

Central Association of London and Provincial Angling Clubs

Affiliated to The Basingstoke Canal Angling Association & Angling Trust ESTABLISHED 1879

E-mail: ocarmel57@gmail.com
Web site: www.calpac.info



General Secretary:
Mrs Carmel Jones
8 Avondale Road
South Croydon,
Surrey CR2 6JA
Tel N° 07500 926742

CALPAC AGM Meeting Minutes Monday 20th March 2017

Meeting opened at 8.05pm by Bob Smith

Apologies for absence

Augustine Duffy, David Adby, David Trangmar, Keith Wilson and Robert Horgan

Review minutes from previous AGM and any matters arising - None

Proposed by Denise Wheeler and seconded by Malcolm Corner

Attendees

Alphonsus Duffy, Bob Smith, Carmel Jones, David Blake, Dean Hawkins, Denise Wheeler, John Bygrave, Malcolm Corner, Mervyn Pollard, Roy Pollard, Geraldine Brown and Phil Keeler

Presidents Address by David Adby

Good evening to you all. I'm sorry that I cannot be with you tonight, my last AGM. The reason being that I have recently had two cataract operations, the most recent being last Friday 17th March. As such I am unable to see as clearly as I would like (without spectacles), especially for driving at night, I'm sure you will understand.

Furthermore, today of all days my PC has crashed and I am unable to download my previously prepared report for tonight's meeting. In my absence I am asking Carmel to read to you this abbreviated version of my report, thank you for this Carmel.

First of all I would like to thank all members of the committee for their dedicated service to CALPAC for so many years. Personally, I have been involved with CALPAC since 1994, a period of some 23 years, and others I know have been on the committee longer than that. Our Treasurer John Bygrave has been looking after our finances for even longer than my involvement with CALPAC and I know that he is looking to stand down from that position. So will someone please, step up to the plate and take on the treasurer's role.

I hope that all the work undertaken by our Fisheries Officer, Dean Hawkins in recent years will not be wasted. Dean has contributed many hours free time in leading work parties on our various fisheries in order to improve them and restocking them as well.

Denise has also put a lot of time organising fish transfers in and around Epsom in order to boost the fish stocks at Manor Pond and the Stew Pond.

I cannot mention the Stew Pond without referring to Alphonsus Duffy our Head Bailiff. Alf has put in so many hours at this fishery over recent years collecting Day ticket money that he has managed to turn this fishery round from a "loss-leader" into a fishery that just about "breaks even" with our expenses there.

I repeat again, thank you to all of you for giving up your free time for the benefit of CALPAC members.

I have fond memories of my association with CALPAC and on that note I will close and wish all of you every success with the club in the future. Many thanks, David Adby (Retiring President)

Election of Tellers - Not Necessary

Secretary Report by Carmel Jones

First of all, I would like to say good evening to all of you who have made the effort to attend tonight. Yet again the time has flown by since the last AGM.

My knowledge of CALPAC and fishing matters is still increasing and I would like to thank you all for your patience and support during the year as without you all, my role would be much more difficult.

I would also like to thank all those who attend the delegate meetings. It would be nice to see a few more faces at future meetings as your support and opinions are valued.

CALPAC could not survive without the continued support of the remaining Officers and of course all members therefore please consider becoming a part of the committee, or attending a work party as every little helps. Hope you all enjoy the 2017/18 season.

Fisheries Report by Dean Hawkins

It's difficult to believe another year has passed since I gave my last fisheries report to the AGM, but that inevitably proves that time marches on at a relentless pace, particularly when you have left your teenage years far behind you!

For me, season 2016/17 started in a very benign way, with just the normal work party dates to complete, but very little else for me to get my teeth into, unlike the previous four or five years where I had bigger projects to complete. This was though, all set to change through a chance reading of the freshwater informer in early summer. I subsequently contacted the EA about their de-silting programme in the Romney and Rother area, and put my case for our Snargate fishery to be included in the programme. The EA kindly agreed to have a look into it, and following a survey of the fishery, they concluded that with a silt depth of 1m, it would be added to the programme. I was informed that it would probably be carried out in the Autumn/Winter of 2017/18, so was completely surprised when I received an email in January to say that work would commence in the second week of January 2017. Having observed the fishery after it had been drained and the silt removed, I can confirm now that summer level depths along the fishery will be between five and eight feet, with the winter level depths between three and six feet. Fish have already started their migration back into the fishery, as I have recently caught a small Pike on a lure. In February, we also had one hundred 8" - 10" Tench stocked into the fishery, which will eventually help to turn this once derelict fishery into one of CALPAC's crowning jewels.

