



English Police Fly Fishing Association

**Annual General Meeting
Castle Inn,
Main Street, Caldecott, Market Harborough,
Leicestershire,
Wednesday 24th April 2013**

Minutes

1. **Apologies**

Chris Taylor (Web Site Co-ordinator), Doug Skins (AMFC rep), Tim Ashman (Region 8), Steve Evans (Region 7), Brian Beattie (Region 5), Ian Wood (Region 1) & Roy Blackman (Region 6)

2. **Persons Present**

John Comer (Chairman), Iain Fraser (Vice Chair), Martin Baker (Hon.Vice Chair), Malcolm Naylor (Secretary), Calum Fraser (Police Sport UK Sec. to record Minutes), Henryk Pycz (Treasurer), Julian Laybourn (Region 3), Steve Owen (Region 4), Nigel Rabbitts (Region 7(*elect*)), Dave Summers, Mark Matheson, Bob Neale, Martin Barrett, Chris Webster

3. **Election of Officials**

J.Comer informed persons present that following the Extra Ordinary Meeting in London at the beginning of April, questions had been raised in respect of election of the committee. He went on to inform members present that any change in the election of Office Bearers would involve a change in the constitution of the English Police Fly Fishing Association. He intimated that members had informed him that they were not looking for a change and that he was prepared to stay in post.

I.Fraser stated that from his understanding, the Chair stood down after 2 years and the Vice Chair took on the role of Chair.

N.Rabbitts stated that any change in the Constitution would lead to the suspension of the current constitution, whilst a draft was being prepared.

The English Police Fly Fishing Association Constitution was then circulated to members present for examination. Considerable debate and discussion was had by members present around meaning of the words written in section 4:1:1.

M.Baker finally stated the points raised really relate to when he held office for the first 2 years and following the constitution he stood down and the then Vice Chair took over as Chair. Thereafter the Office bearers had been elected on a yearly basis as recorded in the minutes.

This was acknowledged by members present.

J.Comer thereafter stated that the current constitution was correct and valid, which was accepted by all.

Then followed the election of office bearers:

Chair : John Comer proposed S.Owen second M.Mathieson

Iain Fraser proposed B.Neale Second M.Naylor

Vote J.Comer (6) I. Fraser (2) Abstentions (5)

John Comer elected as Chair of the English Police Fly Fishing Association

Vice Chair : Doug Skins proposed D.Summers second J.Laybourn

Iain Fraser proposed B.Neale Second M.Naylor

Vote D.Skins (5) I. Fraser (4) Abstentions (4)

Doug Skins elected as Vice Chair of the English Police Fly Fishing Association

Secretary : Malcolm Naylor proposed I.Fraser second B.Neale

No other nominations

Malcom Naylor elected as Secretary of the English Police Fly Fishing Association

Treasurers : Henryk Pycz proposed I.Fraser second B.Neale

No other nominations

Henryk Pycz elected as Treasurer of the English Police Fly Fishing Association

D.Summers intimated to members present that I.Fraser had done and is doing an excellent job raising funds for the association and that this should be recognised by the committee. This was acknowledged by all present and after a short discussion it was proposed by H.Pycz that a role of Promotions Co-ordinator should be created and an individual elected onto the committee.

Proposed by H.Pycz seconded by N.Rabbitts. Unanimously accepted

I.Fraser graciously accepted the new role

M.Naylor tasked to amend the constitution to embrace this position

All eight (8) Police Sport UK Regional Secretaries of England would continue to make up the rest of the committee for the English Police Fly Fishing Association.

J.Comer thereafter continued with the meeting in his role as Chair

4. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 27 April 2012 to be agreed

M.Naylor read through minutes to members present.
Minutes proposed by H.Pycz seconded by J.Comer

5. Matters Arising

None

6. Minutes of the Meetings held on 12th September 2012 & Minutes of Extraordinary Meeting 5th April 2013

M.Naylor read over minutes of both meetings to members present.
Minutes proposed by M.Baker seconded by J.Comer

7. Matters Arising

None

8. Chairman's Report

J.Comer stated it had been another successful year for anglers within the Association, England had won the Home International at Brenig, but at that time some teething and administration problems had arisen, which were embarrassing for the association however this was being addressed for future events.

He paid tribute to Malcolm Naylor who had had a difficult time recently with his health, but was delighted to see him at the meeting. He thanked Henryk Pycz for his work as Treasurer and Iain Fraser for his fund raising which had ensured the association was in such a healthy state. He thanked members for their support over the year looked forward to another year as role as Chair.

9. Secretary's Report

M.Naylor produced a written Report, detailing the events and activities of the English Police Fly Fishing Association. It commenced with the successful, though cold and wet trip to Blithfield Reservoir on the 27th April, for the English Boat competition which was won by K.Browne (Norfolk).

The success by Cheshire at the Police Sport UK National at the Lake of Menteith, the learning achieved at River Championship on the Dee at Llangollen, N.Wales and success at Brenig Reservoir in September 2012 for the Home International. It touched on the highs and lows throughout the season, the error in respect of a qualifying individual wrongly sent home from the Home International. Malcolm concluded by paying tribute to Mike Wellman who passed away after a long fight against cancer.

He thereafter submitted his report to the committee, who he thanked for all their support.

10. Treasurer's Report

H. Pycz offered his apologies to all present that he did not have the relevant paperwork at hand in respect of the accounts. However he stated that the accounts were looking exceptionally healthy, with a current balance of £2462.05 in the account.

