

Nith Catchment Fishery Trust

Annual General Meeting 2015

7.00pm Monday 23rd March 2015

Friars Carse, Auldgirth

Trust members present

Percy Weatherall – NCFT Chairman
Thomas Florey - Director
Peter Hutchison – Director
Jim Henderson – Director
David Kempzell - Director
Brian Lord – Director
Jim McKie – Director
Andrew Wood – Director
Gordon McGregor
Captin Beauchamp Blackett
Simon Duffin
Brian Fox
David McMichael

In attendance

John Campbell
Debbie Parke – Operations Manager/Biologist
Roderick Styles – Clerk to Nith District Salmon Fishery Board

Apologies

Robert Schiller, Irene Celentano, Jonathan Ystenes, Andrew Hunter Arundel and Matt Walker

The Chairman, Percy Weatherall welcomed everyone to the 5th Annual General Meeting of the Nith Catchment Fishery Trust.

1. Minutes of previous AGM

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on the 24th March 2014 were approved as a true and accurate account.

2. Matters Arising and Wild Fisheries Review and what it means to the Nith

Roderick Styles addressed the meeting in regards to the Wild Fisheries Review as conducted by Andrew Thin on behalf of the Scottish Government. A varied and useful discussion ensued to bring every one up to speed on developments thus far and possible future proposals. The Chairman summarised that the Trust and the Board will report on any developments and encourages everyone to put their views forward to the Scottish Government during their consultations.

3. Trust Update

The Chairman stated that 2014 had been a busy year for the Trust and referred to the Annual Report that had been published and distributed. He then introduced Debbie Parke, Operations Manager/Biologist who

gave a presentation outlining the main topics of interest resulting from the work carried out in 2014 including the Fishing for the Future project and Invasives species control.

4. Accounts

The Chairman presented the summary accounts for the period 1st January 2013 to 30th December 2014 to the members present. The Chairman requested that the accounts were adopted, there being no questions. The accounts were unanimously agreed.

5. Election of Directors

Robert Schiller, Thomas Florey and David Kempzell were re-elected.

The Trust Directors/Office Bearers for 2015 are:

Percy Weatherall - Chairman
Thomas Florey
Peter Hutchison
Jim Henderson
David Kempzell
Brian Lord
Jim McKie
Robert Schiller
Andrew Wood

6. Written Questions

Prior to the AGM questions were submitted for consideration and discussion. The questions were as follows:

- Jonathan Ystens – Would like the Trust to consider ways in which fishery owners could be encouraged to reduce their rod/day rates?
 - Jim Henderson replied that fishing is already very reasonably priced and that the NDSFB have organised a Nith Sea Trout Experience which offers opportunity for 76 rods to fish the Nith's best Sea Trout beats for free every Friday night for 8 weeks. They have already had an excellent response and it is fully booked.
 - David Kempzell responded that DGAA have not put their prices up with inflation for the last few year, effectively discounting the price of tickets.
- Gordon Macgregor – What is the effect of the Grayling increase having on the other species?
 - Debbie Parke replied that Grayling have been present in Scotland for over 150 years and are included in Annex V of the EU Habitats Directive. There is little evidence to suggest competition between species as they occupy different habitats and have different feeding preferences. Grayling also have similar water quality requirements as trout and are more sensitive to pollution/higher temperatures so good indicator species to the health of the river.

Any Other Competent Business

Brian Fox raised the possibility that the Trust could continue to survive the Wild Fisheries Review as the government could not actually force a charity to close. This was discussed briefly.

Closing Remarks

The Chairman offered thanks to the Trust Directors and staff for their dedication and input. The Chairman closed the meeting at 20.50 and thanked everyone for attending.

DRAFT