



Salmon & Trout Association

Fighting for the future of game angling

Patron: HRH The Prince of Wales

President: The Duke of Northumberland

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Salmon & Trout Association Ltd held on Tuesday 24th April 2007 at Fishmongers' Hall, London.

Present:

Mr J Carr	Chairman
Mr P Knight	Executive Director
Mrs D Creasy	Membership Manager
Ms C Jorgensen	Communications and Policy Officer
Mr J Slader	Projects and Issues Officer
Mr T Gaunt- Baker	Field Officer
Mrs M Cox	Office Secretary

Mr N Askew	Mr C Lapsa
Mr A W Bird	Mr P Laverty
Mr A Bird	Mr J Lazenby
Mr D Burford	Ms A Mallett
Mr R Catto	Mr P Moore
Mr L Devery	Mr A Morgan
Mr M Drummond	Mrs R Peto
Mr P Ellis	Mr P Pledger
Mr Foster	Capt J Read
Mr J Francis	Mr R Rix
Mr D Fynsong	Mr C Rothwell
Mr T Hoggarth	Dr Rondel
Mr A Hordern	Mr Sanderson
Mr A Horne	Mr J Saunders
Mrs J Howman	Mr P Sturgeon
Mr K Howman	Mrs A Voss- Bark
The Earl of Inchcape	Mr G Westropp
Mr P Jessop	Mr K Wood

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1. To receive apologies for absence
80 apologies have been received – these were taken as read and are annexed to these Minutes.
2. To confirm the minutes of the annual general meeting of the Salmon & Trout Association held in Fishmongers' Hall on Tuesday 25th April 2006
The Minutes were agreed and signed by the Chairman.
3. Matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting
There were no matters arising.
4. To receive and adopt the Chairman's report for the period since the date of the previous AGM
The Chairman reported on the sad death of Terry Atkinson, who was the Angling Development Officer until September last year. The S&TA was represented at his funeral by Paul Knight and John Slader.

Congratulations were expressed to Orri Vigfusson on his winning of the Goldman Environmental award for his work to save the North Atlantic Salmon.

The Chairman went on to report on the work of the Association over the past year, including:

- Blueprint for Water, which was produced in partnership with the RSPB, National Trust, WWF and others, has been very well received and is being taken seriously by Government and follow-up meetings have taken place. This has improved our working relationships with these other conservation organisations.

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- Sheep dips. Carmel Jorgensen's work, with partners, keeping pressure on the VMD and Government, continues and, following meetings with the Blueprint group, Barbara Young was made more aware of the problem and the EA has hardened its position.
- Irish Drift Nets will cease this year and the S&TA were one of a group working with the Stop Now campaign which helped bring this about.
- Fisheries Legislation – agreement has been reached with the Fisheries Minister and the majority of issues will be addressed under several pieces of legislation, both primary and secondary.
- Access – the BCU is pressing for free public access to all rivers. We are fighting for voluntary access. In Scotland, the Land Reform Act makes access more of a problem for riparian owners, but local agreements were proving effective in many areas.
- Flylife – we chair the River Fly Partnership, who held an excellent conference at the Natural History Museum in the spring. The Anglers Monitoring Initiative was launched, whereby local anglers can join a monitoring programme endorsed by the EA, who will accept findings to use as evidence for future policy.
- Angling Development – John Slader is playing a leading role in developing the Angling Development Board with the NFA, NFSA, Sport England and the EA. Our Beginners' Course programme is also continuing.
- Scotland and Wales. Lawson Devery was thanked for his work in forming a regional representative system in Scotland and George Holdsworth was praised for his work in representing our interests in Scotland and lobbying the Scottish Executive. The structure in Scotland is changing and we feel that the issue of mixed stock salmon netting around the coasts is not being addressed sufficiently. We will be leading on that in the next 12 months. The Welsh Assembly is pro-angling and we are having an increasing involvement in Wales and are working well with WSTAA. We have consulted

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members in Wales as to how they want us to continue to represent them.

- We are working more closely with other angling organisations and FACT has arranged a meeting of all similar organisations to look into how we should work together to avoid duplication of effort in the future.
- Accounts. A new accounting system has been implemented and Debbie was thanked for her work on this.
- VAT – we are in consultation with the VAT office and our auditors, Tenons, will review the position shortly.
- Recruitment has been better this year due to the £10 introductory offer. We are working on retaining those members.
-

The Chairman gave thanks to all those who have worked very hard and thanked Paul and his team. Also thanks were expressed to the Fishmongers' Company for their support.

