

MERTHYR TYDFIL ANGLING ASSOCIATION

1. Minutes of the 53rd Annual General at the Ex-Serviceman's Club on Wednesday 14th November 2018.

2. OPENING OF MEETING

a) The Chairman opened the meeting at 7.30pm

3. APOLOGISE FOR ABSENCE

b) Apologies were received from, Mr. Paul Bowen, Mr. Gavin Jehu and Mr. Alan Power.

4. MINUTES OF LAST AGM

The minutes of the last Annual General Meeting held on the 8th November 2017 were read and accepted.

4.1 MATTERS ARISING

a) Mr Peter Williams commented on a perceived lack of small trout in the River Taff. Mr Ron Jones confirmed his recent report to the Committee wherein he stated that he had caught 56 trout under 10" in 18 fishing sessions. Mr B. Walkley suggested that the Association contact Natural Resources Wales to undertake a survey of the River to establish the current status of the trout population in our area and this was agreed.

b) Mr A. Rees confirmed that there was no change to the following matters:-

- i) Cyfarthfa Park – proposed introduction of car parking charges.
- ii) Procedure for pollution reporting
- iii) Cyfarthfa Lake – use of model boats
- iv) Access to inland waters

5. ANNUAL REPORTS

5.1 GENERAL REPORT

For the 53rd Annual General Meeting of Merthyr Tydfil Angling Association.

RESTOCKING

The 30th of September saw the end of the first of three seasons where no trout will be stocked into the River Taff, a decision that was taken in the last A.G.M. following extensive research and recommendations from Ron Jones. So far this action appears to be proving a success with numerous members reporting excellent sport on the river on Social Media, with lots of fish to 3lbs being caught. No dissenting comments have been received. Ron Jones recently reported to the committee a significant increase in the numbers of small trout in the river catching 56 trout under 10" in 18 fishing sessions.

Cantref Reservoir has been stocked with 600 10 – 12 inch rainbow trout.

The small crucian carp stocked into the ponds at the rear of Cyfarthfa Castle are showing significant growth and these fish will ultimately be transferred to the park lake. Prices are currently being obtained prior to the purchase of coarse fish for stocking.

POLLUTION

Natural Resources Wales and Welsh Water have been investigating numerous pollutions of the Morlais Brook which have been entering the River Taff above the Fire Station Bridge. Reports received to date indicating that the material is thought to be fungal matter which is not harmful to the river. However, it is a pollution and is being treated as a serious event. The source is thought to be in the Dowlias area and is probably occurring without the knowledge of the location owners. It is being actively pursued.

The long standing pollution point on the River above Cefn Bridge seems to be coming to an end following actions by Merthyr Council and NRW who have discovered a number of drains at both private and public properties connected to storm drains instead of soil sewers.

FORMATION OF NEW COMPANY

The formation of a new company to protect the assets of the Association appears as a separate item on the agenda for this meeting.

FISHERY IMPROVEMENTS AND AQUISITIONS

The Association has been pursuing the purchase of a stretch of the River Taff that we have been leasing for many years but unfortunately this will not happen in the short term.

Discussions have taken place with the owner of a coarse lake near Brecon but we have recently discovered that the water may be leaking and it is not viable.

Also following lots of meetings and site visits to investigate the fishing rights at Hirwaun Ponds progress has been very slow in reaching a conclusion.

Improvements have been completed to allow better vehicle access to the River at Trefechan sewerage.

Barley straw was placed into Cyfarthfa Park Lake to reduce the contamination of the water by blue/green algae.

The Chairman has been in discussions with Merthyr Council in an effort to gain improved access to Fish Pond Penywern. This is at an early stage and will take some time to come to fruition.

Earlier this year Merthyr Council advised us of their intension to lower the level of Cyfarthfa Park Lake to try to establish and possibly cure the long standing problems of leakage. This was to have started in September but there has been no progress to date.

OTHER MATTERS

Litter continues to be a problem at most of our local waters with Penywern Ponds probably the worst where there has been numerous working parties during the year.

It has been another busy year for our coaches and extensive use has been made of the Railway Building which is proving to be a big success. Our thanks to the Welsh Fly fishing Teams who have visited to give advice and coaching to our members on more than one occasion.

