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## WINSFORD AND DISTRICT ANGLING ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING WEDNESDAY 16th MARCH 2022

NOTICE OF MEETING REPORTS AND STATEMENTS OF ACCOUNTS



Winsford and District Angling Association agenda for the Annual General Meeting

### Meeting Summary

Due to coronavirus pandemic this is the first formal AGM since 2020, the previous year's meeting was cancelled due to the imposed restrictions. A copy of the minutes from 2020 is attached for reference however any topics raised during this meeting may not be applicable today. The intention for this year's meeting is to proceed in the usual manner by addressing each of the points listed on the standard agenda below. Where changes have occurred that are worthy of mention, these shall be included in the appropriate item on the agenda.

### Agenda

1. Chairman's Opening Address and Apologies
2. Minutes of previous AGM held 11th March 2020
3. Secretary's Report
4. Financial Statement
5. Treasurer's Report
6. Auditors Report
7. Fishery Manager's Report
8. Match Secretary's Report
9. Honoraria and Expenses
10. Election of Officers
11. Election and Payment of Bailiffs
12. Annual Permit Subscriptions
13. Notices of Motion
14. Annual Presentations
15. Any Other Business

Minutes to be taken by Secretary G. Bayliss

Content of the Annual General Meeting,

1. Chairman's Opening Address and Welcome Including Any Apologies – R. Reid.

2. Minutes from the Previous AGM held 11TH March 2020 Accepted by all

3. Secretary's Report – G. Bayliss

Mr Chairman, Officials and Members

### Committee Meetings, Changes and Attendance

Since the last AGM in 2020 there have been several changes to committee members, the following names are no longer Association Officials.

Fishery Manager	G. Gerhold
GPC member	C. Millington

The current committee officials are,

President	B. Clarke
Chairman	R. Reid
Vice Chairman	S. Smith
Secretary	G. Bayliss
Treasurer	K. Andrew
Fishery Manager	R. Ledwards
Match Secretary	S. Flood

GPC Member

A. Speed
T. Holland
S. Noden



W. Robinson  
T Stubbs

A new position was created in January, M. Leathwood has become Angling Development Officer.

During the past two years committee meetings became very irregular due to the pandemic, and ceased to operate in the usual monthly pattern. During this period several open-air meetings occurred at various places such as New Pool, the Ocean, Terminus Pool, Newbridge Pool and National Length carpark. Despite the difficulties, meeting attendance remained positive with a mixture of immediate committee members attending some and the full GPC attending others. It is important to note that social distancing was applied at all these meetings. Since November last year 2021 meetings have started to occur on regular monthly dates returning to the established venue at the Wharton Conservative Club. This included a very well represented bailiffs meeting in December.

#### Working Parties

R. Ledwards has tried to maintain these during the restrictions and several major projects have been started. The inlet stream on Tommy's Hole has been diverted to allow the continual deposits of sand to be removed each year and pathways around New Pool have been improved by the addition of stone. A second pool has been created at Terminus Pool.

#### Juniors

This continued to be a quieter section of the Association although with angling being allowed during the restrictions, it did see some interest. With recent developments at a committee level the outlook for juniors is starting to look more positive and if the current planning attracts further interest there could be some significant improvements to mention at next year's meeting. The main difficulty here is to implement the correct exposure to the intended audience.

#### **Secretary's General Address**

Since presenting the last address the world was thrown into some strange times with the coronavirus affecting us on a global scale, the likes of which many had not seen before. This affected all walks of life and put extreme strain onto our NHS system trying to cope with the extraordinary demand placed onto its shoulders. There has been so much uncertainty with what the future will bring and what the long-term effects may be and at the time of writing this seems likely to continue with the outbreak of war in the Ukraine after Russia's invasion. The memories of standing outside applauding NHS workers each week seems far away but now we have the increased threat of international involvement with the conflict, the consequences of which don't bear thinking about. At least with the covid situation, after several waves of the virus things appear to be improving which brings much needed relief now life is returning to normal.

Despite all the worldly problems, WDAA is still here and continues to provide a quality service to all its members. Things have been difficult to maintain over the past two years but with a bit of thought and planning it is always possible to find the way around potential obstacles. But whatever problems WDAA may have faced in maintaining the Association it pales into insignificance compared the troubles in the Ukraine and our thoughts must go out to all those affected by this tragedy.

With the restrictions being imposed, committee meetings ceased for a while until a decision was made to hold open air meetings between a limited number of attendees whilst observing the rules of social distancing. This worked really well and actually for some attendees served as dual purpose meeting / angling sessions. In fact, on one occasion a carp was actually caught by Treasurer Keith Andrew which caused the meeting to be adjourned for a while. This willingness to keep going demonstrates the commitment of WDAA officials when it comes to performing their roles and at this point the customary thank you must be given to all those involved in the running of Association, whether officials or members your assistance is greatly appreciated. This includes those previous officials who were present at the last AGM but have now ceased to be involved, their work set the foundations for others to build on.

