

Salmon & Trout Conservation UK Sussex Branch

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Minutes of the Annual General Meeting on Saturday 7th March 2020, held at Chailey Village Hall.

The meeting opened at 2:10pm, chaired by Rod Yuill with 6 members present.

- 1) **Welcome:** Rod Yuill welcomed the members to the meeting.
- 2) **Apologies for absence:** None
- 3) **Minutes of the last AGM, 20th February 2019:** There were no Matters of Accuracy or Matters Arising and the minutes were duly signed by the Chairman as a true record.
- 4) **Chairman's Report:**
Rod Yuill's report had been circulated to members via a newsletter earlier in the year and a copy is attached
- 5) **Secretary / Branch Organiser Report:**
Mike Richardson had little to add to the Chairman's report, his main duties being to maintain a membership database and email contact list and circulate members with communications via email or post as applicable, plus organizing the discounted fishing arrangements with Arlington Reservoir, which, in 2019, resulted in 28 persons registering for the scheme, with 13 actually fishing on 46 separate occasions. With Cinder Hill Fly Fishing now taking over the organization for the shows, there had again been no need for any committee meetings during the year.
- 6) **Treasurer's Report:**
The accounts for 2019 were circulated. Current assets total £2643.69 with a loss of £101.38 made over the year, mainly due to the 2 Arlington memberships, each at £50. The accounts were duly approved by the meeting and a vote of thanks expressed to Robert Nathan for handling the account and to Tom Todd for carrying out the audit.
- 7) **Water Resources Officer Report:**
Philip Ellis's report is attached
- 8) **Election of Officers and Committee:**
With the Syndicate now effectively organizing all the activities there was little need for any Committee meetings, and the existing Officers were happy to continue for a further term as follows:
Chairman: Rod Yuill. Secretary and Treasurer: Mike Richardson, Welfare Officer: Tony Kaatze and, although not present, Philip Ellis was happy to continue as Water Resources Officer, plus Committee members Kevin Reeves and Les Everard with Tom Todd nominated as Accounts Scrutineer.
The above were therefore duly elected en bloc on a proposal by Ed Belsey, with all present in favour.
- 9) **Any Other Business:** None.
There being no other business the meeting closed at 2:30pm.



SALMON & TROUT CONSERVATION UK

SUSSEX BRANCH

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STCUK Sussex Branch

NEWSLETTER January 2020

Dear Members,

The time has come around again to review what has happened in the Sussex Branch over the last year, which seems to have followed a similar pattern to 2018 as it has again been fairly uneventful for us following the separation of Cinder Hill Fly Fishing from Branch activities.

Cinder Hill Fly Fishing:

In 2019, the Cinder Hill Trouting Syndicate adopted the working title of Cinder Hill Fly Fishing in order to try and make the organization more attractive to prospective members,

AGM:

Attendance at the 2019 Annual General Meeting held on Wednesday 20th February at the Village Hall, Chailey, East Sussex was similar to the previous year and with the separation of the Cinder Hill Fly Fishing activities from the Branch, the meeting was quite short with very little business to discuss. The 2020 AGM will be held at 2:00pm on Saturday 7th March, again at Chailey Village Hall, so please put the date in your diary. I hope you will try to come along. The venue is located just before the Five Bells Pub on the left hand side of the A275 road going north and there is more than adequate parking. An Agenda and Minutes of last year's meeting will be circulated later.

Shows:

Members of the Sussex Branch were at the South of England Show as well as the Autumn Show and Game Fair, both at the Ardingly Showground. We also assisted at the Connect with the Countryside event for schools which was also held at Ardingly in July. As in previous years, we participated at these events in conjunction with Cinder Hill Fly Fishing members. These shows are beneficial for the Branch, with a good number of adults and juniors trying their hand at fly casting and a number of existing anglers showing interest in joining S&TC UK as well as Cinder Hill Fly Fishing and we are expecting to attend all these events again this year.

Annual Match with the Sussex Branch of the Fly Dressers Guild:

It was our turn to host the annual match with the Sussex Branch of the Fly Dressers Guild this year which was once again held at Duncton Mill fishery near Petworth in West Sussex. It is always a good day out, but it seemed especially so this year, with the weather starting misty but steadily improving as the day went on. After the morning's fishing, everyone enjoyed a good lunch before resuming their efforts in the afternoon, when unfortunately the fishing seemed more challenging than earlier.

I'm sorry to say that once again we were the underdogs and the Fly Dressers retained the trophy for a further year. It is now several years since we were last successful and are keeping our fingers crossed that 2020 might be our turn.

This year's match is scheduled for Saturday the 18th April, again at Duncton Mill and we will therefore be seeking volunteers for our team at some time in the new year prior to the event. Duncton is a superb 4 lake venue, so why not volunteer for our team and help to make 2020 a winning year for us.

Further details will be posted in due course, watch out for the announcements via email or our website.

Membership:

Is your membership subscription to S&TCUK Gift Aided? Salmon & Trout Conservation UK is a registered charity and it is estimated that if every member gift aided their subscription this could be worth an additional £40,000 per year to the organisation. It only takes a minute to do it online, just go to the STC UK website (<https://www.salmon-trout.org/support-us/gift-aid>), fill in your details and click "Send".

Alternatively, it can be done by post, or you can contact Debbie Creasy in the S&TC Administration Office (Tel: 020 7283 5838, email: debbie@salmon-trout.org). You must, however, be a UK taxpayer.

