

Minute of the 75<sup>th</sup> year Extraordinary General Meeting of Aberdeen & District Angling Association held at the Aberdeenshire Cricket Club, Morningside Road, Mannofield, AB10 7FB on 24 March 2022 at 7.30pm.

**Present:** Paul Adderton, and 51 members of the Association.

### **1. Welcome to the Extraordinary Annual General Meeting**

The President welcomed members to the meeting and guest Dr Lorraine Hawkins, River Director, Dee District Salmon Fishery Board.

### **2. Apologies**

Apologies were received from Davie Knowles, Alan Finn, and Ivor Clarke

### **3. Association Update**

Paul Adderton provided an update of the Associations affairs since the 2020 AGM, as attached to this minute.

Some questions were asked about the weed in the loch. Kenny Riddell explained what had been happening there recently. Paul Adderton asked those present that if they had any other suggestions about improving the weed situation there to contact the Secretary in the first instance at [secretary@adaasalesd.co.uk](mailto:secretary@adaasalesd.co.uk)

A further question was asked about the large stones where the cormorants usually rest at the loch. Kenny Riddell advised that persons unknown had removed the items put in place to deter them and that Committee member Richard Mchattie was looking at other potential solutions.

### **4. Election of Office Bearers**

The President vacated the chair.

Alastair Hume MBE seconded by George Clark proposed Paul Adderton for the post of President.

Alastair then spoke in glowing terms about how well Paul had been leading the Association.

There being no other nominations Paul was elected unanimously.

Paul Adderton seconded by Lewis Baxter proposed Kenny Riddell for the post of Vice- President.

There being no further nominations Kenny was elected unanimously.

Paul Adderton seconded by John Stephen proposed that Paul Toseland remain in post as Secretary/ Treasurer.

There being no further nominations Paul was elected unanimously.

### **Committee elections**

The Secretary/ Treasurer reported that:

Out of the Committee of **15**, in 2021 out of the required **5** positions due to retire it was for positions numbering 6 to 10. He recommended that the best thing to do in the circumstances is to continue this to 2022.

Related to this, since the last AGM held in 2020, the following Members have been co-opted onto Management Committee.

All are willing to be elected as Committee members tonight:

1	Cameron Deboth	Co opted onto Committee March 2020
2	Matthew Hart	Co opted onto Committee February 2021
3	Lewis Baxter	Co opted onto Committee March 2021
4	Richard Mchattie	Co opted onto Committee March 2021
5	Matt Mulcahy	Co opted onto Committee July 2021
6	Alex Skakle	Co opted onto Committee February 2022
7	Ash Mckinnon	Co opted onto Committee March 2022

Therefore, Management Committee members recommended:

Of Committee members positions 6 to 10 only John Stephen (6) and Davie Knowles (9) are still on the Committee. Both are willing to be re-elected.

Recommendation 1:

Therefore, that John Stephen and Davie Knowles be elected to positions 6 & 9

Recommendation 2:

That Cameron Deboth, Matt Hart & Lewis Baxter be elected to fill places 7, 8, 10

Recommendation 3:

That Richard Mchattie, Matt Mulcahy, Alex Skakle, & Ash Mckinnon be elected to fill places 12, 13, 14, 15

Recommendation 4:

That the vacant places (4 number) 2, 3, 4, 5 be filled by seeking nominations this evening or remit to Committee to co-opt afterwards if feel necessary

Before asking for a Proposer & Seconder he asked if there were any counter proposals to this? There were none.

In respect of recommendation 4 no one present was willing to be nominated, therefore the recommendation was to remit to the Committee to co-opt any persons afterwards if they feel it necessary.

Paul Adderton seconded by Alastair Hume MBE proposed all four recommendations be approved.

There being no dissent the recommendations were approved and therefore the following were re-elected/ elected to the Committee:

John Stephen, Davie Knowles, Cameron Deboth, Matt Hart, Lewis Baxter, Richard Mchattie, Matt Mulcahy, Alex Skakle, and Ash Mckinnon.

#### **Item 5. Proposed amendment to Constitution:**

The Committee believes that in the best interests of running the Associations' affairs that the following recommended amendment is necessary:

2. Intimations of a general meeting shall be validly given to members by posting a Notice on the Associations website at least seven clear days before the day on which the said meeting is to be held. Said notice shall state clearly the time and place of the said general meeting.

Paul Adderton seconded by Alastair Hume MBE proposed the amendment be accepted. This was approved.

