MINUTES

Of the Board Meeting
of the River Cree District Salmon Fishery Board
Held at The Belted Galloway, Newton Stewart
On Wednesday 14 January 2026 at 5.30 pm

Present

(A) Board Members/Mandatories

Jamie Hyslop – in the Chair
Murdo Crosbie
Gene Fryatt
Jamie Hyslop as mandatory for Terence Flanagan
Lindsay McKain
Norrie McIntosh
Steve Smith

(B) Attendee
Matthew Pumphrey (Clerk and Treasurer)
Peter Jones

(1) Apologies
Terence Flanagan, Jamie Ribbens & Iain Service

(2) Absent
Adrian Paterson

(3 Approval of Minutes of Previous Board Meeting on 8 October 2025
These were **approved** without demur.

(4) Matters arising from the two aforesaid Minutes
The Chairman stated that he would be seeing Andrew Stewart on Friday 16 January with regard to the instalment arrangement for his levy.

(5) Chairman's Report
The Chairman said that he had applied for the usual licence for fish-eating birds and was optimistic about getting it again.
He mentioned the recent flooding in Newton Stewart the previous Sunday, as a result of which the car park by the river had been flooded and closed. He said no obvious damage had been done.

(6) Treasurer's Report
The Treasurer said that unless there was any unusual expenditure during the remaining three months of the financial year, the Board seemed to be on course for a small surplus and there would therefore no need to call upon the £10,000 in the Savings Account. It was **agreed** that there should be no change in the levy.

(7) Conservation Code

The Chairman said that he had sent out an email to all Board members and riparian proprietors summarising the current situation and suggesting 4 options. 3 for change and the fourth for no change. He had received 6 responses. There then ensued a discussion among those present both as Board Members, mandatories and advisors and the result was a vote for option 3 which was a change to effect that it would prohibit keeping either male or female fish caught after 30th September in each year. Previously it had just been female fish. **Option 3** was therefore **agreed**. There was some discussion thereafter on an overall prohibition of not retaining any more than 2 fish per season per angler, but this was **not carried.** The Chairman said that he would arrange for the new Conservation to be put on the website.

(8) FMS

The **unanimous** decision of the Board was that RCDSFB should **not** rejoin FMS.

(9) Quorum of Meetings

There were now 9 Board members and accordingly the previous number making up a quorum for Board meetings, which was believed to be 6, should be reduced to 5. This should apply to the 2 Annual Meetings also. This was **unanimously agreed.**

(10) GFT Report

Jamie Ribbens had sent an email to all Board Members about the activities of GFT as affecting the Cree for the period since his last report. This covered the proposed peatland restoration work near Loch Moan, electrofishing data, the proposed flood prevention scheme in Newton Stewart, sampling during the spawning season and the possibility of rejoining FMS.

There was some discussion on the seemingly positive stance being taken by Findlay Carson in the Scottish Parliament. However, from a recording made by Steve Smith on his phone which was duly heard at the meeting, he seemed to be opposed to certain aspects of the Scheme rather than to the Scheme itself.

(11) RCHHT Report

Murdo Crosbie reported that there was quite a lot of broodstock in the river at the moment, particularly in the Minnoch. There were approximately 100,000 eggs in the Cree and Penkiln and 99,000 in the Minnoch.

Some fish had been lost in the recent flood.

School visits had started in November. The children had witnessed a hen fish being stripped of her eggs and had learnt about the life cycle of a salmon.

Mr Crosbie had been very pleased that the Hatchery had been the joint winner of the inaugural Orri award along with the Ribble.. The Board congratulated Mr Crosbie on winning this award.

(12) Insurance

The Chairman said that he would speak to Howden Skimming once the Clerk had given him the relevant information about the existing insurance.

(13) AOCB

None

(14) Date of next Meeting

15th April 2026 at 5.30pm

The meeting closed at 6.55 pm

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Chairman