

EAST LOTHIAN ANGLING ASSOCIATION
MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY 20th JANUARY 2014
IN THE TOWN HOUSE, HADDINGTON

1. **Apologies:-** J Knox.
2. **Present** - 31 members
3. **Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting** held on Monday 21st January 2013. These had been distributed. Their acceptance was proposed by Hugh Dignon and seconded by Drew Ramsey.
4. **Matters arising from previous Minutes** – None
5. **President's Welcome** – As the President had moved to Edinburgh, the Vice-President Scott McIntosh welcomed those present to the meeting and hoped that they had had an enjoyable season.
6. **Review of the Past Year.** Clive Baker gave a review of the activities of the Association over the past year. Many of the items had been highlighted in the Newsletter but Clive expanded on some of them.
The fishing had been difficult this year as the summer had been dry and the river had been very low. The Association had attended Haddington Show again and had taken part in a "Fish in the Classroom" project, both of which had been well received by young potential anglers. An electro-fishing survey had been carried out and a very useful report produced. Tackling invasive weeds would probably start this year. The Association had also linked up with The Friends of the River Tyne on river cleaning parties. Working parties would be arranged this year and those present, who were interested in helping, were asked to leave their names with the secretary.

Clive was thanked for his Review.

Brian Davidson commented on the situation regarding the weirs. S.E.P.A. is surveying the weirs on the river but they are unlikely to commission any works this year as the East Lothian Council is producing a flood control plan which may affect the weirs.

7. **Newsletter.** Clive Baker was thanked for producing the Newsletter again this year.

8 **Treasurer's Report** – John Medley went through the audited Accounts

for the year to 31st December 2013. The number of permits sold was slightly down on the previous year, probably due to the poor fishing conditions created by the low water levels. There had been no special expenditure items this year but he considered that it was important that the Association maintained a good balance so that we could react if necessary to any improvement scheme that might arise. The sale of permits on-line was to be tried this season..The adoption of the Treasurer's report was proposed by Scott McIntosh and seconded by Brian Davidson.

9. **Logbooks and Catch Returns** – Nick Main presented the statistics from the logbooks kept by 10 Committee members this year. From the logbooks a total of 380 fish were caught in 154 trips to the river, with 38 smolts but no sea trout being caught. The figures for fish caught per trip to the river were the lowest for several years.
Catch Return Cards, Steven Dora reported that the Catch Return cards received from members showed that they had caught 1216 brown trout (922 released), 22 sea trout and 1 salmon. All catch figures were down on the previous year.
Nick and Steven were thanked for their reports.
10. **Election of Office-bearers.** Scott McIntosh was elected as President (proposed by Clive Baker and seconded by Tom Robertson) Clive Baker was elected as Vice-President (proposed by John Medley and seconded by Tom Robertson.
11. **Election of Committee.** Of the existing Committee five members, Brian Davidson Lewis McIntosh David Elder Hugh Dignon and John Knox, had completed their four year term on the Committee. All five were prepared to stand for re-election and they were proposed by Scott McIntosh and seconded by Steven Dora and were duly re-elected.
12. The Secretary explained that there were vacancies on the committee for another two members and asked for any nominations. Chris Thomas was proposed by Clive Baker and seconded by Hugh Dignon. Jamie McDonald was proposed by Tom Robertson and seconded by Brian Davidson. As there were no further nominations Chris and Jamie were duly elected.
13. **Tony Hawkins.** The meeting was informed that Tony, who has been on the Committee for 33 years, may be moving away from the area this year. If he did move he is unlikely to travel back for next years A.G.M. and so this meeting was a chance for permit holders to thank Tony for all the work he has done for the Association over the past 33 years.
14. **Permit Prices** – The Committee had discussed the price of permits for the 2014 season and recommended that the permit prices should remain the same as in 2012 and 2013 i.e. Full permit £33, Junior £15, OAP £20, Under 12 £2 and Day Permits £7. As the full season price had been the same from 2012 and all the other prices unaltered from 2010 it was thought that increases may have to be considered for the 2015 season. The voucher given to members sending in a Catch Return Card having purchased a Full, OAP, or Junior permit would remain at £5. The permit prices for the 2014 season were proposed by Clive

Baker and seconded by Stan Wilson and agreed by the meeting.

15. **A.O.C.B.** a) Dr Joanna Girvan of the River Forth Fisheries Trust spoke about the electro-fishing survey that she had done in the summer and also about the problems of silting of the Bearford Burn. She will be working with the Association to try to put in place measures to reduce the silting problem to obtain improved spawning grounds. She is also working on the problem of invasive species that are present in the Tyne.
16. **Date of next Annual General Meeting** - Monday 26th January 2015
17. **Presentation by Will Shaw.** Will gave a very informative talk on how to improve your casting technique and to buy tackle which is best suited to your technique and the river that you are fishing.