#### **Item 6. Competitions Presentation**

Kenny Riddell gave a presentation explaining about how local competitions were open to all to compete for Certificates and gift vouchers and for those interested in points to accumulate for the Club Championship. He further explained how qualification to national loch and river competitions the following season worked for those with the most points in the previous seasons Club Championship.

Kenny was thanked by those present for this.

#### **Item 7. The River Dee Trust- Presentation by Sandy Bremner, Association member and Chairman of the River Dee Trust**

Sandy gave an interesting and informative presentation about the work of the Trust.

He also encouraged all Association members to lobby their MSPs and so on about 6 actions for the Scottish Government that the River Dee Trust and the Dee District Salmon Fishery Board had identified to help save Scotland's Salmon:

- Act IMMEDIATELY to deliver the commitments of its Wild Salmon Strategy.
- Move NOW to provide the resources and incentives to encourage protection of Scotland's water quality, giving salmon and all biodiversity the cold, clean water they need.
- Deliver WITHOUT DELAY on the pledge to review policy on fish-eating birds to protect a nationally- important species in crisis.
- SPEED UP delivery of effective methods to discourage those specialist seals killing salmon and threatening jobs in Scotland's rivers.
- WITHOUT DELAY, fund habitat-restoration work at scale, giving our young fish the best IMMEDIATE and long-term help to survive challenges at sea. Biodiversity and the whole environment gains.
- Reform URGENTLY the Forest Grants Scheme, encouraging riverside planting to counter the lethal impacts of climate change.

Sandy then answered some questions from those present about smolt migration in rivers protection measures and the Scottish Governments wild salmon strategy.

He was thanked for the presentation.

#### **Item 8. Any Other Competent Business**

None.

Being No further business Paul Adderton closed the meeting.

A vote of thanks to the chairman was proposed.

## **Aberdeen and District Angling Association EGM**

Good evening, everyone and welcome to this Extraordinary General Meeting..... I have been a member of the Association for 40 years and as far as I know, this is the first EGM.

I hope you are all pleased with our new choice of location here at the Aberdeenshire cricket club. Personally, I think it much more comfortable location to hold our meetings, and what is more is we have bar facilities which will be open to us after the meeting. Also, we are very pleased this evening to have with us Sandy Bremner, Chairman of the River Dee Trust, and Dr. Lorraine Hawkins. River Director who we will be hearing from a little later in the evening.

Well, I hear you say why are we having this EGM?..... Because of the COVID pandemic we could not hold our traditional AGMS for the last two years whereas all the relevant reports could be given to you via an email such as the accounts, beat conveners reports and catch returns. However, we could not elect office bearers, well effectively anyway. Fortunately, our constitution enabled some committee members to serve in office for a period of three years so technically we did have a management committee. However, we are beyond that period, so we are now fortunate for us to elect our new management committee.

But I thought it would be a good opportunity given that we halfway through the Associations year and at the beginning of a new season to update you on where we are at present.

We are fortunate that we have two Stillwater fisheries that remain open all year and it is pleasing to see some dedicated anglers braving the elements of the last winter casting a line at the Millpond and the Loch of Loirston. Incidentally, from November 1<sup>st</sup>, the start of the Associations year the Millpond has reported a total catch to date of 300 trout. That's fantastic..... But sadly, Loirston has only reported 0 . Why is that? Well, it's quite simple, it's under fished and that's a pity as its well-stocked so, let's see some more of you at Loirston.

Moving on to the rivers I attended the river Dee opening at the Banchory Lodge Hotel, well I had to check that because the guest speaker who traditionally raises a glass to toast to the new season, on this occasion toasted the river Tay rather than the Dee...I believe this gaff was even reported in the Trout and Salmon Magazine...Perhaps he had one to many a little earlier..... And although there were many rods out on opening day in excellent spring like conditions, I believe it produced a blank. Is this a sign of what's to come as it certainly hasn't got off to a good start so far? But it was pleasing to see some of our members jumping at the chance to fish our new arrangement on the Kincausie beat. I am sure there will be many of you already familiar with the beat and will make good use of it throughout the season.

The river Dee is not what it used to be when I first fished it some 40 years ago when catches were abundant. It is unfortunate that the Spring run on this river has declined over recent years and to make matters worse the few fish that do run the river are chased and predated upon by seals, and especially so on our beats in the lower river. How often when fishing Garthdee, Banchory Devenick and Culter do we come across seals in the river. So what can be done?..... I am sure Lorraine will enlighten us more on the subject of seals in the river a little later but as far as the Association is concerned, I have expressed our concern in writing to the Cabinet Secretary and to all the Northeast MSPs. We shall await the outcome of our lobbying.

