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Due to Covid Restrictions there will not be an Annual General Meeting this year 2020/21 .
All the AGM Reports can be found below



Evening everyone.

In a normal year, our annual AGM would have taken place in mid March, but not this year ! We have however put together the normal reports presented at the AGM. In a nutshell, finance wise we have had a good year with Keith presenting a healthy surplus. Graham's secretaries address is as good as ever, summing up the past year nicely. Robs report is well worth a read and very informative. All of this year's reports are here on the club's website where they will remain for the next few weeks.

I would personally like to thank all of The Committee Members and Bailiffs for your commitment and efforts for WDAA.

Without you we would not have a great local fishing club, for all of our members to enjoy.

Kind regards Bert,
Club Chairman.

Secretary's Address

The 2020/21 fishing season will go down in history and probably be remembered for many years to come but sadly for all the wrong reasons. At the end of last season, March 2020 coronavirus started to take hold and we found ourselves forced into the first national lockdown. Little were we to know at that time just how serious the situation was to become as the entire planet was hit with one of the greatest disasters in recent history. The coronavirus affected everyone to some extent and living in these strange times has been difficult with restrictions on what we are allowed to do or where we are allowed to go. The next 12 months saw a dramatic change to the way we live and forced us to spend extended periods of time staying at home and separated from people including family members that we would normally have regular contact with.

Remaining more isolated can create its own problems such as mental stress and anxiety making us feel detached from the real world. However, there is still a world outside the front door and fortunately the government allowed going out for essential reasons such as exercise.

Being anglers, the outside environment is where we practice our pastime and the government gave permission to continue this as part of part of our exercise allocations.

The natural world in my opinion is one of the best ways to detach from problems and stresses in life. Angling provides that opportunity to get outside and feel part of nature away from the television or computer, even when the results don't go your way there are still the sights and sounds of the surroundings to observe and relax in a chair for a few hours. Therefore it has been important to take these opportunities during these difficult times and spend some time outside enjoying fishing to assist with our mental well-being.

It's not all bad news though as membership numbers appear to have been on the increase during the last season and into the new year permit sales still proceed which indicates that people indeed want to get out and fish. WDAA have done the best we possibly could throughout this last season trying to continue with managing the Association and keeping it functioning for the benefits of its members. Due to social distancing measures the usual work parties and committee meetings have taken a back seat although we did manage a few small outdoor meetings with a minimum of committee members.

Association officials have continued to operate around our waters whilst observing current guidelines and at this point as in every other year it is vital to remind our members that the Association is built on volunteers who give up their spare time to keep the waters in a condition that provides safe and enjoyable angling. Therefore thank you to all officials for your continuing efforts in running the Association because without this assistance there would be no WDAA at all.

Please support our officials when using our waters, abide by the rules they are introduced for a reason, to keep the image of Association respectable. Look after the environment it is yours to use and enjoy, take home litter and please don't leave tackle on the



bank. Fisheries that are abused will only attract attention from the public leading to complaints or worse loss of venue. WDAA officials are there to enforce the rules but not in an aggressive or forceful manner, that is not the position of the Association. We aim to provide a friendly and helpful environment in which to fish.

At the time of writing, we have a healthy number of bailiffs and committee members however as in most years there have been one or two losses replaced by others which is common to most organisations, inevitably at some point people will leave.

On a positive note WDAA haven't lost any waters and we continue to search for other viable fisheries to complement our existing portfolio. It is the policy of WDAA to provide mixed angling facilities to attract different types of angler, whether it is still-water or river, specimen or pleasure angler there should be something for all. We intend to continue and build on this principle for the future.

Looking towards the coming season, hopefully things will improve and return to somewhat normal living and we can all go about our lives without restrictions in place. Angling is a great way to detach from stress, but please do so in a responsible manner and observe any guidelines that are currently in force. Enjoy the surroundings, respect the environment and it will be there for many years to come. The Association is made by its members and without them it is nothing, so we must continue to attract people and hopefully keep them returning each year. The committee and officials will play their part in running WDAA but to be successful needs the support of its members, it's a two way process.