H.Pycz intimated that he had some cheques that were still pending (both debit and credit) and he had expenses to pay I.Fraser (£80.90), but taking all into consideration the the account would still be in credit to the sum of £2400.00. He concluded by stating that Iain Fraser should be thanked for his efforts in raising the majority of the funds the association had banked.

11. EPFFA Website

D.Summers opened the discussion by stating that he was disappointed with the lack of information that is circulated by the Association to the membership. He then gave a brief insight as to what members could expect from a properly run Web site and the efforts he had made on behalf of the association by enquiry with an individual prepared to develop a Web site for the organisation.

This evoked considerable discussion by members present, around cost, purpose, security, access and facility but concluded with D.Summers prepared to carry out further enquiries with contacts he had made. To ascertain costings from those individuals in the business of making and opening a web site and report back to the associations.

D.Summer make enquiry and report to Secretary/Treasurer

12. Qualification for England Teams

J.Comer intimated that the introduction of this topic to committee would create considerable debate and called for a 5 minute recess.

M.Naylor on opening the discussion gave account of the current qualification procedure for the England team and reasoning behind its introduction. Several comments were made by members present declaring dissatisfaction from their Regional membership and disappointment as to how it appeared to have been introduced. M.Naylor countered stating that the changes had been on the table at Police Sport UK level for 18 months and agreed at a meeting the previous year by members of the English Association that had attended the meeting at Greetham Valley.

D.Summers stated on examination of the current selection process and listening to opinions the association had two choices (i) The English Boat is a match where individuals can fish and the top 14 qualify for England or (ii) Anglers fishing the National Individual Competition thus appeasing the regions where anglers had qualified through their Regional Heat. D.Summer concluded that having given considerable thought to the selection process he would opt for the English Boat match to select the competitors for the England team.

J.Laybourn added that although D.Summers had touched on the second choice, he had not fully given all reasons why this option would be the best placed to select a team from England. J.Laybourn thereafter relayed the reasons why opting for the section of an England team from Individual Competition at the National Championships would be best suited. He stated these are best anglers that would be select for the England team, no additional finance, an extra match, cost of travel/accommodation for all anglers, the risk of devaluing the Regional matches at local level.

After discussion around the table with individuals expressing an opinion, but no clear majority coming to the fore. J.Comer asked D.Summer to propose his option. D.Summer asked the committee to adopt the **English Boat Championship** held in the April of each year to become the England Qualifier and selection for the England team of 14 and reserves and replacements to follow 15th, 16th and so on. This was seconded by M.Barrett.

J.Laybourn made a counter proposal where the current selection of 2 Individuals from each Region which is currently in place remains and from the sixteen English anglers that fish the **Individual Competition** at the Police Sport UK National Championships the top fourteen qualify for the England team and the 15th & 16th placed anglers are reserves. This was seconded by S.Owen.

J.Comer thereafter invited members present to vote.

Result: English Boat Championship (8) Individual Competition (3) Abstentions (2)

The process of the England team was thereafter declared. D.Summer asked the committee to give consideration in respect of time.

Anglers who fished and qualified in April would be expected to fish in September, that although this couldn't be changed this year, but in 2014 the anglers who qualify in that match are the anglers who would be expected to fish that September, but also in 2015 at the European, thus people know well in advance that they may have additional expenditure rather than qualifying at the end of April that in four months they have another match that could cost them more money.

Agreed by all members present.

13. Constitution and Rules

J.Comer stated that the Constitution had been discussed at length at the opening of the meeting and the rules mirror those currently adopted by the Police Sport UK Fly Fishing Section. He asked Malcolm Naylor to look at the rules, qualification and ensure that any amendments, proposed changes, including the appointment of Iain Fraser in his new role in the association are shown in the constitution.

M.Naylor to ensure Constitution is current and correct.

14. European Championships - 6th-9th May 2013 – Rutland

C.Fraser who was present at the meeting to note minutes was invited to provide a brief update.

The committee were informed of the anticipated schedule of events, from the Opening Ceremony, (M.Naylor confirmed Rutland Morris Dancers would be attending) to the final dinner. Numbers five teams of eight (8) with a dozen officials/guests also participating over the week, medal and trophies arranged, fishing and accommodation all booked, with I.Fraser organising a raffle on the final night. The cost should be in budget, but would not be a money maker.

15. Rivers Competitions 2013

M.Naylor gave a brief resume on the qualifying match and competitors for this event. He intimated that he hoped the England team would be better placed in the 2013 championship after winning the wooded fish in 2012.

M.Naylor stated there had been considerable interest in the River Championship and as an event it would have long future. He stated that cost of running the event during the trout season was proving difficult but he may be able to reduce the cost albeit still for grayling by moving the event to the River Eden in Cumbria.

A little discussion followed about the merits of fishing during the season for trout, but it was acknowledged that cost was a big inhibitor if a competition was arranged on a reasonable venue during the trout season.

16. Other Events

I.Fraser has members present to give consideration for the Association to participate in a Help4Hero's type event. After some discussion it appeared that members present weren't keen in the Association participating in such event. I.Fraser re-iterated his belief that it would be good for the association and cost would be minimal. In conclusion members of the association elected not to participate in the event at this time.

H.Pycz raised a motion on behalf of the newly elected Vice Chair; Doug Skins, who currently runs the England team in the Major League advising the committee that he seeking additional funds for competitors participating in this event. The motion was discussed by members present who agreed the current financial support given to anglers involved in the Major League would remain at the status quo, but no additional money would made available this year.

17. Correspondence: Letter(s)

None

18. Any Other Competent Business

None

19. Date of next Meeting

No date fixed, members to be advised by Secretary.