Moving onto the River Don I attended the opening ceremony on the Don at Inverurie meeting up with members of both the Inverurie and Alford Angling Association committee members where we discussed similar issues that we each experienced and developing a closer cooperation between our associations. The opening of the Dee Season was celebrated by a toast of whisky whereas the Don was toasted by a blessing given by a Church of Scotland Minister. We shall see which spirit blessing is best, either a theological one or a liquid one. We shall wait, and see? Incidentally, so far, our river Don Beats have yielded 7 salmon, but I am aware there are a couple to be recorded.

On my way back from the Don I called in at Milton of Crathes on the Dee and the Twin Peaks casting clinic that they so kindly put on for members. There was an excellent turn out and talking to some of our members at the event they thought it an excellent undertaking and hoped there will be more events like this throughout the year..... And I believe the Stovies were fantastic.

We anticipate holding more events similar to the Twin Peaks Day throughout the season and have had interest from the well-known salmon angler Scott McKenzie, who would like to come and see us on Riverside Drive. Another date in your diaries in June is the River internationals Fly fishing competition which the Association will be hosting on our Parkhill and Fintray fishing's.

For those of you that have been out fishing our beats on the lower river Don lately you will be aware of the amount of work which has been done clearing away fallen trees left over from Storm Arwen. Lower Stonewood, Grandholm, and Lower Parkhill. This work was no mean undertaking, and we owe a great deal of gratitude to Lewis Baxter and Nicky Taylor both ably assisted by Raymond and Jonathan and other helpers, for all their hard work to make our fishing on these beats more enjoyable. Many thanks indeed chaps..... There is plenty more work to do so if you want to be more involved in "YOUR" Association, here is your opportunity.

The Association has over 40km of riverbank which as you are aware requires considerable bankside management such as grass cutting, tree lopping, edge trimming and general riverbank repair. This work is generally done by our contractor and volunteers and at peak periods done by employing additional contractors. However, there are some projects on our beats that require major

works to the riverbank repairs that are well beyond our capabilities and as such require additional funding. I am pleased to report there are currently two funding initiatives underway supported by the River Don Salmon Fishery Board for major works on the river Don.

The first of these projects is a funding application by the river Don Trust to the National Lottery to seek financial support the eradication of Giant Hogweed on the river Urie close to Inverurie. The advice we have been given is to start the eradication as far upstream as possible and in so doing we will be preventing the plants dispersing their seeds in the water courses that then germinate on areas of riverbank further downstream.

The second of these two projects and hopefully funded by Foundation Scotland and much closer to home is the much-needed bank repair on the Upper Parkhill beat at the confluence of the Goval Burn and the river Don. Here successive flooding has eroded both the banks of the Goval Burn and the river Don. The lower part of the Goval burn is a noted salmon redd which suffers after each flood with silt deposits which as we know is not suitable for salmon spawning and must be protected. Moreover, these silt deposits settle on the riverbed further downstream effecting aquatic life that both young salmon and trout rely upon. Hopefully, we shall hear whether we have been successful with these applications in the summer and will keep you all advised.

At present our membership holds well and as the pandemic is now no longer restricting large gatherings it is my intention to engage more with our junior members. Like our membership figures our finances are in good order too and given that higher costs across the board are anticipated we will be of course monitoring our finances accordingly.

And so, to conclude and on a brighter note. The big event we have this year is of course our 75<sup>th</sup> Gala Ball at the Beach Ballroom in November. It will be a grand occasion with a drink's reception, a silver service dinner, music from a local band, grand raffle prizes and of course dancing. "Strictly" .... It's a night out for all. If its anything like our 50<sup>th</sup> I'm sure it will be a fantastic night for members and their guests. More information will follow shortly.

Also, in this 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year, we will have a celebration Newsletter commemorating 75 years of the ADAA as a memento for us all. And what will be in this special Newsletter, well that will be up to you, yes you? We are after any photographs, memorabilia, anecdotal memories that you have, don't worry if you think it may not be of interest, let us decide. John Stephen is putting it together and we will advise you more about this later in the year. So, with the best of the season to come I wish you all success and remember to record all your catches. Thank you.

**Paul Adderton**  
**President, Aberdeen and District Angling Association**  
**March 2022**