So finally, thank you for joining WDAA whether a new member or a returning one and if you are new then hopefully you'll remain for future seasons. All the best with your angling and hope you find what you're looking for, there is something for everyone but above all stay safe.

G. Bayliss
Secretary WDAA

Fisheries Managers Report.

Good evening.

After last year's AGM work began on the Rilshaw Dockyard pegs, then the virus struck.

Under advice from the government all WDAA waters were closed, fishing and work parties stopped. Despite this, poachers were about from Newbridge pool to the Ocean. I even encountered them all along the Northwich AA lengths during the closed season on my exercise hour!

Late May/ early June sees fishing allowed to resume after work by the Angling Trust. And it seems that a lot more people were taking up the sport as well, it was one way of getting out! July saw the problems of speedboats on the weaver; this was quickly dealt with by officers of the association in conjunction with the paddle board group. August, the fishery manager resigned and this was accepted by the committee. During the summer Terminus pool received a few more crucian carp and tench, and National pool had a small test stocking but these may have been lost to the river during the flood. Time will tell.

Throughout the next few months' minor instances of vandalism occurred. But the Association bailiffs dealt with all the issues calmly, many thanks to them and those that returned to offer their services. The River Dane produced a 4lb 8oz chub. Approaching Christmas Lockdown 3 put paid to anything but local fishing and ended the match calendar. January floods again ruined the rivers.

Catch of the month is no longer running but we may look into an annual 'catch of the season'.

SAC-The River Severn stretch on our card courtesy of Shrewsbury Angling Club started well producing barbell to 12lb 15oz and plenty around the 9lb mark, Shelton produced a 2lb 8oz perch. Alas they also suffered from the usual EU poachers and a massive litter problem after lockdown was lifted.

All in, a tough year, but the Association continued working around the waters where possible and has managed to get most things sorted, hopefully we will all return to some sort of normal soon. Looking forward, there are plans for work parties and possible stockings.

Thank you to all the Association bailiffs and officials for your continued efforts and time,
and thank you to all our members for your continued support.

Rob Ledwards
Fishery Manager

Treasurer's Report 2021

As we all know 2020 was a very topsy turvy year, with lockdowns, fishing stopped altogether for a while, and very low expectations of the new 2020 season.

The first problem we had was with getting our new permits printed, as the printers were closed during the first lockdown, this was overcome by getting stickers printed locally to update the covers of the previous years permits, we initially were only selling permits on the website and some face-to-face sales sessions at Newbridge pool. We eventually put a smallish permit order into the printers when they opened and got some new permits printed in late June, but it became apparent as these permits went out to the tackle

shops that order we had made was too small, so more were ordered. Like most fishing clubs the low expectation evaporated as it became apparent that the Lockdown and lack of live sports meant that more people than usual wanted to go fishing, this meant we ended the financial year with a good surplus in the accounts, the first for a couple of years

there were some higher costs due to the effects of the pandemic first due to the increased traffic on the website more than usual had to be spent on website upkeep, but this is expected to fall back in 2021.

We also spent some money on PPE equipment this includes latex gloves, hand sanitizer and those sorts of things. There was also an increase in the rents we pay each year, this was due renegotiated rents and leases.

The Pandemic meant that there were a couple of late payments that didn't make it into the 2020 accounts, this means that the Match income is lower than expected even after factoring in the COVID-19 effect, one of the affiliated club payments was also late. These will both be added to the 2021 accounts.

Spending on work carried out took a dip this year as there was no major expenditure, save some power tools and the ongoing materials to make sure our waters are kept in the best condition possible.

In conclusion, what was expected to be a very poor year turned out to be much better financially than expected, and the club will keep investing in its waters and fish stocks that we all enjoy.

Keith Andrew
W.D.A. Treasurer

Winsford & District Anglers Association
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2016 - 2022

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