



# River Earn Improvement Association



## Minutes of the A.G.M held at Crieff Hotel 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2012.

**Apologies** – R.Pearmund, P McDonald, M. Aldridge, C.Millar, T. Harris, M.Morgan, M.Melville.

Present – 18 members.

1. **Chairman's welcome.**- Colin Lowson welcomed the 18 members.
2. **Minutes** - Minutes from the previous AGM, were taken as read and proposed by Tom Monaghan and seconded John Young.
3. **Matters arising** – Point 8 of the previous minutes. A question was raised on the disused weirs and what updated information did we have?  
Rob Mitchell T.D.S.F.B. replied as follows; The Cloan Burn has a potential hydro electric scheme in design stage, with the benefit that the new scheme would have a fish pass arrangement unlike the existing.  
The Ruthven – the existing weir is impassable and costs are being established for demolition of the structure. On a positive note the land owner is supportive of plans to remove the weir.  
The May has silt build up and tree blockages below the weir but is not identified as priority on the T.D.S.F.B. list.
4. **Secretary's report.** GH reported that there had been a better but belated list of catch returns sent back. All bar 1 return itemised the monthly return, 1 only giving their annual return which is highlighted in bold on the 2011 return. A total of 724 salmon, 213 grilse and 731 sea trout were caught with well over 65% returned.
5. **Treasurers Report** – The income has remained the same for the past year with only 13 new members. Donations are down and ID has made a big effort to prompt continued support from the existing member base & old members.  
Expenditure has increased with £1800 being made available for clearance work on the Machany and further equipment purchases for John Young.  
The current account is still sitting healthy and proposals are sought for river based projects or ideas, where the funds can help.  
The new membership application form is now available through our web site.  
Accounts proposed John Young and seconded John Patterson.
6. **Chairman's report** – Colin Lowson started by giving a brief overview of the Tay board and how they were restructuring by dropping from 24 committee members to just 11 with River Earn representation from John Young.  
Invasive species – weed control is being trialled on the Earn system with 15 days treatment per annum allocated and funding has been agreed through the Tay Foundation.  
It's estimated from our catch records that at least 65% of our fish are being



# River Earn Improvement Association



returned, which is commendable. Colin reminded all the catch & release is not mandatory but is to be promoted and encouraged as good practice to all.

**Web site** – Colin complemented Tom Monaghan for his hard work and effort to launch our web site who has agreed to continue building and maintaining.

**Competition** – Colin confirmed that the committee have been preparing a competition for members with prizes ranging from days on various beats to bottles etc to be drawn on a regular basis. It was confirm that 12 days fishing had already been secured as part of the promotion.

**The Almondbank visit** – 13/3/12. 6 members of the R.E.I.A. attended a pre arranged meeting with B.Jack and D.Summers at the Almondbank hatchery.

Key points addressed;

The board wish to use the R.E.I.A. template on the Tay system to set out improvement measures.

CL & JY have agreed to meet BJ and DS twice a year.

Try to collate as much information as possible electronically.

In the event of the T.D.S.F.B. taking over the hatchery they would like to welcome anyone interested to view their set up and the kelt reconditioning programme.

Potentially, a tank is being made available to hold Earn system fish so that we can further develop our spring stocks and continue to increase our native stocks generally.

T.D.S.F.B. will also continue to assist with the control of invasive species, by way of labour and practical advice.

Rainbow Trout – DS is looking in to the possibility of DNA testing to identify their source in the event of future escapes.

TDSFB are actively monitoring gravel movement on the Ruchil at the confluence with the Earn in Comrie.

TDSFB are planning to carry out a week's electro fishing during July or August as part of the brood stocking programme.

The Balloch Hatchery – Do the REIA continue using the hatchery and concentrate on sea Trout as the core brood stock species?

- 7. Election of Office Bearers.** Colin Lawson to remain as Chairman, Ian Dalglish to remain as treasurer, Gavin Harrower is stepping down as secretary to be replaced by Tom Monaghan, proposed by D.Trevis and seconded B.Mitchell.
- 8. A.O.C.B.** J Patterson asked if one club had opted out of the invasive species scheme, namely Dunning AC, but it was pointed out that they were taking the initiative by carrying out their own control measures.  
R Mitchell also highlighted that the TDSFB were actively working up as far as the Dalreoch Bridge and to notify the club to avoid any possible duplication.  
JPerret asked if there had been any significant discussion about beavers and the potential damage they can do the river bank, intimating at the same time, that the Scottish Government has called for a monitorium on Tay Beavers until the



# River Earn Improvement Association



Knapdale trial is complete.

John Young requested that he be notified of any dams or structures appearing on the Earn system that relate directly to beaver activity.

J Patterson introduced Gordon Taylor as the new Crieff Angling Club secretary.

S McIntosh raised a point about a third party wishing to set up web cams and establish dialogue through forums. This point was deferred till the next committee meeting at Kinkell.

T Monaghan – asked if there were any proposals to ease the blockage at the Falls of Ness and what information did we have on the historic proposal of blasting? Various comments and opinions were offered but nothing definite.

Paul Tuarek feels that the REIA need to build up their overall profile to encourage support and better attendance.

I Dalglish asked G Taylor of Crieff A.C. if there was any possible scope for using CAC as a way of promoting the R.E.I.A. directly to the member rods to raise profile and hopefully increase membership.

The same question was asked of Comrie and G Harrower has been asked to approach the club.

C Lowson – felt that we could make better use of the local newspapers like the Herald, Strathearn News, Strathearn Quair , Perthshire Advertiser and Courier as promotional aid.

The meeting was closed with thanks and the date for the next A.G.M. and committee meetings would be posted on the web site.