

Founded 1888

Barrow Angling Association Ltd.



135th AGM held at Barrow Cricket Club on 5 December 2023

In the absence of the Chairman the Secretary, George Teasdale, opened the meeting.

Apologies:

Apologies were received from:

Keith Roger, David Nixon, Ray Maddox, Richard Maddox, Geoff Hall, Joe Reynolds, Richard Shaw, Pete Burton, Keith Raine, Carl bell, Phil Lowden, Gary Knipe, Paul Huxley, Dave Pearson, Mark Postlethwaite, Alan Robertson.

Past Members

A one minute's silence was held in memory of past members who are no longer with us.

Minutes of the previous AGM

The 2022 AGM minutes were agreed as a true and accurate record of the meeting. Proposed by Ray Millard and seconded by Jim Collis.

Matters Arising

Health & Safety representative.

The Secretary stated that the club is looking for a volunteer to be the Club's H&S representative. The H&S policy is in place as well as the necessary logs however, a dedicated H&S Manager is required to oversee and maintain the logs. As there were no volunteers at the Meeting the Secretary is asking the membership for a volunteer. Anyone with some H&S knowledge or experience will be considered.

Exchange Tickets

Exchange tickets are available for the river Eden at Kirby Stephen, Appleby and with Millom. A further exchange with Windemere and District Angling Association WADAA is being set up for 2024. The secretary stated he would like to see more take up of Exchange tickets as we do pay for some of them. An arrangement is being set up with WADAA for 2024 where WADAA can fish Pennington and Poaka in June, July, August and BAA can fish WADAA's Bigland and Farletonview in September October and November. These WADAA waters are regularly stocked in the winter months and will provide winter fishing for our members. Sam Greenway is finalizing the details with WADAA. Sid Roberts raised a question regarding Millom Anglers exchange with BAA. Sid asked why the arrangement is Catch & Release only and stated Millom is happy for BAA exchange ticket holders to take fish so why is this not reciprocated. The Secretary stated that this is not on the agenda so could not be addressed at the AGM but would be raised at the next Committee meeting. **Action** Secretary to include on agenda for next Committee meeting.

Club Welfare Officer

It is a requirement of our insurance that we have a dedicated Club Welfare Office who has appropriate clearances, to be present at any BAA organised event which includes young people. Jim Ireland who sits on the Executive Committee will take up this role in 2024.

Brown Trout stocking into Pennington.

A proposal from Ray Millard was forwarded for inclusion onto the agenda. This requested Brown Trout be stocked in Pennington in lieu of the missed stocking on Harlock because of Harlock closure. Sam Greenway responded on behalf of the Club. Sam stated that this proposal had been discussed at the last Committee meeting and it was not supported. The reason being that Pennington holds wild Brown Trout and the inclusion of Triploid Brown Trout will invade the habitat of the wild Brownies. Triploids will eat their eggs when spawning. Sam stated that the preferred option is to provide a double stocking of Brown Trout into Harlock when it reopens.

Chairmans Address

On behalf of the Chairman, who was absent due to illness, the Secretary provided the Chairman's address.

Thanks was given to the Executives and Committee for the efforts they have put in over the year to keep the Club in good shape in these challenging times.

Fishing has not been as rewarding this year but this is not isolated to BAA waters. Discussions with United Utilities revealed no significant drop in water quality regarding phosphates and nitrates, but dissolved oxygen levels may be impacting insect life and fish activity. The club is investigating measuring dissolved oxygen over the next year.

Membership has not diminished too much in 2023 probably due to open membership and better publicity about the club. This is pleasing in such challenging times. Members are encouraged to spread the word and to introduce friends and family to fishing. Fishing can be a welcome change for teenagers, but they need someone to introduce them to the sport.

Work completed on Ireleth in 2023 included ramp aggregate, the building of new bollards in the car park, introduction of Barley hay to combat algae and the installation of lifebuoys onto both Upper and Lower Ireleth. A special thanks to Mark Bellas and Mark Postlethwaite for the continued hard work they have undertaken on behalf of the club. The two Marks also cut the grass on the walkways on our game waters. Another big thank you to Jim Ireland who built the lifebuoy housings for Ireleth. This effort by these three individuals has saved the club considerable money. There is more work to be done over winter repairing the handrail on Lower Ireleth. Volunteers to help are welcome.