Change is inevitable within organisations and people will move on for various reasons whether for personal differences or improvements, but their efforts won't be forgotten. Things move on and new replacements are found to fill the gaps left by others. The current team are dedicated and enthusiastic to improve the facilities of WDAA and this shows by the continued work that they do in their own spare time to keep the Association running.

Every year will see positive and negative effects for the Association, certainly there has been plenty of negative effect on us all recently without any internal contributing factors. Overall though the positives have outweighed the negatives when considering the management of the Association. Significant work has been implemented on developing our waters for the future, particularly on those that remain under-utilised. Two examples come to mind, Tommy's Hole and Terminus Pool have received significant attention for development. These may be overlooked or dismissed by a large number of members due to their location or type of angling they provide, but the policy of WDAA is to provide a balanced source of angling to accommodate all tastes.

During early 2021, a small group of committee members erected a stream deflecting barrier at Tommy's Hole to allow depositing sand to be removed before building up and causing irreparable damage. This was achieved in all weathers including sub zero conditions with driving hail at times, but the effort is starting to show positive results. Sand can now be removed from the edges of the pool rather than flowing out into the centre and a secluded island has been created for ground nesting water fowl in the breeding season. Terminus Pool at the Winsford end of Whitegate Way now has a lower pool which will be stocked with various fish species.

With respect to junior members there is usually little to report upon apart from the annual fish-in on Wyvern Pool which tends to occur during summer. This year we are pleased to report the introduction of an additional team member, Mark Leathwood who has assumed the role of Angling Development Officer building upon the long standing work provided by Tommy Ratcliffe over many years. Mark is a level 2 coach and will be targeting not only juniors but anglers of all ages, although it must be stressed that juniors will form a major part of the target audience. In order to achieve these objectives it will be necessary to comply with our general duty of care by having a safeguarding policy, performing risk assessments, having suitably trained coaches and sufficient insurance cover. Mark is a level 2 qualified coach so is sufficiently competent to lead these events. An angling development plan has been drawn up which includes a mixture of events for all abilities from beginners to more experienced anglers across a variety of techniques from river fishing to more specialised techniques for particular species such as carp and pike. In addition, a junior match series is planned for the summer months.

Whilst on the subject of planning, several committee members attended an on-line training seminar hosted by the Angling Trust which looked at legal duties of angling organisations with regards to health and safety requirements on work parties. Although as a voluntary group we are exempt from many of the legal duties of professional bodies, WDAA does still have a general duty of care for its members on work parties. As a result of this, Fishery management have started to perform risk assessments whilst on site that attendees are

required to sign in case any accidents occur. Basic protective equipment is also being offered to workers. Planning is key to success, therefore it is vital to plan work before commencing to avoid potential pitfalls.

A positive that came out of the recent covid situation was a rise in member numbers which undoubtedly came from the allowance of angling and the desire of people to get out into the open air. It will be interesting to see if this trend continues into the future.

Every year has its negatives and this period has been no exception. There continue to be problems with litter and human excrement left on the bankside which is just not acceptable and casts a poor impression of the Association especially when in public areas. I do receive the occasional e-mail from members of the public who express their concern over matters such as litter. This problem is not entirely due to anglers, certain waters do act as a meeting ground for people, not only teenagers but adults also who contribute to the litter problem. On the flip side of the coin there are also members of the public who voluntarily walk around picking litter because they care for the environment. I have personally thanked any litter picker met when out on our waters. This commitment to maintaining a clean environment should be seen as an example by all our members or others before throwing away that plastic bottle or crisp bag onto the ground.

It goes without saying that we all have a duty to look after the environment that we use for angling, it's in our own interests to do so. This request must be extended to all anglers when they think it is acceptable to leave old line and other items of tackle on the bank, the site of an entangled bird is the last thing we need as an organisation. Considering the extent of social media we know too well the ease at which news spreads and creating damage to the environment only provides fuel for the fire.

Jumping back to a more positive side, there haven't been any formal dismissals from the Association since the last AGM. Several incidents have occurred, but most have been sorted out amicably without further disciplinary action.

For anyone who has not ventured out to the Acton Bridge length of the Weaver it is highly recommended as members of the match fishing fraternity will endorse. Although the amount of clear space for fishing along here is currently limited, we do have plans to develop this gradually by opening up a small number of pegs initially followed by a gradual introduction of others. When fishing here it is important not to destroy the local environment or upset the local people who live on the access road as this may result in action from the Canal and River Trust, with possible loss of fishing rights. Considering that we took out a 10 year lease it would be a shame to lose such a prime venue.