To help boost the profile of the fishery, I have been in contact with the Crucian Fishery list and they are listing our Snargate fishery in the updated list which will be released soon. This list is available on the Crucian Carp Website and the Angling Trust Website, both of which may steer new members our way. Whilst the above project was still in the negotiating stage, I sent one of my whinging emails to the EA and the AT about the sorry state of the fishing on the Kennet, as I was feeling rather aggrieved to have improved the fishery from an access and comfort point of view, but could do little else with what was happening in the river. Well I am happy to say, that six months on from that whinging email, I am just about to embark on the biggest project of my tenure as CALPAC's Fisheries Officer. In collaboration with Adam Hilliard from the Environment Agency, Martin Salter from the Angling Trust and Del Shackleford from Reading and District Angling Association, we have set up a project to gravel clean the spawning areas just upstream from the Aquarium Swim and in the back stream, and then fit 'woody debris' above these areas to help keep the spawning gravels clean in the future. CALPAC's part in this project was for me to get permission for us to carry out the work from David Seaman and The Bissett Trust, who are the other landowners responsible for the river, this I have now done, and the other requirement was for CALPAC to pay for the materials needed for the 'Woody Debris' areas, and any extra gravel that may need to be added to the river. The EA will carry out all the work on our behalf, which includes all the equipment needed to gravel clean the river bed. The role Martin Salter will have is a dual role, as he is the president of RDAA, as well as the AT's campaigns coordinator. This is why he has got Del Shackleford involved as well, because the following statement is from one of the emails passing between the four of us: 'This work has benefits for the whole stretch down to Ufton'. This obviously includes the Upper Benyons Fishery, which is or was RDAA's premier stretch, until the decline in the Kennet started. RDAA have already stocked over a thousand small Barbel into the river over the last two years, along with eight hundred Chub and a few hundred Roach. The Barbel and Chub came from the EA, so I will make sure that CALPAC are at the top of the stocking list this year, but we obviously benefit from any fish that RDAA put in to Upper Benyons, because they will simply migrate into our stretch, and will hopefully use our clean spawning beds in the future. For the first time since I have been a member of CALPAC, I can now see the Kennet returning to its former glory, which I must admit, I thought would never happen. I have a meeting with the above mentioned people at our Padworth Fishery on the 4th April to discuss the project, along with Martin Salter's concerns about the Turbine which now operates next to the weir. I will feed back the outcome from this meeting at the May delegates meeting, hopefully all will be great news for the future of this special fishery, as once the catch returns of Barbel and Chub reach the proportions of years ago, CALPAC will see a big increase in new members wanting to

return. On a passing note about this fishery, I would like to draw everyone's attention to the fact that it is quite evident from RDAA's interest in this project, CALPAC are sitting on a goldmine, because we ultimately control the future of this whole section of river, as the main spawning beds are on our fishery. This fact was also confirmed in my conversation with David Seaman, because he said he watches the Barbel spawn every year at the top of our fishery, although he did remark that he only saw about thirty Barbel spawning this year, which is the lowest number he has seen since he has lived in his house. I have already started the work parties which I scheduled for this year, with Manor Pond being completed on Saturday 18th March. Hopefully all will be well attended, which always means more work can be completed with minimal effort. There will of course be 'cake' for any attendees, as it has certainly become customary now for me to arrive adorned with goodies, especially on the river Kennet work parties!

I wish everyone 'Tight Lines' for the new season, and apologise for the length of my report!

Treasurers Report by John Bygrave

Good evening. As you can see from the balance sheet we have managed to make a profit for the third year running, more than double last years and slightly more than 2014. Our expenditure has gone up slightly from last year but we did manage to purchase an expensive tool and a supply of fish for the fisheries officer, otherwise all our expenses have been remarkably similar to last year apart from the fact I spent more on advertising than previously.