Poaching continues to be a problem. If you see suspicious activity, contact our Fisheries Enforcement Officer, Allen Cooke on 07830169949. This number should be displayed on the reservoir notice boards. We have even had 2 incidents of illegal fishing reported in November. When we have an incident, in most cases we raise a police report.

2023 Open Day was a great success and was well attended. Fabulous food, a fishing competition and casting tuition; all for free. Thanks to Jim Ireland for arranging the catering. It is proposed to hold the 2024 Open Day on 12 May.

Planned changes in Executive roles to be voted on are:

Combining Communications and Membership Secretary into one role

Proposing a change of Treasurer

New role of Events Manager and Club Welfare Officer

Secretary Address

The Secretary stated that membership renewal period for 2024 will start on 01 January until 31 March to ease the financial pressure on members from the Christmas period. If you wish to fish our waters between January and March 2024, then you must have firstly renewed your membership. The reason we ask members to renew early is so that we can gauge our income which will in turn drive the number of fish we can stock for the forthcoming year.

The Secretary gave the reasons for the Committee deciding to issue Birdwatching permits for our waters. It is intended to issue up to 10 licenses at £50 each per year. Anglers will have the priority and birdwatchers are to steer clear of anglers and their back casts. Birdwatchers are to sign in and out of the fishing log the same as anglers and should annotate the Fish Taken column with "BW". This is so we can identify how many birdwatchers are on the water. Birdwatchers' permits will be on Clubmate so officials can check their validity.

Clubmate has been in use in BAA for a year and has been a great success. Sam Greenway stated that Clubmate is constantly being updated and feedback to the App developers is essential. Only 70 hard copy Cav Dock permits were issued in 2023, with the other 130 permits and 76-day tickets being issued via Clubmate. In 2024 all Cavendish Dock permits will be via Clubmate. This reduces costs and eases the Bailiff's burden.

Subscriptions did not rise in 2023 despite high inflation impacting the cost of fish. However, with continuing inflation, slightly less members, the rise in fish costs for 2023 and the cost of maintenance then subscriptions will need to increase. The Secretary reminded members that we are lucky to have such unique and picturesque waters that are well stocked are not overfished. Membership is excellent value compared to other fishing clubs. Golf is much more expensive, and you may have to book to participate.

Cavendish Dock takes a lot of management effort that is not seen by the Game section. Almost all revenue from the Game section is used to purchase fish. It is Cavendish Dock that realizes a profit which is added to the Club's contingency fund. For this reason, it is important that we continue to invest our time in supporting Cav Dock coarse fishing activities. In 2023 there were 207 Cav Dock permit holders and 76-day tickets issued. The Secretary praised the Cavendish Dock bailiffs who do an excellent job of policing a very challenging environment. Due to the number of Cormorants on Cavendish Dock fish stocks will reduce so our revenue may reduce in time as fishing gets harder.

In 2023 we stocked our game waters with some bigger fish to add variety. Poaka, Pennington and Ireleth were stocked with Blues and Rainbows and Ireleth has also been stocked with Tigers. As there are already a few Brownies and Spartics in Ireleth you can catch up to 5 varieties of trout from this water.

Harlock is closed for overflow and dam repairs and is unlikely to open to anglers until September 2024. Anglers are to keep clear of Harlock until work is completed as heavy machinery is in operation.

The signing in books will be updated and will have a "Fish caught" and "Comments" columns added. This is because many anglers adopt catch and release and don't take fish home. Therefore, it may look from the book like the water is fishing badly when, in fact, it is just fish are not being removed. Stating how many fish are caught will provide feedback on how well the water is fishing. The "Comments" column is provided if you want to leave feedback or help other anglers by stating your catch methods. These new columns are not mandatory.