In summary, WDAA continues to be a good value for money organisation who is striving to improve its portfolio of waters whilst maintaining standards that it has become accustomed to, providing quality angling venues in a relaxed but sensible environment. Association officials must continue to understand the importance of guiding members rather than using heavy handed tactics which result in confrontation, after all they are the face of the organisation so creating the wrong image runs the risk of a bad reputation. That said, officials must uphold the standards but in no circumstances put themselves at risk from doing so.

WDAA currently has a very stable and committed team of individuals who are genuinely passionate about the success of the Association. Committee meetings are always well attended with considerable input from the various sections and provided this approach continues will lead to further success with development of waters and healthy membership numbers. If we all work in the same direction the future of WDAA is extremely positive and the Association will be here for many years to come.

4. Financial Statement – Withheld from the website ( Members only)

5. Treasurers Report March 2021 – K. Andrew

6. Auditors Report – Withheld from the website ( Members only)

#### Winsford & District Anglers Association - Treasurer's Report (Accounts to Dec 31st, 2021)

As we all know, there was no AGM in 2021 due to Covid restrictions, the club had an excellent financial year in 2020, and again last year in 2021, and as the usual financial report shows the current and previous years, you can see what you missed from last year's AGM, plus the current financial year just past.

The Angling bounce back continued in 2021 we again had a healthy surplus.

Many of the clubs around us now have much higher permit prices than ourselves, which is one factor driving anglers toward us, we also have some excellent still waters and stretches of River, many clubs around us are having to close off their memberships again and have sometimes long waiting lists, and as you know Winsford anglers has no waiting list and no joining fee, meaning a lot of anglers are coming to us for their fishing, despite the influx of anglers again our waters were not too overcrowded even during the summer months, though there was some demand for night angling spaces on the website with weekends filling up as soon as the dates were released.

Our income was very slightly down from 2020, and spending was back to pre-covid levels with some extra spend on a couple of projects, this included a spend of just over £3000 to repair carpark and the pathway on the far side of Newpool.

We also spent around £1500 on fish stock, and a deposit for more fish that were due to arrive in November but didn't arrive until January, so that spend will show in the 2022 accounts. There was also a spend of £425 on a laptop for the Secretary, as the previous one was on its last legs.

Rent was up slightly, and no doubt will be a continuing trend, the work party spend was back to what it was before covid, as we bought a lot of materials for projects that are ongoing and that are about to get underway. Several other areas of spend were less than the 2020 spend, while others stayed the same.

There will be no Permit price increase in 2022, and we will continue to keep our price very competitive for what we have on offer, especially while the club's financial status remains in the black at the end of each financial year.

In conclusion, the Covid angling resurgence seems to be here to stay for a while, and no doubt will wane a bit in the next couple of years, but the club is currently in a very good position financially.

Finally, QR codes, you'll be seeing a lot more of these this season, they will be in the permit and along the bankside, it's hoped they will help drive people to targeted parts of our website like Day tickets, Night bookings or our new Angling Development page.

Keith Andrew. W.D.A.A Treasurer.

7. Fishery Managers Report – R. Ledwards

Good evening

This past season has followed on from the previous one with improvements and changes for the better. The biggest improvement by far was the decision to stone up the marshy pegs on Newpool and refresh the car park, and it's now a much cleaner environment to fish and park in. The lower pool at Terminus was revived by rebuilding the dam and it was cleared of

debris and 4 fishing areas installed. Lilies were planted for cover for the gudgeon and perch stock. The floating islands on national pool were removed with the improvement in the water quality, and the stock consists of tench, crucian, roach, rudd and perch. We will tackle any further water quality problems on here by way of weeding up the pool and using liquid barley extract. I would reiterate that no members should transfer any fish into this pool, or indeed any other waters.

Recent stockings by the association has seen 100 small chub and 100 small barbel introduced to wyvern pool to give the youngsters fishing there something different to try for. Also we have introduced 18 long reed strain common carp averaging 10lb each into Newpool to enhance the stock in there. Tench to 8lb and 150lb of quality roach were also stocked.

Very few issues on the waters this season with the exception of the usual disgusting toilet and litter habits of a minority (apologies to Steve Beech for having to deal with that on the work party).

All waters have fished relatively well over the season, with notable improvement at top flash, as bailiff Steve's report states.....'2021 has been an exceptional season on top flash, the carp fishing has been excellent, with most carp anglers enjoying some very good captures. There have been many carp caught this season, common carp to 28lb, mirror carp to over 30lb, the carp in top flash are now thriving. Onto the pleasure anglers, the flash has produced some very good specimen fish, with tench to over 6lb. And bream to over 8lb, and also some very nice skimmers, roach and perch, also a few nice pike into double figures. The match anglers have also enjoyed their time on top flash this season, everything running smoothly, and some good weights. The river behind top flash, (Halls meadow) has also produced some very good fishing, mixed bags of perch, pike, chub, roach, dace, all very enjoyable. So I would like to thank all anglers for their continued support, and also enjoy your fishing in 2022. Many thanks'.....

