

## **PORTSMOUTH RN&RMCAA AGM MINUTES – 15<sup>th</sup> January 2018**

1. The Chairman opened the meeting at 1930 and thanked everyone for attending (40 members of whom 33 were eligible to vote)
2. The Convening Order was read out by the Secretary.
3. **Apologies**  
Mr Fegan, Mr Paul Hitchcock and Mr Sergeant.
4. **Minutes of the Previous AGM**  
Proposed by Mr Bailey, seconded by Mr Chisholm, vote carried.
5. **Corrections**  
Nil.
6. **Chairman's Annual Address**

Ladies and Gentlemen

Thank you all for coming to the AGM, it is good to again see so many of you attend which demonstrates the vibrancy of our Association.

Before turning to our own internal matters I thought I would update you on the potential disposal of the 2 sites by the MOD. Last year I said that I had spoken with the DIO staff responsible for this and their view was that, for both sites, it will take at least 5 years, and SULTAN probably 10 years. There has been no meaningful progress with the disposals and I doubt this will change soon. The political imperative has also moved on with very little focus on MOD matters. As I said before, nothing is certain but this should not stop us from continuing to maintain and develop our waters, and working on the assumption that we will have leases from future owners.

The MOD has continued to abate the costs of hiring Fort Rowner Moat, and, we hope, Southwick Park Lake. I am confident of success, however, the application has been with DIO for 9 months without formal reply because of their staff shortages. These abatements saving thousands of pounds a year reflect a combination of 3 things: our Service membership numbers; Service matches on the waters; and, the huge amount of work undertaken by our Water Managers and Working Parties.

Unfortunately we have lost the rights to the River Alver, but the Broadlands 50% concession on day tickets continues, and we have new exchange books with Clanfield Angling providing quality angling on the Thames, on stretches where you can park behind the pegs

There has been a great deal of work on the rules over the last 2 years to enable modern angling techniques and rigs to be used. There is frequent reservation from the bailiffs about making these changes because of the number of dangerous rigs they find. However, this stems from anglers who are breaking the rules rather than because the rules aren't safe for the fish. Anyone caught with rigs that do not comply with the rules can expect to be investigated, and lose their memberships. We do not want members who use dangerous rigs on our waters; there is simply no reasonable excuse for it. If in any doubt then do not use the rig.

The Water Managers will talk about Southwick Park Lake and Fort Rowner Moat in detail, and also answer any questions you have on specific works. I will constrain myself to

thanking Steve Stickley, Mark Dawson and their bailiffs and working party members for all the outstanding work which has kept our waters in such great shape.

The other topics I would have spoken on are covered in the proposed changes to the rules so I will save my words for then; this includes the incorporation of rules for 2 rod use at SPL for all members.

I would like to close my opening address with a thanks to my fellow Committee members who have put so much effort into the management of the Association. Often behind the scenes, and with little thanks, without this administration we would not be able to function. In particular I would like to thank the recent Vice Chairman, CPO Vic Woods, who did a huge amount of hard work particularly with regard to reviewing and improving our Health & Safety.

If anyone else can spare time to come and help please do. You will be most welcome.

#### QUESTIONS from the floor

**Q** Security passes – are they being renewed at a certain time now?

**A** Yes, at HMS SULTAN direction, to bring them into line with the membership year.

#### **7. Vice Chairman's Address**

Good evening

Having only been asked to step in as the Vice Chairman in September, my knowledge and experience of the Association is limited to predominately fishing Sultan Moat in 2010/11 and fishing Southwick Park occasionally for my personal pleasure, but mostly as part of the Royal Navy and Royal Marines Angling Association Carp Section.

This is the perspective where I feel I may be able to bring some of my experience to the Portsmouth club as I regular fish competitive matches on a variety of different venues, that range from out-and-out runs waters (like SPL, Drayton Reservoir and Barstons) to tougher, more-pressured and sometimes very exclusive Carp waters (like Yately Sandhurst and Emperor).

