

Fish Legal Annual General Meeting 2017

10:20 Saturday 18th November 2017

West Midlands Golf Club & The Lake at Barston, Marsh House Farm Lane, Solihull, B92 0LB

In Attendance for Fish Legal:

Dick Vincent – Chairman and Committee Member
Mark Lloyd – Chief Executive and Committee Member
George Stephenson – Committee Member
George Graham – Committee Member
Georgina Miller – Company Secretary
Roland Caley – Chief Operating Officer
Penny Gane – Fish Legal Practice Manager

In attendance – FL member Clubs:

Barbel Society	Chris Jones
Nottingham Anglers	Ian Wilks
Nottingham Piscatorial Soc	Dale Whittaker
Tring Anglers	Dick Pilkington
British Carp Study Group	Anthony Preston
South Cerney Angling Club	Craig Hunt

In attendance – Other member organisations:

Get Hooked on Fishing	Sarah Collins
Thames Forum and CRT	John Ellis

In attendance – Individual Members:

Dick Vincent	Mark Lloyd	George Stephenson
Peter Fieldhouse	Sarah Collins	George Graham
Mark Wilton	Peter Cobb	Brian Owen
John Ellis	Tim McPherson	Steve Clamp
Dick Pilkington	Martin Bobbett	Neil Berry
Philip Chamberlain	Colin Mencave	Gary Wright
Roland Caley	Chris Jones	Ian Wilks
Dale Whittaker	Kelvin Allen	Steve Bowyer
James Champkin	Clive Copeland	John Flood
Dave Harper	Peter Neal	Mark Owen
Yvonne Webb	Maria Alvey	Tony Bostock
Anthony Preston	John Cheyne	Craig Hunt
Martin Salter	Martin Walker	Dennis Hunt

Proxies: All voting papers were collected prior to the commencement of the meeting. The total votes cast by individuals and clubs was 622.

Welcome from the Chairman:

Welcome: And thank you for attending this Fish Legal AGM. As there are (number-GM to provide on the day) members present and the required number under the FL Rules is 5 to be quorate I declare that the meeting is quorate.

First may I introduce myself, Dick Vincent as Chair of Fish Legal, the other members of the FL Committee present today are Mark Lloyd our CEO, Roland Caley our Treasurer and Penny Gane our Practice Manager.

Chairman's Address

Before moving on to the other formal parts of today's agenda, I would like to say a few words about our activities from the Chair's perspective.

Our mission remains unchanged, it is to protect the water environment, to fight for your fishing rights and to seek compensation for any damage to these.

Over the five years since taking on the role as your Chair I have been particularly focussed on working with the team to maintain very high standards of service to members, on clarifying and building our successful relationship with the Angling Trust and on growing the fighting fund-all of which enables our small association to take on some of the biggest organisations in the country, and win.

I trust that this focus continues to meet your wishes for FL. As we'll hear in more detail from Mark and Penny, we continue to build momentum and achieve some notable successes against these goals.

Over the past year we increased membership income, thank you. Our tenacious legal team successfully concluded a number of legal cases on behalf of our members and provided advice and support to members on a wide range of legal issues. We also fought to final appeal a landmark case which resulted in the defendants making substantial investment to ensure improvements to the related water quality even though our final appeal was technically unsuccessful.

Your legal team continues to be supported, as ever, by the Fish Legal, Legal Advisory Committee, that group of very senior legal litigation and environmental professionals who, out of their passion for our mission at Fish Legal, give an incredible amount of their very valuable time for free to provide top quality advice and guidance to our team on behalf of you our members and it really helps give us the edge at the sharp end. Their commitment and guidance is hugely appreciated. Thank You to the members of the LAC on behalf of all members.

Your Committee has met on over the past year to oversee the activities of the organisation, receiving formal reports from the legal team and the Executive team. We received a formal presentation by Investec, the investment managers to the fighting fund, on the performance and status of the fund, which looks in good shape, helped this year by the strength of the markets over that period. Throughout the year your Committee has also provided support and guidance to the Executive team as well as keeping in touch with the legal team and providing support to them as necessary.

So, on all our Members' behalf, I'd like to thank the members of the FL Committee, including your CEO Mark Lloyd, and in particular the team of lawyers and administrative staff who have served Fish Legal so well over the past year for their great efforts and success.