Tommys hole continues to improve with some lovely looking fish being caught and improvements being made around the pool.

Newbridge pool has produced pike to 18 and many tench up to 8lb despite the weed growth.

The carp in the ocean pool are getting bigger, and the team of bailiffs on there are doing an excellent job of control, as are all our bailiffs across all the waters.

Roach have made a good show in the river weaver this season with the bream in hiding.

The river severn stretches we lease on the other hand had a relatively poor year with fewer fish caught, but some exceptional roach were caught.

Work parties have been relatively well attended, especially the emergency ones after storm damage. We have been given the go ahead for Acton bridge pegs and steps, subject to conditions. This stretch of river is really good fishing and to enable us to get these pegs in as quickly as possible we would request that anyone who can volunteer help on the days do so. The dates will be announced on Facebook and the club website.

Finally, many thanks to all the water bailiffs and water management team for their hard work and effort over the past season and into the future.

#### **8. Match Secretary's Report – S. Flood**

Good evening to everyone.

The match report for the season follows.

Overall its been a very mixed season with a very slow start, probably due to very low water levels throughout the early summer with the river at many times absolutely stood still leading to very hard fishing conditions. In regard to actual match returns the ever popular Monday Night Series which normally throws up good weights, the distinct lack of Bream this year led to only two double figure weights over the entire series which is pretty much unheard of.

The Association trophy matches continue to be an area of concern as only one of three was contested and that by only two teams. Obviously the affiliated clubs show little or no interest in contesting in these matches so a rethink is required into continuation of the same.

On a much brighter note in early autumn the conditions improved just in time for the Winter League Series which fished very well indeed with weights well spread over the sections used.

The League was fished by six teams this year, a welcome improvement on previous seasons.

Congratulations to Drennan North West yet again winning a very closely contested series and many thanks to all the teams who competed this year.

The Wednesday series of matches started slowly and then improved week on week with increasing attendances and increased weights. Then the river seemed to be up and coloured every week thereafter leading to poor fishing again indeed, we have only managed to fish four matches on the Marina / Red Lion since January. It seems that consistently high water levels are becoming the norm now in winter due to many factors in the environment. Looking ahead, the Roach throughout the river have grown well with many good quality fish now being caught. The skimmer fishing has also been really good, all good signs for the future.

May I finally end by thanking all the anglers who continue to support the matches, all the members of the committee without whose help and guidance my job would be much harder to do and special thanks to Steve Walton for all his help in running the Wednesday Series.

Thank you

#### **9. Honoraria and expenses**

Honoraria and expenses have been paid according to the accounts statement.

#### **10. Election of Officers - R. Reid**

To be mentioned as appropriate.

#### **11. Election and Payment of Bailiffs – R. Reid**

Bailiffs were paid at the December GPC meeting. Fees are to remain the same as previous.

#### **12. Annual Permit Subscriptions – K. Andrew**

No proposed changes.

#### **13. Notices of Motion – R. Reid**

To be raised as appropriate.

#### **14. Annual Presentations – S. Flood**

S. Flood to present the trophies for the past year. See attached list.

#### **15. Any Other Business – Open to all.**

Nothing submitted

ASSOCIATION MATCH WINNERS 2021/22

HALLMARK TROPHY £70 The Gate Inn

GEORGE LEDWARDS TROPHY £70 No teams fished

JACK SWIFT TROPHY £25 Individual winner D. McCormack

JOHN BLACKBURN TROPHY £70 No teams fished

WINTER LEAGUE Winners - Drennan N W

Association Matches 2022/23

Sunday 26th June Open / Hallmark Trophy Match

Sunday 3rd July Open / George Ledwards Trophy Match

Sunday 24th July Open / Jack Swift Trophy Match

Sunday 7th August Open / John Blackburn Trophy Match

Sunday 4th September Members only Doug Maddock Memorial (members Only)

Winter League

Sunday 18th September 1st Winter League

Sunday 2nd October 2nd Winter League

Sunday 16th October 3rd Winter League

Sunday 6th November 4th Winter League

Sunday 20th November 5th Winter League

Sunday 4th December 6th Winter League

Sunday 18th December Open Match

Sunday 15th January 2023 Open Match

Sunday 5th February 2023 Open Match

Sunday 19th February 2023 Open Match

Sunday 5th March 2023 Open Match

Sunday 12th March Open Match

Monday Night Matches National

20th June, 27th June

4th July, 11th July, 18th July, 25th July

1st August, 8th August

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2016 - 2022

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