

Central Association of London and Provincial Angling Clubs

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

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CALPAC Delegates Meeting Minutes Monday 6th November 2017

Meeting opened at 8.10pm by Jim Hamilton

Apologies for absence

Augustine Duffy, Bob Smith, Carmel Jones, Denise Wheeler and Roy Pollard

Minutes from previous August/September and October 2017 meetings

Proposed by Malcolm Corner and seconded by Alphonsus Duffy

Matters Arising - None

Attendees: Alphonsus Duffy, Dean Hawkins, Jim Hamilton, John Bygrave, Malcolm Corner and Peter Alexander

Correspondence

- Letter from member regarding Padworth

Secretary Report - None

Interim Treasurers Report November 2017 by John Bygrave

Good evening. After telling you last month that the lease for Manor Pond and the Mole was settled it appears it is not so.

With the aid of our other two trustees we thought (and were told) we had an agreement where we did not have to pay VAT on these two waters.

Since our October meeting I received an invoice from the Estate which in fact included VAT, of course I queried this as soon as I could but I am still waiting for a reply. I suggested paying the bill less the VAT with a note saying this is what was agreed to their accounts but was told they would rather sort out this problem themselves.

Still have not heard anything about Stew Pond!! I have issued a few books, keys day and guest tickets but things have been fairly quiet.

One of our more responsible members who took a guest to Padworth has sent me a report as I always request, which I shall read out after the fisheries report.

I have received a cheque from Ray Wilkinson in respect of Bill Bird's efforts on Yalding 1, this is slightly more than last year and Bill still hopes to get more money before the

end of the season. I understand Ray has also picked up some money from Tea Pot Island and issued them with a new day ticket book.

I still have not got down to Pulborough where I understand there is also money to pick up. I have got to get the books ready for the accountant as we are coming to the end of our financial year. I only hope I can get all these matters cleared up before that so I can give a reasonably accurate state of affairs at the AGM.

Fisheries Report - November 2017 by Dean Hawkins

All of my report this month deals with the project I instigated at Padworth, with the first section covering the email Martin Salter sent to the EA after a meeting on Thursday 26th October. The second section covers my meeting on Saturday 4th November with David Seaman, Quintin Bissett and Dave Peal.

Email Transcript

Thanks for the report and for attending our site visit today. Having reviewed both the contents and the recommendations we are going to have to push back on some aspects and ask for further clarification.

Firstly, the home-made boards on the southern channel weir are clearly unauthorised structures designed to raise the levels by at least nine inches to provide either sufficient head for the hydropower plant or abstraction for the trout farm.

I must therefore ask:

What licence conditions are in place that allows for the flows in the southern channel to be blocked off in this way?

What are the operating restrictions placed on the hydropower plant during periods of low flow? What consents are normally required to alter or restrict flows in a main river such as the Kennet?

Is the EA seriously suggesting that the raising of the levels above the southern channel weir has not exacerbated the bank breaches further upstream?!

Restoration

It's good that the agency acknowledges that there is potential to recreate 500 metres of good fish habitat in the southern channel although it is not correct, as was self-evident today, to suggest that the channel had ever been dredged. In fact, as the evidence shows, it has suffered from a lack of water and a number of bank collapses over the years. However, the bed is primarily firm gravel and huge potential remains to create an excellent habitat for spawning and recruitment.

This could be achieved by installing a considerable quantity of new gravel, building rock ramps, flow deflectors and by a general narrowing of the channel to recreate a dynamic pool / riffle sequence. As the report says there needs to be less shade to allow the ranunculus to flourish.

Next Steps

We are assembling potential pots of funding but will need two specifications drawn up. One on the basis very little can be done to improve flow levels and a second which assumes increased flows as a result of the removal of the boards and re-routing the flow from the old mill house sluice into the southern channel.

I've copied in Charlotte from ARK (Action for the River Kennet), as we need to bring

them on board.

Meetings with David Seaman, Quintin Bissett and Dave Peal

My first meeting was with Quintin Bissett who is part of the Bissett Trust which owns the southern bank at Padworth. This meeting went very well, because he has the same feelings as I do, which is the Kennet needs to be improved asap, otherwise it will be completely devoid of fish and subsequently anglers. He has given me permission to clear any tree limbs which are causing too much shade along the southern channel. This was followed by my meeting with David Seaman, who along with his wife own the island which borders our fishery and the southern channel.

We spoke at length about the need to improve the spawning habitat in the southern channel, which would involve trimming back some of the tree limbs on his island to allow more sunlight to penetrate the river. I will be emailing my proposals to him and his wife for their consideration, as they both spoke about the need for a certain amount of privacy they require on the island, so did not want it opened up too much.

My final meeting was with Dave Peal of Thatcham Angling, who is always my go to when I need certain advice. We discussed what level of tree work was required along the southern channel, and decided that between CALPAC and Thatcham, we could complete the majority of the work ourselves, which when done would only require the couple of larger limbs priced up by a suitable contractor for removal. This would be paid for by the funding we have already received.

I am still not satisfied with the EA's reluctance to start a re-stocking program now, and I will continue to fight this. I now have enough evidence to prove without doubt, that there are already enough healthy spawning beds in the Northern Channel to benefit any re-stocking we do now. I will press this home with the fact, that I for one want to see my licence fee used to benefit me, not just cover the running costs of the EA

Competition Secretary - None

Membership Secretary - None

Items Discussed in Other Business

- Malcolm Corner suggested to John Bygrave that the money we donate to charity from Vicar's Tea Party 2018 could go to St Raphael's Hospice in Cheam which I personally think is a great idea. What about the rest of the committee??
- I have raffle tickets from Angling Trust for sale £2 each but quite good prizes
- Rota bookings for Padworth to be booked with Malcolm Corner during December
- List of matches to be put in the minutes for next year to try to increase interest
- Malcolm Corner attended the Basingstoke Canal meeting

- Carmel Jones received email from Malcolm Milford-Scott regarding the annual web site fees he kindly paid. Carmel gave John Bygrave the amount and he contacted Malcolm directly to reimburse him

Meeting closed at 9.00Pm by Jim Hamilton and Minutes by Carmel Jones

Next Meeting 4th December 2017 at 8pm

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

Please make a note of the Monthly Meeting Dates for 2018