

# Pitfour Fly Fishing Club

Established 2011

18 February 2012

## 2<sup>nd</sup> AGM Minutes

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual General Meeting of PFFC was held at Saplin Brae House Hotel on Saturday the 18<sup>th</sup> of February at 2 pm. Attendance was good with the owners and all the committee members and office bearers present, along with a strong showing from the members.

The Chairman Mitch McBain called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone and thanked them for coming, and gave apologies from those that had contacted either Mitch or me to say they couldn't make it. He then handed over to me.

Firstly as we had no minutes from the first AGM, I felt that I should recap on what had happened a year ago, we had nothing other than a lease and the faith of the first 75 members and it was decided at the first AGM that we would get boats, jetties, cut the trees and clear the banks etc, open up the feeder burn which was clogged with rhododendrons, and various other jobs. Various members had been elected for positions on the Committee, but during the first few months it became clear that a few problems existed and consequently things have changed. In all everything that was pledged a year ago has been achieved, we have boats and jetties, a toilet and the lake is looking stunning, and even has bridges over the feeder burn cutting the walk round the top of the lake by a good distance. I thanked the owners for their fantastic input with the bridges and path around the bothy and the roadway around the back of the lake, also for his digger and his workers assistance for putting in the jetties. The members all clapped. We also thanked Oliver Fuller for his work on setting up the website. Finally to conclude this section of the meeting I asked if everyone was happy with what had been promised and what had been done. It was unanimous that all members at the AGM were happy.

Argulus was the next to be dealt with, I explained all that has been ongoing, and read out our Mission Statement that we put to SEPA for approval, and handed out pamphlets that we have produced called Argulus identification, control, advice and contacts. I also read out an email from SEPA that I received Friday evening, saying that we could go ahead with our plans. Although the official go-ahead for our plan has not been granted yet, it's 98% in the bag, and should be finalised in the next couple of weeks. I won't go into detail here, but the mission statement and pamphlets will be available in the bothy. Members were asked if they had any questions, but they didn't thank god.

I told the members that our stocking license had been granted and that we were stocking about 200 larger rainbow trout next week, and then handed over to the Treasurer, Mike Weatherby-Boon for the accounts.

Mike had already handed out some copies of the expenditure and gave us a brief rundown of income and expenditure and a total left in the bank at the end of the first year. Income was £15,870.00; expenditure was £13,357.00 leaving a balance of £2512.40. Income and Expenditure were broken down (see attached documents). Members were satisfied with the accounts. Mike handed back to me.

Next on the agenda was re-election of office bearers, and the membership were happy with the current situation, and the office bearers were unanimously voted back into their respective positions. Chairman Mitch

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McBain, Treasurer Mike Weatherby-Boon, Secretary Dave Saltmarsh, and Vice Chairman Zander Taylor. Paul Conlane and Kenny Shuttleton were voted onto the committee to replace Oliver Fuller who has resigned due to work commitments and Dave Nisbet who has moved and is unable to commit his time to the committee. Shaun Conlane is now in charge of competitions and outings, and Ewan Russell will assist him. This will enable the office bearers to deal with Argulus and the general running of the club. Thanks and applause was given to Oliver Fuller who was present and Dave Nisbet who wasn't, for the work they had done during our first year.

We moved on to any other business, firstly it had been put forward that electric outboards be allowed, this was put to the members and was passed unanimously. Steve Faithful was very pleased with this as he got one for Xmas.

Also passed unanimously was a motion to allow juniors to fish unaccompanied as long as a written consent form had been signed by their respective parent. Members agreed that we would all look out for our juniors and an idea put forward that they should get caps with PFFC logo on, to aid identifying juniors at a glance.

The combination lock on the gate, which has been broken 4 times during our first year, will be replaced by a padlock and chain. The bothy lock will be an identical padlock using the same key. Members will be charged a nominal deposit (yet to be finalised), refundable when the key is returned if the member leaves the club. This will ensure members look after them, as the expense of locks and 140 keys is fairly significant. We intend numbering the keys and matching the key to the individual member number.

Poaching at the beginning of the year was fairly high and at least 20 – 30 people were turned away, however it seems the message has been heeded, and with continued vigilance we feel able to keep on top of this issue. Wardens will be keeping a sharp eye for poachers and rule breaking. Can I remind you all that we rely on members letting us know of any infringement of the rules by anyone.

Another five tagged fish will be put into the lake and a £20 prize for catching one, to be paid from club funds. Last year we received a few bottles as prizes and if that happens again we will introduce a few more tagged fish and then members can choose a bottle instead of the cash prize. Only one prize per member please.

Outings and competitions will be organised by Shaun Conlane and Ewan Russell, and they will be helped by the committee where applicable.

It is planned to have 3 main work parties spread throughout the spring summer period. We aim to clear as much weed as possible. Furthermore the owners intend going round the edge with a digger and removing the large areas of weed growth that stops us fishing at some places around the lake. The dates are yet to be set, and if we get some good turnouts, it will make relatively light work of the job. The committee is investigating various methods of weed cutting and will perhaps purchase some fairly expensive equipment to aid us. Now that we know how many members we have, and how much money the club has, we can start making some headway on this issue.

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The constitution was discussed. Last year one was posted on the website, however it was cut and pasted from another club, and didn't really reflect the non profit, members only, aspect of our club. The committee removed the one from the website, and we are in the process of working on this. For the time being we don't have to have one, and as long as everyone's happy it can remain on hold until we get it right. The brown Trout Trust will receive any funds left in the club, if we shut the club down.

Lastly there has been some rumblings about Mitch and Mike (the leaseholders) having free membership, even though this was agreed at the first AGM. Alan Murray put the motion that the leaseholders should not pay, it was seconded by Paul Conlane and many others, and the vote was carried unanimously.

We then had tea, coffee and sandwiches and held the raffle. A large number of prizes had been donated by members and on the day of the AGM Tony and Linda Miller from Peterhead Tackle Shop donated a huge pile of fishing tackle. They asked that we make members aware of the 20% discount available on producing your club membership card, and to let you know that they will be getting float tubes into the shop this week.

Hamish Watson thanked the club members for their hard work and efforts around the lake and said that Pitfour Lake was looking fantastic. . Members also thanked the Watsons for the brilliant opportunity they have allowed and trusted to us. Pitfour Fly Fishing Club and Pitfour Lake are now set to go from strength to strength, and in time we will have one of the top clubs, on what is undoubtedly one of the most spectacular locations in Scotland. The Blenheim of the North, A hidden Gem.

I think the AGM went well, and hope that this record is a good representation of the events. Please feel free to contact me if I have missed anything that you feel should have been included.

Dave Saltmarsh

Hon Sec

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