Modern methods include multiple rod setups and the use of different materials. I absolutely agree that a single rod fished correctly may be sufficient to keep an angler sufficiently busy. However, when conditions are not conducive, multiple rod setups can increase the chance of a bite as well as offering more opportunity to 'ring the changes' and find the formula that unlocks the blank. Competitive carp angling is predominately fishing 2-rods as a pair, which can be done to devastating effect whilst being extremely safe. This also includes the use of modern materials, centring around the introduction of coated and soft-braids as hooklengths. Braided leader materials, such as leadcore, are primarily used for improving the presentation of a bait but have a huge benefit in that they protect the flank of fish when they are being played on a tight line. As the size of carp in SPL has increased, these types of materials improve the chance of playing, landing and returning a fish to the water in the same condition it was prior to being caught, which means the next angler has the chance to capture the same fish in stunning condition. For both subjects, I feel suitably qualified to provide advice that can enable the club to embrace new fishing methods and techniques whilst staying true to safe angling.

Thank you.

#### **8. Treasurer's Address**

Members,

The financial status of the club continues to remain in a balanced and healthy state, with last years' audit (after the AGM date) successfully gaining a clean bill of health

with no issues reported. We continue to invest in both our waters to ensure you the anglers, enjoy your passion to the full. We have invested heavily this past year and will continue to this year, in Sultan Moat as the fishing has not been of the standard it should be for the membership, despite it being a beautiful venue to fish. We have focused on developing and stocking a large stretch for general fishing to encourage more pleasure anglers and their families to expect reasonable catches, I'm sure the Sultan water manager will cover this in greater detail.

I continue to focus the finances on a rolling 3-year plan, which has maintained consistency thus far. We also continue to set the water managers annual budgets for general maintenance spend, with any additional project work or new equipment bid for on a separate basis against remaining available funds, also forecasting any large funding spend for future years.

The working parties do a tremendous job in terms of effort and visible output to maintain your waters, at zero labour cost to the club. That is why we have proactively invested in suitable equipment and machinery to aid those efforts. However, that support equipment requires maintaining and replacing, at considerable cost, on a frequent basis for you all to continue to enjoy the good fishing conditions experience.

So when I report a bank balance of £22,645 after the Jan 18 committee meeting, due consideration needs to be recognised for the water manager's budgets, development projects to maintain and improve the waters and fishing, equipment maintenance, replacement or hire etc. Additionally, I need to ensure deposit money collected against the issue of SPL green gate keys is readily available to refund, should the need arise. The club maintains an emergency contingency fund of £5000, for any situation that may unexpectedly materialise. Therefore, after those considerations available funds to spend or invest on any new or necessary requirement is reduced significantly to £6,390.

I have previous reported that we intend increasing membership subscription on a 2-yearly basis, with a small increase experienced last year. However, this year we intend increasing again by another small increase of only £2 across each membership category, to ensure we remain on sound footings to progress with the current fishery development programmes. In comparison to other local fishing clubs, we still remain excellent value for money and continue to provide extensive range of fishing opportunity via the exchange ticket programmes, with clubs throughout Hampshire and beyond. Additionally, we hope to continue with the agreement of concessionary ticket prices with Broadlands lakes, but that has yet to be finalised to date.

I do not intend to spell out details of specific expenditure or project work current and future, as this will be covered by my colleagues during their reports. As the AGM is now earlier in the year the annual audit of club funds will be after this meeting. However, the fund examiners report will be shared with the membership via the website once it has been completed.

Should anyone have any specific questions, please pass them to the club Secretary and I will respond as necessary.

Thank you for your continued support of the club.

9. **Secretary's Annual Report**

Members, the Association's administration continues to run smoothly with assistance from my fellow committee members.

As a matter of interest we now have a working relationship with Sparsholts College who use Sultan moat as a training ground for electro fishing and as you can imagine this is mutually of benefit to both of us.

Thank you.

10. **Southwick Park Lake Water Manager's Annual Report**

You will be glad to hear that I don't have much to say; however there have been a few changes this year which I will run through.

2 New bailiffs have been appointed and they are

Steve Osborne and

Chris Brown

We also have 2 new assistant water managers. They are new to the position but not new to Southwick Park Lake having done a significant amount of work over many years. They are

Nigel King and

Mike Nevatte

All these people are there to help so if any of you have any questions or are looking for advice when you are fishing then feel free to ask them whilst they are walking around the lake.

