



River Earn Improvement Association



Minutes of the A.G.M. held at R.B.L. Crieff **8th April 2018.**

Apologies- Chris Russell, Peter McDonald, Adrian Mailer, Tim Carmichael Bobby McGrandles.

Present – 12 members

- 1. Chairman's Welcome.---** Colin Lowson welcomed and thanked the 12 members for making the effort to turn out. He also thanked the committee who had put in a huge amount of time and effort over the past year. He made reference to the fact that the river had once again been demoted to Cat 3 and noted the difficulty this would create once more amongst the clubs and associations that were affected. The ongoing struggle on this front had been maintained by both the R.E.I.A. and individuals to no avail. He referred to the gift of Duncrub Fishings by the Lord Rollo Trust which currently is taking up an immense amount of time and effort by committee members for what has been an extremely complex task involving several meetings with Lawyers and other bodies to secure the title for the Association. This work is ongoing, currently without an end in sight, but will eventually bring a benefit to the Association of rental income and to Dunning A.C. security of tenure at a fair rent. This long term security will in itself, encourage the club to progress bankside improvements for the benefit of all.
- 2. Apologies---**The Secretary read the list of members apologies as listed above.
- 3. Minutes Of 2017 A.G.M.----**These were read by the Chairman , proposed as accurate by Jim Perrett and seconded by Sandy McIntosh.
- 4. Matters Arising.----** It was again stressed that in order to give more weight to David Summers' argument regarding run timings and clarifying the grilse / salmon matter, it would be helpful to collect as many scale samples as possible for analysis.
- 5. Wild Fishery Review.----** Alastair Hamilton commented that the effects of the categorisation fluctuation had caused an alarming drop in Country members by 50% on 5 years previous and 30% on ordinary members last year. This in turn had caused a significant downturn in revenue. A discussion followed regarding

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ways to attract fresh members with Jim Perrett suggesting Fishpal would be worth investigating.

6. **Chairman and Secretary's Report.**----- The Chairman read the report and took questions and observations from the floor. The Secretary referred to run stats which was the subject of discussion. The Lower and Middle beats once again experienced a very lean time throughout the season with the exception of Kinkell which, being a low water beat, remained fairly consistent although also down in numbers. Crieff and Comrie waters fished well in the autumn and it seems that fish simply moved quickly through the river to these upper beats to the detriment of those further down.

There was, however, a noted resurgence in the numbers of sea trout in the river, particularly in September and October. Jim Perrett made reference to the catches of many larger trout at Dunning and Sandy McIntosh commented that significant numbers of fresh finnock and trout were observed and caught during the grayling season on his beat.

Jim Perrett advised that 160000 fry had been planted out in the river during spring 2018.

The Chairman expressed concern at the increasing numbers of piscivorous birds decimating juvenile and smolting salmon throughout the system.

The Secretary advised that invasive spraying was at a halt as tenders could not be requested without scoping information which was being carried out by the Bailliff team. We await the information from David Summers before we can recommence work.

Jim Perrett asked for tributaries also be scoped also.

7. **Treasurer's Report.**-----John Robertson noted that the acquisition of Duncrub fishings boosted the Association's nett asset column and that we had also received a £10k donation for use in invasives control. He confirmed that up to £300 per club or association was available on application to him to assist in the purchase of chemicals for spraying..

Derek Trevis advised that Terra Firma was giving discount on chemical purchases.

The Treasurer noted that rental income from Duncrub would be a major benefit to our finances but that it would be some time and undoubtedly many more meetings and legal discussions before everything could be finalised.

8. **Election of Office Bearers.**----- No nominations for any post was made, so the status quo remains.



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9. **A.O.B.**-----Jim Perrett stated that Government cash of £12k had been made available for further juvenile surveys to take place in July and August. Derek Trevis stressed the need for more younger members in all clubs. Confirmation that Crieff A.C. were hosting an open day with Andy Murray in the summer was received.
- Alastair Hamilton asked about electro fishing equipment availability and Jim Perrett advised that all equipment was in the hands of T.D.S.F.B.
- Alastair Hamilton stated that F.E.B.s were totally out of control at Drummond Loch and would be contacting T.D.S.F.B. for assistance.
- Alastair Hamilton asked about the housing of Earn salmon in the hatchery and was advised that Ruchill and Earn stock were held in different tanks.
- Jim Perrett advised that the spring run in the river exists as a result of Tom Adamson stocking with fish from the Conon.
- There being no further business, the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 10.00 p.m.