The Chairman then invited questions.

Adoption of the Chairman's Report was proposed by Mr G Westropp, seconded by Mr C Rothwell and carried unanimously.

5. To receive and adopt the Accounts of the Association for the year ended 31st December 2006

The Chairman reported on the audited accounts for the year to 31st December 2006. No questions on the tabled accounts were raised.

Adoption of the Accounts was proposed by Mr T Hoggarth, seconded by Mr A Bird and carried unanimously.

6. To elect Directors to the Board

The Chairman thanked the retiring Board members for all their hard work during their period of office:

North Wales – Keith Allanson

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North West – Mike Horner

Yorkshire – John Lazenby

Anglia – Philip Pledger

Southern – Peter Jessop

No nominations for Regional Directors have been received for the North West, Yorkshire and Anglian regions.

Nominations for Regional Directors for North Wales – John Roe and Southern – Phillip Ellis were proposed by Lawson Devery and seconded by John Sanders. The appointments were agreed unanimously by the meeting .

7. Update on the progress towards obtaining Charitable Status agreed at the 2006 AGM

An initial submission was made following the consultation process. There is to be a face to face meeting with the Commissioners in May to address queries raised by them. Jeremy Read was thanked for his help with the application. A discussion followed on the value of angling as a sport. The Charity Commissioners require a 'sport' to have cardio-vascular benefits and angling is not deemed to comply. More evidence will be presented to the Commissioners at the next meeting.

8. To appoint auditors of the Association.

Tenon Ltd offers itself for re- appointment. The relationship is good and the re- appointment was recommended.

Proposed by Mr P Pledger, seconded by Mr P Jessop and carried unanimously.

9. Topics for discussion

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Mr David Burford: What is the S&TA's policy on hatcheries to restock sea trout rivers, especially the Axe?

Discussion took place, and the Director explained that, wherever possible, S&TA believed habitat improvements should be made so that sea trout could spawn and rear juveniles naturally; this was far cheaper and more environmentally acceptable. However, where this was not possible, hatcheries had been successful in kick-starting populations.

It was agreed that research, especially from the EA, was needed to help local management.

A further question was raised concerning progress on restricting the fishing for sandeels.

The Chairman reported that sandeels now have a Total Allowable Catch (TAC) quota placed on them, and there are areas where fishing for them has been banned completely.

10. Any other business

The Chairman expressed his thanks to all those who had attended the AGM

11. Date of next meeting - Tuesday 22nd April 2008.

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Apologies

Mr V Abell
Lord Alvingham
Mr J Bailey
Mr A Berchell
Mr T Bostock
Mr P Bowman
Mr T Bowrins
Lord Brassey
Mr E Bristow
Mr & Mrs Brown
Mr R Burbidge
Mr D Butt
Mr R Caddy
Mr A Carter
Mr J Clegg
Club Saumon Luxemborg
Mr J Coates
Mrs J Cormack
Mr R Cunningham- Jardine
Mr W Currie
Mr W Davies
Mr E K De Clemont
Mr W Deller
Mr B Dillon- Edwards

Mr A Duckworth- Chad
Mr H Fallon
Mr W Foot
Mr P Francis
Mr N Gooderham
Ms M Graham
Mr & Mrs Harbottle
Mr R Harris
Mr A Holbrook
Mr R Holt
Mr J Hopkins
Mr M Horner
Mr D Hunt
Sir A Irwin
Mr A Lean
Mr A Lisle
Mr W McDonald
Mr D Mitchell
Mr A Moffat
Ms J Moore
Rev Niblett
Mr M O'Hall
Mr H Oliver- Bellasis
Ms A Parrott
Mr J Parwoe
Mr H Phillips

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Mrs S Pizii
Mrs N Prichard
Mr P Pugsley
Mr A Reynolds
Mr T Richardson
Mr & Mrs Rhodes
Mr J Roe
Mr B Rounthwaite
Mr J Seager
Mr M Shortt
Mr I Smith
Mr K Sorensen
Stanford Training Area Fishing Assoc
Maj M Stanners
Lord Tolermache
Miss P Turing
Mr P Turner
Mr K Usher
Mr G Wadey
Mr & Mrs Walker
Mr J Walters
Mr L Walters
Mr P Watson
Mr J Weatherhead
Mr & Mrs Webber
Mr D Webster
Mr J White
Mr & Mrs Wilson
Mr P Wraight

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