At the beginning of the year we completed the repair work on the swims. Over the last 2 years around 80 of the swims have had the sleepers and protective membrane replaced so should be good for another 20 years.

You may notice a number of reeds and different plants have been planted around the lake. Although these look very nice when in flower they have actually been planted in areas where the bank needs protecting from erosion.

Most of the dead trees have also been removed and we are now mainly in a maintenance mode regarding trees and bushes.

As far as the fishing is concerned last year saw more anglers on the bank at Southwick Park than we have seen for many years, and many of these have benefited from Green Gate Keys. I have spoken with several anglers who had stopped fishing because they could no longer make the walk from the car park to the lake.

Last year saw the greatest number of 20Lb plus fish being caught with the lake record being recorded towards the end of the year. We have also seen many more people fishing for the Roach and silvers this year rather than just the carp.

Finally, we have a number of things planned for the coming year via the working parties. Dates and times are shown in the Match Program so anyone that would like to attend can do so by contacting me or just turn up on the day.

QUESTIONS from the floor

**Q** Can the working party times be corrected on the match programme?

**A** The match programme will be finalised at the February committee meeting.

11. **HMS SULTAN Fort Rowner Moat Water Manager's Report**

Another year has gone around the moat I must thank the Committee for their support, thanks to Dean and to all the guys who turn up to working parties on every Sunday morning and extra days when required.

Work is carrying on around the moat improving the swims and access, building on the previous work.

The two temporary barriers in the moat, are due to be made permanent with metal mesh, as with the other barrier. It should be long lasting and will not affect water movement and, if required, it can easily be removed.

The car park stretch including the captain's pool (Match stretch) is almost finished only requiring the margins to be planted and a bit of tree pruning. We will be stocking the match stretch with F1's, skimmers, rudd and small carp. As the carp grow on they will be moved into the mixed fish area (teens).

We still intend on removing some carp from SPL to introduced new breeding stock for the wild side. At present we have introduced 18 carp from SPL, we intend to add another 22 later this year.

Big fish are still being moved to the 'wild' side (22-37) as required.

We know about the weed problem and will carry on with the dye, although there was a large amount of weed in the wild side. Over the past few years the weed has not increased but has become weak and easily breakable at the roots. Other methods are being investigated. Most of the weed last year was floating and with the lack of members fishing in the other areas, no raking was taking place therefore it looked a mess As water manager, with the lack of volunteers for the working parties, I have to prioritise the areas to work.

We are still going to keep the water level down as this helps keep the dye in place.

For those that use the moat, will notice bank clearance including trees, is still ongoing, the reasoning is to make the maintenance around the moat easier in the years to come.

We hold a working party every Sunday morning 0800 – 1300, please feel free to come along and join in.

#### QUESTIONS from the floor

**Q** From Mr Russ Howard, How many fish are being moved from SPL to HMS SULTAN?

**A** The limit has been set at 40 of which 18 have already been moved.

**Q** Mr Ian Epps asked would it not be a good idea to add a tick box to the membership application form indicating people's willingness to do working parties? This would give the water managers an opportunity to contact people ahead of major projects.

**A** This idea will be discussed at the next committee meeting.

**Q** Mr Bailey asked how soon will fish stock be delivered to the match stretch at Sultan moat.

**A** In the next few weeks.

**Q** Mr Law asked can you be sure that all the pike have been removed from the match stretch?

**A** It is impossible to make such a statement but great efforts have been made and match results purely for pike, have so far resulted in one fish 7lb only.

#### PROPOSALS FOR AGM

The Secretary read out the following proposals.

Election of Mr Ken Law.

Life membership can only be awarded at AGM to a member who has contributed meritorious service to the Association. It is the view of the committee that Mr Law meets the requirement for life membership in every regard, he has dedicated incredible hours to deliver the improvements made to SOUTHWICK PARK LAKE over the last decade. A visiting Angling Trust bailiff remarked that it was the best maintained water he had ever seen which was thanks to Ken's leadership of the volunteers who all work so hard at SPL. The Committee asks the membership to support the award of life membership.

Vote was held and passed by majority.

