

MINUTES

Of the Meeting of the

River Cree District Salmon Fishery Board

Held at The Belted Galloway, Newton Stewart

On Wednesday 17th October 2018 at 5.30 pm

Present

(A) Board Members/Mandatories

Terence Flanagan - in the Chair

Duncan Baillie

Murdo Crosbie

Jim Davidson

Gene Fryatt

John Galloway

Jamie Hyslop

Tom Kenyon

Norrie McIntosh

George McShane

Steve Smith

(B) Attendees

Billy McHarg (Treasurer)

Matthew Pumphrey (Clerk)

(1) Apologies for Absence

Apologies had been received from Jamie Ribbens , Iain Service, Callum Sinclair, Lindsay McKain and Andrew Stewart. In his email, giving his apologies, Callum Sinclair had indicated that he had changed roles within SNH and had suggested that the Clerk communicate with two other possible SNH personnel if the Board still wished to involve SNH in their deliberations. The Board agreed that the Clerk should do this.

Andrew Stewart and Lindsay McKain had advised that they no longer wished to be members of the Board.

(2) Minutes of the Meeting of 18th July 2018

These were approved without demur.

(3) Matters arising from the Minutes of 18th April 2018

John Galloway reported that there had been no response, as yet, to the Board's advertisement for River Watchers

There were no other matters arising which would not be covered by later items on the Agenda.

(4) Chairman's Report

The Chairman reported that, since the last meeting in July 2018, the fishing had significantly improved, with a reported total catch of some 270 fish compared to the 40 that had been caught up to 18th July 2018.

The Stocking Committee had met and agreed the stocking policy document. The licence for Brood Stock collection had also been granted by Marine Scotland.

The Chairman reported, with pleasure, that, despite premonitions that there would be, there were no proposals for a Wild Fisheries Bill in the current parliamentary programme.

(5) Treasurer's Report

Mr McHarg reported that there had been a problem with the accountants (as minuted at the previous meeting) but this had now been resolved. The confusion was a result of having transferred the standing orders from A B & A Matthews to the Board's own account.

(6) Levies

As at the date of the meeting (17th October 2018), there had been collected £8710 in levies but there still remained some £6000 outstanding. The main levies still to be received were Andrew Stewart's levy of £2531, Glentrool Estate's of £2287, and NSDAA's of £1178. NSDAA had appealed their rates and their appeal was due to be heard on 7th December 2018. There might be nothing further to collect from them, depending how the appeal went as they had already paid £2500 to account.

There was currently £5875 in the bank account, but with bills still to pay, the financial position was quite tight. It was agreed that the position must be closely monitored but, at the moment, the current rate of levy would remain the same

(7) GFT Report

Jamie Ribbens had provided a written report which had been circulated to the Board in advance of the meeting. Some members appeared not to have received it, however.

The Chairman commented that the electro-fishing results on the burns which had not been stocked last year showed the worth of the hatchery programme, in that stocked fry had previously successfully utilised nursery habitat that was not accessed by wild fish.

He also referred to the Norwegian research mentioned in the report. The research was published in 2007 and referred to work carried out between 1999 and 2003. It was not clear why this research had suddenly come to the fore and he would be seeking further clarification on this.

(8) RCCHT Report

Murdo Crosbie circulated a handout which was duly addressed by him and considered by the Board.

This contained reports on the Hatchery, Japanese Knotweed & Himalayan Balsam, a fallen tree below the weir at the Ghyll pool, Regeneration Spruce, and Electro-Fishing Surveys. The Electro-Fishing surveys were encouraging. In answer to a question put by Steve Smith, Mr Crosbie said that the higher pHs were due to the weather - he did not doubt that the pHs would be lower in times of high water. The Himalayan Balsam was horrendous particularly at the bottom of the river.

(9) Consultation on Conservation of Pike

The Sub-Committee consisting of the Chairman, Murdo Crosbie and Jamie Hyslop, had answered the three questions raised by the Consultation all in the negative. He had received an acknowledgement from Marine Scotland.

Marine Scotland had stated that cannibalism in pike was not common, in that larger pike generally occupied different habitats to the smaller ones. This bore out the Board's experience. Other members said that they had caught pike with other pike in their mouths and that much depended what other sources of food were available.

(10) Triennial Elections

The whole Board resigned at this point and the Clerk convened this section.

Andrew Stewart and Lindsay McKain had both indicated that they did not wish to stand for re-election (see "Apologies" above). Terence Flanagan reported that he had received mandates from Lord Crampton and John Scott, appointing Steve Smith and John Galloway respectively as their mandatories. Also, following correspondence with the High Cree Gamefishers Association, he wished to put the name of the Association forward for consideration for election as upper proprietors.

The following Upper Proprietors were elected:-

Lord Crampton (mandatory Steve Smith)

Terence Flanagan

Jamie Hyslop

Peter Jones (mandatory Gene Fryatt)

Tom Kenyon

NSAA (mandatory John Galloway)

John Scott (mandatory John Galloway)

Iain Service

The following Lower Proprietors were elected:-

Lynne Rae (mandatory Jim Davidson)

NSAA (mandatory Norrie McIntosh)

The following were co-opted as representatives of salmon anglers:-

Duncan Baillie

Murdo Crosbie

George McShane

There were no tenant netmen to be co-opted.

Terence Flanagan was re-elected as Chairman. He said this would be his last term in office.

(11) Arrangements for Annual Meeting of Proprietors and APM on 21st November 2018

It was agreed to hold these meetings at the Belted Galloway, Newton Stewart, at 6.00pm on the 21st. Notice of these meetings would appear on the Board's website, the GFT's website and at various venues in Newton Stewart. A copy of the notice would be sent to the Scottish Ministers.

(12) AOCB

(a) Murdo Crosbie mentioned an encounter with 4 poachers from Ayrshire on the Minnoch. He had issued a warning to them. There was a problem with getting the assistance of the Police in situations like these. Mr Crosbie emphasised that, apart from it having been a Sunday, the "crime" had been fishing without permission rather than poaching with nets or other illegal equipment.

(b) There was to be a meeting on 16th November at the Glentroll Community Hall convened by Finlay Carson MSP on forestry planting policy to which two members of the Board had been invited. Jamie Hyslop and the Chairman agreed to attend this and this was unanimously approved.

The meeting closed at 6.45 pm

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Chairman