Over 100 people attended events for National Fishing Month events organised by our coaches. There is no further factual information at present about the new proposed migratory fish by-laws from National Resources Wales.

Aberfan weir has been removed by NRW. We will be monitoring the effect this has on the river after the winter floods to see if we need to pursue the statutory bodies to undertake improvement works, such as creation of pools etc.

5.2 FINANCIAL REPORT (For a copy contact Tony Rees 01685 723520)

5.3 AUDITORS REPORT (For a copy contact Tony Rees 01685 723520)

6. FORMATION OF THE NEW COMPANY

The Chairman explained the reasons for the proposal to form a new company. In effect the existing company Merthyr Tydfil Angling Association will become the parent company which will hold all the assets of the Association to protect them for the future. The new company to be known as Merthyr Tydfil Angling Alliance will take over the day to day functions of being the 'fishing club' from the original MTA.

The committee proposal has been circulated to all members in writing and a ballot held to confirm its acceptance by post. The result of the ballot by those who replied was:-

In Favour	107 votes
Against	1 vote
Spoiled Ballots	15

The ballot confirmed the acceptance of the 'Memorandum and Articles of Association' for both companies. In addition to the postal ballot the 42 members in this meeting supported the proposal by show of hands unanimously.

7. ELECTION OF DIRECTORS, OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE.

The following persons were elected to be directors of Merthyr Tydfil Angling Association Ltd (The Parent)

Chairman	-	Gary Davies
Treasurer	-	Tony Rees MBE
Secretary	-	Nigel Morgan
Director	-	Graham Davies

Director	-	Keith Jones
Director	-	Rhys Evans
Director	-	Brian Walkley
Director	-	Jon Walker
Director	-	Malcolm Williams
Director	-	Mark Williams
Director	-	Ron Jones
Director	-	Mark Sweeney

The following persons were elected to serve as officers and committee of Merthyr Tydfil Angling Alliance (the subsidiary)

President	Sir Roger Jones OBE
Vice Presidents	Ron Gover
	Geoff Pritchard
	Mark Jones
	Gareth Harvey
	Dawn Bowden AM
	Gerald Jones MP
Chairman	Keith Jones
Vice Chairman	Brian Walkley
Secretary	Jon Walker
Treasurer	Rhys Evans
Minute Sec	Nigel Morgan
Membership Sec	Malcolm Williams
Comp Sec Coarse	Doug Hawkins
Comp Sec Trout	In Abeyance
Ladies Comp Sec	Catherine Brown
IT & Press Officer	John Coombs
Child Protection	Tony Rees MBE
Officers	Mark Sweeney
Junior Sec	Mark Sweeney
Bailiffs	Mark Williams
	Jon Walker
Pollution Officer	Ron Jones
Directors	Gary Davies
	Tony Rees MBE
	Nigel Morgan
Committee	Graham Davies
	David Matthews

John Kinsey
Hywel Jones
Alan Power
Gavin Jehu

A vote of thanks was passed to Gary Davies, Tony Rees MBE and Graham Davies who retired as officers of the Association following 53 years continuous service in post. All three will continue to serve in other capacities.

Mr Peter Williams requested that the attendance record of Directors at meeting be noted and be available for the next AGM and this was agreed.

8. LICENCE FEES FOR 2019

The Association has been advised of a potential significant increase in the cost of rental fees we pay to Merthyr Council and Welsh Water together with the probability of VAT being added on which we do not pay at present. In view of this the committee recommended an increase of £5 be applied to senior and OAP members. Juniors and day ticket prices will remain unaltered. It was proposed by Graham Davies, seconded by Nigel Morgan that the recommendation be accepted, there were no amendments and all members in the meeting were in favour.

9. CHANGES TO RULES AND REGULATIONS

There have been no requests from members nor recommendations from the committee to alter any rules and regulations this year.

10. CORRESPONDENCE

A letter received from Mr. Kerry Thomas that the Association considers introducing a catch and release policy for day ticket anglers was withdrawn.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None

12. CLOSE OF MEETING

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting.

