

2017 AGM Minutes

**Luckfield Lake:
'Exciting News'
(Please read)**

***ALL existing waters retained for
the 2017/18 club year***



@DDASNews



Dorchester & District Angling Society



Minutes of the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM)

held on

6TH April 2017 at the WAS HQ, Weymouth

1. **Attendance** - A total of **61** members attended the meeting.
2. **Apologies** - Apologies were received from: Mr B Lucy, D Fyffe, A Watson, P Nolson, S Roberts, B Crosby, D Gibbs, R Sears, P Wyatt, P James, G Blackmun, D Fyffe, P Siddons, A Miller, A Tattersall and S Waring.
3. **Minutes of the AGM 2016** - The minutes of the 2016 AGM, previously circulated, were confirmed with no matters arising. They were accepted by the members present and signed by the Chairman.
4. **President's Address** - Mr John Smith opened the event by welcoming everyone to what was our special anniversary 70th AGM.

John said: Good evening everyone, nice to see you all. First of all I'd like to thank Weymouth Angling Society (WAS) for making their clubhouse available to us again, we really do appreciate it. Well, here we are, 70 yrs old and still going strong, so happy birthday DDAS! I don't want to say anything about the year we've had because the chairman will be reporting on that in a minute. I'm pretty sure there are no surviving members who joined in 1947, but there are quite a few who can go back 60 yrs or so, some of whom are here tonight. I joined with Mike Park in 1962 so we've done 55 yrs, but people like Stan Strange, Eric Smith, Bill Lucy, Derek Pride, Dave Moxom, Eric Sherwood, Ted Flatters & Keith McIntyre who are still with the society were members well before us. So well done chaps, what an achievement and what loyalty. Over the years I've been a committee member, club secretary and even match sec' so I know there were times when the society was struggling to make ends meet and times when unless you paid your subscription at the AGM you wouldn't get in because there was a fixed membership.



We've come a very long way from 10 members in 1947 to the 500+ today. The credit for that goes to generations of dedicated committees who have worked so hard to run the club professionally and kept it moving forward and to the hundreds of anglers who became members and have always treated our waters with great respect. The bottom line, however, is we all go fishing to catch fish. I know that tackle has improved, techniques have got better but over the 70 yrs catches have improved, weights have increased and now more and more anglers want to fish our waters.

When the society started in 1947, 70 was a pensionable age, if you got to 70, you were old..70 yrs is still a landmark but now it's seen as a starter for 10 to many good years to come. So for those of us who have already got there, my advice is 'use your time wisely and go fishing'. Those of us who haven't got there yet..you will in time...so like the oldies; 'please keep fishing', hopefully with DDAS. And while I dream about the big one that doesn't get away...let's get on with the AGM.

5. **Chairman's Report** - The Chairman, Mr Mark Sims, thanked John for his opening statement, welcomed the members present to the this, our very special 70th DDAS AGM and thanked them for making the effort to attend. He reported:

Once again a very warm welcome to this my review of the 2016/17 season, it's wonderful to see so many familiar faces and old friends so here we are again another year passed and so much to report.

A very special year in that we are celebrating a very special birthday. 2017 sees us embarking on our Platinum anniversary, 70 years of Coarse fishing in Dorset... What an achievement! This has only been possible through the hard work and dedication of the various committees over many years, however, it's not just time, effort and dedication these guys bring to the party. Many of the Life members have generously given us significant donations towards a very exciting project that I will tell you about later in my review that will both allow us to celebrate in style and secure the club's future.



Before I move on from the generosity of our membership, I would like to thank you all for YOUR kind donations to our chosen charity 'Project Linus'. We again held the Annual Charity Carp competition, this time at Coking Farm, where 9 anglers fought out a 24 hrs match and, despite some very tricky cold conditions, the event was won by Russell on peg 46 with 55lb, but the real winners were are charity who bagged a further £50, including this year's donation, we have given them almost £3000 in recent years. A wonderful commitment to a wonderful charity from a wonderful club, thank you.

