data Protection Laws due to come in force in May 2018 and will allow development of a club policy on data protection by the committee in 2018. The changes approved without opposition were to add:
- 2a. **By joining the club a member is considered to have given consent for personal data to be held on them as detailed in the club Data Protection Policy.**

2b. **All members are individually responsible for ensuring that during their membership, all information held on them is accurate.**

Changes to Rule 5 and 5.1 were to improve the text of the additional requirements approved in 2017 for members to pay electronically, to submit catch returns as a condition of membership and a deletion of the requirement for anyone failing to pay on time whose membership is cancelled to still pay their subscription. The latter is unenforceable in practice so redundant. The following changes were approved :

**Rule 5: Not later than 10<sup>th</sup> January in each year the Secretary shall write by letter or e mail to all Members who have not paid their full subscription for the current year and submitted a completed catch return, including nil returns, informing them that if the sum due be not paid, and the catch return not submitted on or before 24<sup>th</sup> January they will cease to be Members of the Club.**

**Rule 5.1** Payment of membership fees will be by electronic bank transfer or payment by the individual directly into the club account.

**Rule 23 covers catch returns for members and guests and required updating in line with the requirement for catch returns to be submitted as a condition of continued membership. It will now read**

**Rule 23** (proposal is the addition in italics) At the end of each season each Member must send to the Secretary not later than 1 January of the following year a properly completed return on the form provided, *of all brown and sea trout caught by him and his guests*. Nil returns are also required. Failure to provide a catch return will lead loss of membership unless exceptional reasons are provided and accepted by the Committee.

**Appendix on Bait and out of trout season: covers arrangements for bait fishing during the close season for trout. The membership were informed well in advance of the proposals and some edits and amendments have been received and updated versions sent prior to the AGM. The Wild Trout Trust have also been consulted on measures designed to minimise damage to trout when bait fishing for other species. The need to ban keep nets was also discussed but this was felt to still be a requirement. All changes in bait fishing rules will apply to any member of the club including any new membership divisions. The following was approved:**

No keep nets.

Barbless hooks must be used except when using large spoons or dead bait for pike.

All beats: **Fly fishing only for** grayling during the trout close season up to 16<sup>th</sup> March

River Welland (All Upper Welland, and all Lower Welland (below Hudds Mill to bottom of Lower Welland)- bait fishing for coarse fish and pike during the trout close season up to 16<sup>th</sup> March. **No cereal or bread based ground baiting allowed. Loose feeding with worm, maggot and sweetcorn is permitted.**

10. Guash habitat improvement update on 2017 and plans for 2018- TW and CF outlined the work done on beat 7 and the continuing plans for finalising this and restoration of the canalised section of beat 14.
11. Guash Fishing Day 2018- JB announced the planned fishing day 2018 based on the success of the 2017 day. It was clear that some members had not received their e mails about this and RS will re-circulate the note.
12. All you ever wanted to know about Tenkara but were afraid to ask. -Jon Campbell and Neil McGhee made an excellent presentation on Tenkara fishing to great interest from those present. The slide show will be put on the website
13. AOB - no other business was presented.
14. Waiting list day ticket draw - RS
15. Coffee and biscuits will be served after the meeting.