### **Constitution Changes as seen below in italics**

#### **An Adjustment to the Juniors Category to manage the transition from junior to adult membership.**

14d **Junior.** Any child or grandchild of a member under the age of 18 *on 1<sup>st</sup> April.* All Junior members must have membership cards, but these will be free. All juniors under the age of 16 are to be accompanied by an adult at all times on all Association Waters (with at least 1 adult per 2 juniors). If the adult is also fishing then she/he must also be a member. No Junior Member of any age is allowed to night fish unless accompanied by an adult. *When a junior reaches the age of 18 after the 1<sup>st</sup> April he/she may either retain junior status (and its restrictions) for the whole membership year or pay for adult membership with its rights and privileges (such as unaccompanied over-night angling). The adult membership is based on his/her own status, and not his/her parent's.*

Vote carried unanimously.

#### **A minor change to the Guest Tickets so that they can be booked by phone.**

15. Adult members may obtain Guest and Weekly Guest tickets for HMS SULTAN Fort Rowner Moat and Southwick Park Lake, for their bona-fide guests. Guest tickets are available from committee members as published on the Web site. The name of both the guest and the host member must appear on the guest ticket, together with the date for which it is valid (tickets are valid from a specified time as requested by the member and expire 24 Hrs later). It is emphasised that any guest understands and abides by the rules of the Association. No more than two guests may be sponsored on one day. All guests must hold a current EA rod licence. Members applying by post should enclose a stamped addressed envelope. *Guest tickets can also be issued via a smart phone to avoid unnecessary travel.*

Vote carried unanimously.

#### **Formalising the membership discount for working parties**

*18. Membership fees are discounted for those that do working parties. The discount is £5 per working party, but anyone who does 8 or more receives 100% discount.*

Vote carried majority.

#### **Adding in the details of the Green Gate access**

*19. Pedestrian access through the gates on the layby on the B2177 is available through application for a key by completing the appropriate form and forwarding it with the deposit. The padlocks are high grade with individually serial numbered keys that can only be cut by the manufacturer on instructions from the Committee. Any member obtaining a key is to take care of it, never allow others to use it, and always lock the gates behind him/herself. Any infringement of these requirement will lead to the privilege being removed from that member – there will be no second chances.*

Vote carried unanimously.

#### **Formalising the process for booking Association Waters**

*28. anyone, whether a club or otherwise, wishing to book a match at Southwick Park Lake or Fort Rowner moat is to put the request to the Portsmouth RNRMCAA Secretary for consideration of the Committee. Requests should be made by the end of September for*

*matches for the following year so that, if agreed, they are included in the match programme that is published with the rule book on completion of the AGM in January.*

*29. Late requests will generally be declined because the Association is membership based and does not routinely hire out the water.*

*30. Where bookings are accepted then the standard rate is £10 per peg. Where the whole of Southwick Park Lake is requested then Friday to Sunday is £250 per 24 hour period, and Monday to Thursday is £200 per 24 hour period. Official Military associations will normally be granted a 50% concession.*

Vote carried unanimously.

### **Rules Changes (excludes changes covered above – new wording in italics)** **Explicit authority to inspect rod licences**

6. Membership & Day Ticket Inspection. The Water Managers may inspect club membership, exchanged tickets *and rod licences*. For this they may also request that the Committee appoints bailiffs who, in carrying out their duties, act with the full authority of the Water Managers.

Vote carried unanimously.

### **At HMS SULTAN, explicit limit on number of rods**

*22. Up to 3 rods may be used.*

Vote carried majority.

### **The adoption of 2 rod rules at SPL following successful trials**

*26. One rod may be fished using any method, and spod and marker rods may also be used. Additional rods may be set up, but must remain banked. The exception is where an angler wishes to fish with 2 rods (which is limited to the period from 1<sup>st</sup> October to 31<sup>st</sup> March inclusive), then;*

- a) Both rods are to be securely anchored such as on bank sticks or rod pods, with free spooling reels (such as bait-runners) set to run, and with audible alarms on at all times.*
- b) Anglers are permitted to fish for a maximum of 48 hours in any one session, may not return for 48 hours, and the 'passing' of specific swims by prior arrangement between individual is forbidden.*
- c) A landing net of at least 42 inches is to be used so that, if necessary, 2 carp can be netted before unhooking and releasing.*
- d) A large unhooking mat or carp cradle is to be used, this must be of sufficient size to hold 2 carp.*

The matter of rod security at a) was discussed and the exact meaning of the rule was further clarified. After further discussion the matter was put to a vote. Vote was carried by majority.