This year it all changes, we need to go back to the old "charity begins at home" but as I said earlier, more on that in a moment.

Let me start by talking about our Facebook page & club website. For those who regularly follow our online media pages you will know what a great source of news and information they are. For those of you who are still a little unsure, I recommend you get on it and have a look, there is always plenty to see from catch reports and working parties to news, pics and reviews. Don't forget to email your pics to the sec for the website and post direct to the Facebook page yourself if you have 'liked' us.



Dorchester & District Angling Society

Kingcombe Lodge Lake & 2 Island Lake

Lodge Lake is still our all access water, as popular as ever and as weedy as ever! We have another one of Andrea's famous cooked breakfast working parties booked for Friday the 26th of May to try and remove another load of weed. We removed nearly 10 ton last year, all this just a few days before our regular annual event in conjunction with the Masons charity event for disabled kids. Always a fantastic day and one that we could do a hand with so if you think you could spare an hour or two please contact the Sec.



Please Note: The lake will be closed to members from Friday 26th May until Monday 29nd May as it is rented out to a group of anglers who stay in the lodge that

weekend (they help us clear the weed too!).

We have also retained the shared access to the '2 island lake' again this year.. more for the fitter members but very much worth the effort, some proper lumps in there still.

Subscriptions brief

At this time last year you gave me your support to increase annual subscriptions by an average of £3, this, as it turned out, proved to be bit of an own goal as it made your membership sec and tackle shop owners lives very complicated, messing around with lots of change and making what was a simple process more complicated. You may remember that I gave you a few reasons for the increase, among those where:

1. All printing costs for the past 15 yrs have been FREE of charge, this included; 600 membership books, 280 AGM agenda letters (non-email) and 550 AGM minutes/application forms. This saved the club over £1000 per year. We now need to pay for the majority of this, (your secretary no longer works where they were able to be produced, collated and bound).
2. Our public liability insurance and membership of the Angling Trust/Fish Legal has gone up by £400 as we now have 500+ members.

3. We have added 4 more waters in the years following the last (2010) subs increase.
4. Our water rents on average increase by around 3% per year, that itself adds up to a fair amount.

Some may point out that we no longer have Wally'swell...the water rent increases we incurred last year where almost equal to the rent we paid for Wally's! We hope that answers things for you. I will be asking for your vote again for another small increase this year, the main reason for which will become apparent shortly.

The Western Front

Potwell Lake, a great little venue, wonderful fishing and what a lovely landlady we have there. It always throws up good weights at the committee match, a little way out for the Weymouth/Dorchester guys and those on the east of the patch but well worth the trip. As is the picturesque Washingpool Farm, maybe not the most prolific water on the books but a beautiful place to spend a day.



Sharnhill Complex

Every year I say much the same thing, it's a lovely place to be, the fishing can be fantastic, access to upper Sharnhill is brilliant and lower is more of a challenge! But really worth the effort as I proved with my youngest son Jack in the Autumn of 2016, under the watchful eye of your sec, he had a great time and bagged a few lovely little carp.



Your membership sec' Whisky often gets down there with the strimmer and mower in the drier months, so if you haven't taken the time to get down there you really should, just to see his handy-work. I mentioned earlier about our Facebook & DDAS Website, again I would urge you all to let us have pics, reviews or feedback particularly for those waters slightly out of the way so we can really assess if we are getting value for money from them.

Please Note: There are plans in place to carry out some extensive fringe lilly removal from lower lake in the next few

months. You may find that the water level has been dropped around the edges, not to worry though, there is still 8ft of water in the middle pool...and ALL the fish will be in there, they will have no choice. Details of dates will be published as soon as known.

The Dorset Stour

Haywards bridge at Shillingstone & Hanford Farm are first class, even in the height of summer, pack light, stay mobile, take some bread and you will catch plenty. As Gary Biles proved back in the late summer with a brace of 5lb Chub, plenty more I'm sure, but not reported on.