Membership Statement

The Membership Secretary, Jim Cannell, said that it is pleasing we are only 6 members down on 2022 figures. There are 277 members of which 32 are new members, probably because of open membership. The Membership Secretary said It is pleasing to see many of the new members are younger in age than our current age profile. Jim reminded everyone to tick the "Data Protection" box when renewing on Clubmate as this allows BAA to hold essential data.

It has been decided that members who leave the club for whatever reason and then decide they wish to rejoin will not have to pay a joining fee if it is within a 5-year period. This is to encourage ex members who have taken a break to rejoin.

Financial Statement

The balance sheet was distributed at the meeting and the Treasurer, Jim Ireland, gave an overview. The increase in income in the financial year was from Cavendish Dock with the majority of the full membership fees being used to buy fish for stocking and to pay for the rental of the reservoirs. The Treasurer pointed out that United Utilities donated £500 toward the cost of a new lawnmower.

The financial accounts have been approved by the independent auditors and have been submitted to Companies House.

The financial statement was approved – Proposer Allen Clarke, seconded Ray Mallard.

Stocking

The Stocking Plan for 2024 was available at the meeting. The plan is based on an uplift in subscriptions with an objective to increase the number of fished stocked by over 30% compared with 2023. In summary there will be near a total of 7,000 fish stocked in 2024 between Poaka, Pennington and Ireleth, with 500 fish kept in contingency in case Harlock becomes available during the summer.

Increasing the number of fish stocked should make for better fishing, but it is also intended to stock each water twice per month. Fishing is normally good in the 2 weeks following stocking so by stocking twice a month will hopefully maintain prolonged good fishing. As there will be more stocking days when fishing is normally banned and no fallback to fish Harlock; it is intended to allow fishing after 1200 on stocking days but no fish are to be taken home on stocking days. Fish to be

stocked in 2024 will be a mix of 1.25 lb and 2 lb with several bigger fish of at least 3 lbs in each stocking.

The Stocking Plan for 2024 was approved. Proposed Jim Collis, seconded Sam Grenway

Subscriptions

There was no increase in subscriptions in 2023 despite soaring inflation and the increased cost of fish, however, this is not sustainable if we want premier fishing on well stocked and well-maintained waters. Increases in overheads, water rentals, the cost of fish per pound, the price of materials for repairs, machinery purchase and maintenance plus significantly increasing the number of fish stocked (30%+) means more funding is required. It is therefore proposed to increase subscription for all adult members by £20 per annum. Junior prices will be frozen.

New 2024 Membership fees:

Full Adult Membership - £155

Senior Membership fee - £133

This proposal was passed Proposer Jamie Sandford, seconded Bill Edwards

Correspondence

There was no correspondence of note to bring to the AGM. There had been one appeal against a warning for rule breaking on Cavendish Dock. This was dealt with by the Executive Committee. The Angling Trust, our insurer, stated we needed a DBS/CRS cleared Club Welfare Officer if we organised events involving juniors.

Election of Officers

The Chairman stated that the current Committee were happy to remain in post. They were therefore collectively re-elected. Proposer Mike Quinn, seconded Sam Greenway,

The Chairman position – Dave Nixon was re-elected, proposer Jim Collis, seconded Ray Millard.

The Club Secretary position- George Teasdale was re-elected, proposer Allen Cooke, seconded Jim Collis

The Treasurer position – Jim Cannell was elected, proposer Graeme Meikle, seconded Jimmy Moss

The Communications and Membership Secretary position – Sam Greenway was elected, proposer Jamie Sandford, seconded Allen Cooke

The Events Manager and Club Welfare Officer (a new Executive position) – Jim Ireland was proposed by Jim Collis, seconded Ray Millard.

There were 5 vacancies on the Committee but no volunteers. If you would like to contribute to the running of your club, then let us know.

Rule Changes

Ireleth is now Catch and Release from the last stocking in October to the first stocking in the new year.

All Brown Trout caught in Poaka, Pennington and Ireleth are to be returned.

Fish clearly over 2 pounds from any water are to be returned to preserve the population of larger fish.

Any Other Business

There being no more AOB the meeting was closed.