### **Clarification of the ban on barbed hooks following members using crimped barbed hooks**

- a. Barbed hooks (including micro-barbs) are banned on all Association waters; *this includes the use of crushed barbed hooks.*

Vote carried unanimously.

### **A removal of the ban of braided hooklengths reflecting modern materials**

- b. *Braided hooklengths (coated and uncoated) are permitted. These should be dedicated hooklength materials only and not braided mainline materials (which are generally thinner in diameter).*

Mr Chris Brown, seconded by Mr Mike John, wishes the rule to remain in place which is technically not a counter proposal. They will however be given opportunity to speak first in opposition to this rule change.

The Chairman explained to the floor that the rule change was primarily a matter for fish care as soft braided hook lengths are less likely to damage the carp than monofilament. The Vice Chairman explained that braid hook lengths are the norm in modern carp angling because it is safer for the fish and many rigs rely on it.

Mr Brown put his case for the retention of the ban citing articles, which he handed out to the membership, stating that monofilament hooklengths can in some cases be more effective than braid. It was clarified in discussion that the articles argued for monofilament as being better in some cases, but significantly not safer, than braid.

Mr John expressed his concern that bailiffs might well have difficulty in identifying braided hooklengths as opposed to main line braid.

There was a prolonged discussion on both sides, in which Mr Chisholm pointed out that any fisherman using braided hook lengths would have a spare spool of the material with them and this could be shown to bailiffs to help with identification.

A vote was taken on the matter and it was defeated by 14 votes to 11. Consequently the braided ban remains extant.

### **A change to the rules on feeder set ups to reflect the advance in angling practices**

- c. *On Association waters, fixed weights or feeders are not to be used. Semi-fixed arrangements are permitted but all feeders or weights must fall free from the fish if the line breaks at any point, and must not be hindered such as by clips, swivels, leader knots and float stops.*

Mr Brown, seconded by Mr Mike John, has made a counter proposal "I would ask that all weights or feeders can be easily dropped off. And also I would like to ask that the semi fixed lead clips where the hooklength swivel is pinned inside the lead clip are banned"

This proposal was dropped when it was explained that these concerns were already addressed in the new rule at c. above.

Vote was carried majority.

### **Clarifying the use of BBQs:**

- 28g. No fires are to be started (*small BBQs are permitted so long as they are disposed of responsibly and consideration is shown to other users*), or damage caused to trees, banks or equipment.

Vote carried unanimously.

### **Leaving a peg. A rule that most in the Committee thought was already in the rule book, but was not. Introduced for fish safety**

- 28j. *anglers are forbidden to leave their peg (defined as half way to the next peg) while rigs are in the water.*

Vote carried majority.

### **Adoption of a rule to reduce the risk of rods being pulled in to the waters**

- 28k. *Any rod or pole with the line in the water must either be held in your hand*
- i. or appropriately secured on bank sticks or similar; and,*
  - ii. with a clutch or batirunner set to allow line to run freely on the take; and,*
  - iii. with no clip set in such a manner which forms a physical stop to line being allowed to run free continuously on the take.*

Vote carried majority

### **Addition of an explicit outcome should members use dangerous rigs**

29. *Anyone caught with rigs that do not comply with rules can expect to be investigated, and may lose their memberships. We do not want members who use dangerous rigs on our waters; there is simply no reasonable excuse for it.*

Vote carried majority.

### **Trustees Elections**

There are five Trustee posts. The Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary continue inpost with 1 year of a 3-year term to run; the Membership Secretary has 2 years left to run. With Vic Woods departure, Lee Rigby has been co-opted as the Vice Chairman and is standing for election at this AGM. Proposed for election by the Chairman and seconded by the Secretary.

Vote carried unanimously.

The Chairman thanked all those members for attending and there being no further business he declared the meeting closed at 2145 and invited everyone to proceed to the annual trophy presentation.