Courses:

Without a regularly available Level 2 Coach unfortunately we were not able to run our usual programme of Junior and Adult Courses in 2019. However, at the shows last year, a number of individuals expressed an interest in learning to fly fish and following this, we were able to enlist the help of a Level 2 Coach for a “one off” Beginners Course. Sadly the weather had other ideas and on two occasions the course had to be cancelled at the last minute because of high winds and heavy rain making tuition impossible. We hope however to be able to arrange some courses this coming year.

Fortunately, courtesy of our insurance provider, we are able to continue with casting demonstrations and tuition at the shows using only Level 1 Coaches and again we are indebted to all of the instructors who turn out to help us.

Arlington Reservoir Fishery Membership:

For several years now, as an additional benefit of S&TC UK Sussex Branch membership, we have purchased two memberships at the Arlington Reservoir fishery. This has enabled members to enjoy a generous £10 discount off the normal day ticket prices.

The reservoir fished exceptionally well in 2019 and we will be repeating the exercise again this year. The 2020 season at Arlington starts on the 25th January and finishes on the 27th June and from the 1st April, boats, with or without electric outboards, are also available at reduced rates.

Other than purchasing your fishing ticket and paying for boat hire if required, at the discounted rates, there is no additional cost to members.

In the past this facility has been regularly used by some members but we would like to see more taking advantage of this arrangement. There are however, certain procedures to follow when fishing, so if you wish to participate in this scheme, please contact Branch Secretary Mike Richardson, telephone: 01435 812854, or email: sta.sussex@gmail.com to enroll.

Websites:

Don't forget to look at the National S&TC UK website (<https://www.salmon-trout.org>) as well as the Sussex Branch website (<https://www.salmon-trout-sussex.org.uk>) to keep up to date with what is happening nationally as well as locally.

Thanks:

Sincere thanks are due to everyone who helped us at our various events again this year, all the volunteers, who give up their precious time and play a really valuable part in keeping the Branch going.

Enclosed / attached are our Programme for 2020 and the two part form inviting members to join or renew their membership of Cinder Hill Fly Fishing for the coming season and to volunteer their services by helping at the various events we participate in throughout the year.

Please complete as necessary and forward to Robert Nathan as soon as possible.

If joining or renewing Cinder Hill Fly Fishing membership, cheques should be made payable to “Cinder Hill Troutng Syndicate”.

Finally, we obviously wish to maintain effective communication with members and because of the costs and time involved, it is not easily possible to do this using the postal system, so, if you have access to internet facilities and are happy for us to contact you via email, please ensure that we have an up to date and correct email address for you.

Let us hope that 2020 will be a good year for the Branch and S&TC UK as a whole.

With best wishes.

Rod Yuill

Water Resources Officer report for 2019 covering Sussex and Hampshire Area by Phillip Ellis

The year started dry with below average rainfall through the 2018/19 winter and continued followed through the summer and water companies were on a knife edge of having to use drought orders, taking more water out of our rivers, Since the autumn the reverse has happened when we received well over monthly average rainfall. This bodes well for our rivers this year. The water companies are under ever more pressure to find more water and in Hampshire abstraction from the river Itchen is being reduced. To compensate a small reservoir is to be created north of Havant and desalination plant in the Solent to provide more water. We all see large numbers of houses being built to supply our increasing population so demand will increase annually.

Septic tanks have been targeted as leaking systems contaminate rivers especially where there is no nearby treatment works. New legislation is in place to improve the situation where they have to be updated before selling your home. <https://www.proseptic.co.uk/useful-information/2020-septic-tank-regulations/>

Again, I receive weekly a spreadsheet from the EA of all applications to abstract or discharge for the entire country and generally there are always one or two in our area. Mostly are what are known as bespoke applications to discharge treated effluent in to streams or rivers. Abstraction applications are generally variations of existing but nothing I have noticed to cause problems in our region. I do not get over to East Sussex and would be happy to receive any observations.

For those of you interested in monitoring our resources there is an EA web site that publishes monthly the situation in each region for the previous month usually about the second week of month. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/water-situation-local-area-reports>

Being involved locally with a Riverfly project I notice few sites being monitored on the headwaters of our Sussex rivers only three sites plus a scheme on the western rother with ARRT & SDNPA. Surprised OART are not involved with the national scheme. Opportunity for branch members to get involved. <http://www.riverflies.org/rp-riverfly-monitoring-initiative>

Otters & Invasive species

Although not a resource issue, Otters are rearing there head certainly west of the two counties.

They have now been seen on the Arun and it suggests to me illegal introductions. Fewer Grayling have been seen in the Hampshire rivers this last winter. They certainly predate water birds and water Voles possibly to a greater extent than fish. Cuddly creatures yes, but not for anglers! I visited a still water fishery recently close to a river where they are taking trout every night. I have seen evidence of them taking American Signal Crayfish last summer, the only plus so far. Coarse fisheries are now having to install Otter Fencing as Carp are a favourite food source! Keep an eye out for these creatures and do report to your club where they have not been reported.

The next issue is going to be Beavers damming up headwaters of Sussex rivers, being introduced in controlled conditions on the Adur at Knepp. Not a good idea in my opinion, some of you may disagree.

As Resources Officer I am happy to receive comments observations and concerns at any time.
07960 104421 or elsteadbysea@btinternet.com



16th February 2020