Good reports of nice roach, dace and perch bags too. Whilst on the subject of the Stour, I would like to put on record our thanks to Jason White and his brother for their bailiff duties and all the work they do in preparing swims and clearing trees. Further work is planned for later in the summer. With Haywards bridge works now finished access is back as it should be, I for one will be looking to get down there on the glorious 16th June.



The Glorious River Frome

An interesting season on the Frome this year, not the most prolific year and certainly not the best conditions but still good tales of big ladies coming out both from Wool and Worgret, such as the 3lb 7oz beauty caught by Mr. Neil Maidment, lovely fish. Last year we put together the "Grayling guidelines" which I hope you found useful. I know many of our "Grayling hunters" only join with half year memberships for the fishing on the Frome which is great, thank you, but please be aware that you may need to consider joining earlier this year with a full year membership to guarantee your ticket, we are seriously considering limiting membership numbers this year in order that the full 12



month members get to enjoy the freedom that they are entitled to after supporting us all year. Still excellent value I'm sure you will agree (some stretches of the Frome in the area charge £20+ PER DAY!!!).

Revels Fishery

Surely the centre of the clubs match scene, loads of water and jam packed with fish and most of it free to the membership! Supported by the owner; Jason Fricker and his team: Dean & Eddie, we really are fortunate to have them on our side, each and every year they support us with the Christmas match and this year was no exception, always keen to do a deal in the shop, a massive thank you to them! On that subject, I would urge you all to support ALL our local shops, they are always there for us when we need them for the bits and bobs, so please give them the chance to price match the bigger ticket items too.. they very often can, if they go, you won't get your maggots from EBay!



Harbour Bridge Lakes

Jim's continues to be at the centre of the Weymouth scene, still a bit sticky & bumpy at the moment but you know Jim, he has a plan for that which involves some large machinery, including a roller. I'm sure if anyone can get it sorted it's him! We have plans to do some work there as soon as it dries out, for which we will need a few extra hands, so please keep an eye on the website/Facebook page and lend us a hand when the call comes.



Whilst on the subject of Jim, I would like to put on record our sincere thanks for all he has done for the club this year, he has been at the heart of many projects and working parties for the club. He has been to Luckfield Lake almost every morning since well before xmas to ensure the blinking cormorants don't have a feast on our valuable stock (shooooing them away of course!) so with that in mind, I am delighted to be able to announce that he is this year's winner of the "clubman of the year" award. Thank you Jim.

Membership Report

The Membership secretary, Mr Paul 'Whisky' Haigh briefed members present on the total membership numbers for the 2016/17 club year, where they were purchased (the majority being direct through him). He also briefly explained the Exchange book set-up with other local clubs, Guest ticket set-up & the £1 increase in cost this year (details of both in your handbook) & that the system seemed to be working well, therefore it will continue in the same way for the foreseeable future. He again, politely asks members that when renewing (hopefully) memberships this year, that the application form is completed as **clear as possible**, especially E-mail address, this will ensure ALL members will receive what could be very important information when required, and will also keep postage costs to an absolute minimum.



Luckfield Lake

As with every year Luckfield Lake sucked time, money and resources: working parties, Microchalk treatment, lane repairs, new fences, aerator electric costs and most recently the removal of one or two TINY LITTLE SNAGS and the replacement of the rickety walkway between pegs 1 and 10. A fine job and huge thanks to those guys that are always ready to jump in and help (you know how you are)



.....But as you may well know, all the hard work and costs is paying off. The Dissolved Oxygen levels are now constantly between 88% & 99% (there was a period when it was 35%, not good). The catch

rates have massively improved.

The tench seem to be really coming along nicely (5lb+) as are the carp (21lb+) even the mythical giant eel (4.7lb) has turned up again, Perch (2lb+) and a few proper Bream too (3lb 8oz).