By the same token our income rose considerably mainly due to two facts, we got more money from the rent on our waters and considerably more from day tickets and the day ticket increase is mainly down to the work of two bailiffs Bill Bird at Yalding and Alf Duffy at Stew Pond. Thank you both gentleman.

While I can see no reason that next season should still see us making a profit as long as we don't spend foolishly, I do regret that I have not achieved my main ambition which was to get enough money in the bank to be able to put down a deposit to buy our own Stillwater if one ever came available.

Now if there are any questions I will try to answer them!! - **There were no questions**

Competition Secretary - No Report

Membership Secretary by Denise Wheeler

As has become the norm, we within CALPAC are searching to increase the membership but with no success.

The membership has remained the same, in terms of numbers, as to that of last year. Once again the fishing year has raced by and once again the few of us who have taken the time to attend the CALPAC AGM are gathered together here to mull over the events of the last 12 months.

As per last year the winter weather has been pretty mild and I can only hope that some of you managed to take advantage of this fact and got out there on the river and Lake banks in search of that elusive monster fish.

All that I can ask within this report is that all members promote the club at every opportunity in an effort to expand our membership.

As always, I will finish my report by thanking all members of the committee for their continued support and assistance throughout the year. Denise

Election of Officers

Proposed

| | |
|------------------------|----------------|
| President | John Bygrave |
| Vice President | Jim Hamilton |
| Chairman | Bob Smith |
| Vice Chairman | Jim Hamilton |
| General Secretary | Carmel Jones |
| Treasurer | John Bygrave |
| Fisheries Officer | Dean Hawkins |
| Members Secretary | Denise Wheeler |
| Competitions Secretary | David Blake |

All above were re elected apart from President as position was vacant. John Bygrave was proposed by Dean Hawkins and Seconded by Denise Wheeler and everyone in attendance voted yes.

Election of General Committee Members

Currently, Alphonsus Duffy, Augustine Duffy, Malcolm Corner, Peter Alexander and Phil Oakeshott

Items Discussed in Other Business

- David Adby has stepped down as President, however he will remain as Trustee and we thank him for his involvement in CALPAC as well as a speedy recovery following his recent eye surgery.
- John Bygrave will speak to Reg regarding remaining a trustee as he had mentioned wanting to step down
- Despite John Bygrave stepping down no one has come forward to take on his role as Treasurer. Could we appeal to members to consider taking on this role and know that he or she would be supported along the way
- Re-Affiliations to Angling Trust and Basingstoke Canal Angling Association (BCAA) confirmed
- Following committee proposal for night fishing venue and charges it was again discussed and agreed that the 2018/2019 season will include Snargate as a night fishing venue and the night permit will be £40 individually or a £60 fee to include all three night fishing venues (Manor Pond, Padworth and Snargate). Booking systems will remain the same and the committee will review how it is going after the first season
- Malcolm Corner proposed that committee thank the secretary Carmel Jones which was agreed by all

- Dean Hawkins gave advance apologies as he will not be able to attend the next meeting
- Denise Wheeler thanked Geraldine Brown and Phil Keeler for attending tonight's meeting
- Geraldine Brown (Chaiman of Yalding Parish Council) introduced Phil Keeler from the Vicar's Picnic team. The event takes place on Friday 14th and 15th July this year. The charity this year is a local Kent based one, Dandelion Time offering support to children who have been affected by the harhest of personal circumstances, including physical, sexual abuse, domestic violence or neglect. We are welcome to choose another charity for the donation of our field or the Dandelion Time, which we will confirm nearer the time. The team are very happy to have the use of our field again this year and have assured us that they will do their best to clear the field quickly and that there will not be any disruption to our anglers.
- Geraldine Brown also mentioned the progress of the car park at Yalding. Although nothing has been happening due to the work on flood defences, they are currently awaiting the surveyors and there should be more news in the Autumn

Meeting Closed by Bob Smith at 8.55pm and Minutes by Carmel Jones

Next Meeting Monday 3rd April 2017 at 8pm

Venue: The Thomas Wall Centre, 52 Benhill Avenue, Sutton, Surrey. SM1 4DP