I will mention in this regard Andrew Wallace, who after a number of years service on the Fish Legal Committee has recently stepped down from the FL Committee as he takes up a major role as Fisheries Director at The Fishmongers Livery Company. I would like to say on all our behalf a special thank you to Andrew for his

excellent contribution over the past years. Andrew was instrumental in extending the work of Fish Legal back into Scotland and his wise counsel has been invaluable to the Committee and our Chief Executive.

I am delighted that all other members of the Committee, including those appointed by co-option during the year, have indicated their willingness to continue to serve and a motion to reappoint them will be made shortly in this meeting.

I'd also like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the value of the ongoing relationship we have with AT. Our collaboration with AT over the past year has continued to flourish to mutual benefit and I will be seeking your approval for some further related necessary changes to the Fish Legal Rules to ensure we continue to meet the independence requirements of the legal authorities.

The financial outcome for the past year was pretty good. However, the demand from you our members for the services of our legal team continues to grow and the cost of conducting cases for members continues to increase. This continues to put substantial pressure on the costs of delivering those services which you are seeking from FL.

So please continue to be generous, and please get your club members, or the rods who fish your waters to join us as individual members or buy raffle tickets, or make a donation to our cause. We need more individuals to support us and AT if we are to avoid the need to increase club and fishery subscriptions markedly in future. As you will hear from Mark and the team in the next section of the meeting, the challenges to protect what we love are great. But with your support we can preserve what we have treasured since our childhood for subsequent generations.

Approval of minutes of prior year's AGM-Members received draft minutes as part of the notice of this meeting and a copy of these are tabled before the meeting here for approval today. Proposer – George Graham, seconder – Neil Berry. Motion Carried.

Election of Officers

Other than myself, all present members of the FL Committee and the Treasurer have indicated their willingness to continue in office. They are as set out in the notice of meeting: Jim Glasspool, Tim Goode, George Graham, Mike Heylin OBE, William Howarth, Mark Lloyd, Andrew Nathan, George Stephenson, Phil Chamberlain, Jonathan Swan and Paul Stafford.

We have had a large number of votes in favour of the following appointments, and so it was proposed that we address the election of officers en bloc. There was no opposition to this.

Proposal to elect all the Fish Legal Committee Members:

Proposer – Chris Jones, Secunder – Steve Bowyer. Motion carried.

Also for the appointment of Roland Caley as Treasurer:

Proposer – Peter Neale, Secunder – George Graham. Motion Carried

I will be stepping down as your Chair at the conclusion of this meeting, and I am delighted to be able to inform you that, at the invitation of the Committee, your Committee member, George Graham has agreed to succeed me in that role. Besides being a passionate and very experienced angler, George has great experience of leadership and governance, and will provide a very steady hand at the FL tiller. In wishing George well in that new role, I thank you for the wonderful support you have all given me over the past 5 years or so and ask you to afford George the same level of support as he steps up to that role.

Adoption of audited accounts

The annual accounts of Fish Legal for the year ended 31 March 2017 together with the auditor's report thereon have been laid before the meeting.

Before I ask for the proposer to propose the motion to adopt these accounts are there any questions on these?

No questions were raised about the accounts. Adoption of the accounts was proposed by George Graham and seconded by Steve Bowyer. Motion carried

Appointment of auditors

I would like to thank our current auditors Adkin Sinclair for the excellent service they have provided over the past year.

I therefore ask for a proposer to adopt the motion for the re-appointment of as auditors of Fish Legal for the coming year. Proposed Peter Neale, Seconded George Graham. Motion carried

Adoption of new Fish Legal Rules

We are proposing a few changes to the FL Rules, to ensure we continue to operate in compliance with legal requirements. These changes have been reviewed and approved by the legal team, the LAC and your Committee and are as set out on the FL website and in the notice of this meeting.

Are there any questions on these? No questions were raised

Proposed by Anthony Preston, Seconded by Peter Neale. Motion carried

AOB

I have received no prior notification of any other business

That concludes this meeting. Thank you very much for coming and for helping us with the formal business.

George Stephenson thanked Dick Vincent for all the time and energy he has given to Fish Legal over the past 5 years.

Meeting closed at 10:40 and was followed by a presentation and questions by the Executive team