

WARDS 84 AC AGM - 26th March 2024 (7pm, Fox Inn Bransford).

Present: P.Houlding (Club Secretary), L.Elsworth (Match Secretary), C.Harris (Treasurer).

Apologies: N.Cox.

The 2023 AGM minutes were reviewed and approved.

Secretary's report:

After 3 years of stable numbers, club membership has fallen this year. The decline observed is consistent with the year-on-year fall in rod licence sales reported by the EA since the end of the pandemic restrictions.

Following a site visit to Wards Pool by Richard Bamforth (Angling Trust Fisheries Management Advisor), a grant application has been made by the club to the Environment Agency to cover pruning and removal of trees to improve aeration around the pool.

A meeting is planned to discuss the annual rental agreement for our Bransford stretch of the River Teme. The rental agreement for Grove Farm Lake is not up for renewal until October 2025.

Match secretary's report:

Summer League won by Jamie Cross.

Acorns Charity Match won by Peter Houlding.

Seniors Match won by Dave Evason.

Winter League won by Leon Elsworth.

Treasurers report:

This year has seen a drop in membership from 102 members down to 81 members, made up of 40 full members, 20 senior/lady members, along with 3 intermediates and 18 juniors. However, the number of younger anglers remaining in the club is encouraging to see. A similar fall in day and guest ticket sales has also been seen this year (from 50 down to 31), although some of that could be attributed to reduced opportunities to fish our stretch of the Teme at Bransford due to flooding throughout the season. Our thanks go to Alan's Tackle and Worcester Angling Centre for continuing to promote the club by selling memberships over the counter, and also selling day tickets for the Teme at Bransford.

Rents remained at previous levels and are not due to increase this year. There was a slight increase in Angling Trust membership fees (+5%) which, as in previous years, includes insurance. The major additional expenditure this year was to cover stocking of carp into Wards Pool. The club made a donation of £50 to St Richard's Hospice in memory of our previous treasurer Dave Hartwell, who sadly passed away in August 2023.

The audit of accounts was carried out on 12th March 2024 by Leon Elsworth and Peter Houlding.

AOB:

Approval to re-appoint James Sarkar as club bailiff.

Meeting closed (7.40pm).