

WARDS 84 AC AGM - 25th March 2025 (7.30pm, Fox Inn Bransford).

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

Apologies: N.Cox, H.Busby.

The 2024 AGM minutes were reviewed and approved.

Secretary's report:

The club secured a Fisheries Improvement grant from the Environment Agency to allow contractors to remove most of the mature trees on the far bank of Wards Pool, which was carried out during late November 2024. This removes the potential hazard of tree fall during stormy conditions, but will also improve the pool habitat for the fish by allowing in more light, reducing the amount of leaf litter falling in the pool, and also increasing the wind circulation and aeration across the water surface.

Rental reductions were secured for Wards Pool and the Teme at Bransford during 2024, and are not expected to rise for the coming year. The rental agreement for Grove Farm Lake is up for renewal in October 2025.

Match secretary's report:

Summer League won by Peter Houlding.

Acorns Charity Match won by Mick Weston.

Seniors Match won by John Hall.

Winter League won by Chris Harris.

A four match Spring League has been introduced to the 2025 fixture list.

Treasurers report:

This year has seen a slight increase in membership from 81 to 96 members (which includes 24 juniors) - as a consequence of which, membership fees will be held for the coming season. The continuing interest of younger anglers in the club is encouraging to see.

Day and guest ticket sales fell slightly this year (from 31 down to 27), although this is not surprising as the first floods came in late September 2024 so there were only just over 3 months when all river pegs were accessible. Our thanks go to Alan's Tackle and Worcester Angling Centre for continuing to sell memberships and day tickets for the Teme.

Rents for Wards Pool and the Teme were negotiated lower for the 2024-25 season 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 cover. The major additional expenditure this year was to cover stocking of some tench into Wards Pool in late January.

The audit of accounts was carried out on 18th March 2025 by Leon Elsworth and Peter Houlding.

AOB:

Approval to re-appoint James Sarkar as club bailiff.

Meeting closed (7.55pm).