Due to the resident Cormorant population, we found it necessary to restock the devastated roach stock, fortunately, we were offered some very cheap roach by our friends at



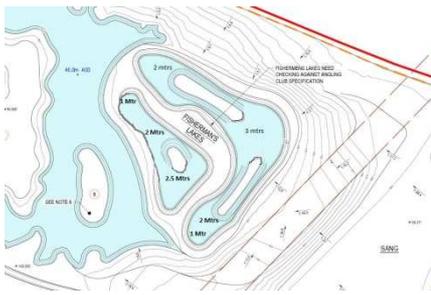
Emperor Lakes in Devon provided we could catch and transport them! FM applied for and granted, time to crack on! Again, massive thanks to those who helped, there is now an additional 600lb+ of roach up to 2lb in our little gem of a lake. The boilies ban has now been lifted so please feel free to feed (sensibly)... I would request that only premium brands such as CC Moore, Mainline, Nash etc. are used as they have great quality ingredients, not like that poor Lidl/Aldi stuff that takes weeks to break down, not good for the lake & fish!



Heath Lake & the Future

Over to your Secretary and newly appointed Estate Manager of the Silverlake development at Warmwell (where Heath Lake is situated), Steve Sudworth:

Steve reported on the great fishing at Heath lake as always, very much worth the walk down there as you are always guaranteed to snare a few good carp & hopefully the odd 4lb Perch that lurk in the shadows (corners). He continued by reporting on the planned lake move to the top end of the site in the not too distant future, very difficult to say exactly when, but it will still be at least 12 months away. Steve showed members present an image of the proposed plans for the new lake(s) & a photograph of how it looks now. The main thing is... It will be a very short walk from the car



park to the lake (coming in off the road between Crossways & West Knighton....red line in the image included).

The Big News

So... to the fantastic news I referred to earlier. Over the last few years at this time I have reported your committee & club's desire for us to own a lake so we can secure the club's future and leave a legacy for our children.

Shortly after last year's AGM minutes were posted to members, one of our landlords approached the club secretary suggesting that he may be interested in selling us his lake at some time in the future as and when the time was right for both the club and himself. When the sec reported back to the committee it was overwhelming agreed that we should suggest to the landlord we would be keen to proceed with initial investigations asap and look to get an agreement sooner rather than later. With agreement from the landlord, we commissioned an independent valuation through a contact in the Angling Trust,long story short, we agreed boundaries and a selling price and are looking to complete the sale in the next two weeks.

You won't be surprised to learn this purchase will take almost every penny we have in the bank but we believe we needed to take this opportunity whilst it was available. With that in mind, I suggested earlier that "Charity begins at home". This year there is a strong possibility that we may be facing a cash flow problem and may need to pay one or two of our water rents a little late this year as we will not have any funds in the bank as we start the new season due to the purchase.

Because of this, I would urge you to PLEASE JOIN EARLY. You will also see on the membership form there is a new line for you to add a donation OF ANY AMOUNT to your membership which we will use ONLY towards the purchase of the lake!

I know you will have many questions which we will take shortly, one of which will be which lake? I am delighted to announce that it is our beloved "Luckfield Lake" in Broadmayne, Dorchester. I would like to put on record the club's sincere thanks to all the people who have made this possible, especially your Secretary, Steve Sudworth who has worked tirelessly on this for the past 8 months and also our landlord Mr Jeremy Cater for giving us this opportunity. Fantastic news I'm sure you will agree (massive round of applause from the floor received).



All that remains is the usual round up of thank you to:WAS for the kind use of their club, bar & facilities. To the local tackle shops: Dorchester Angling (Ali's), Revels & Alan's Angling for looking after our Dorchester based members. WAC and Chesil Bait n' Tackle in Weymouth, Deano in Purbeck Angling and of course The Angling centre over in West Bay. Also our good friends at CCMoore, all of which support our members and the club alike...THANK YOU.

As for your committee, as ever, I am sure you will join me in thanking them for their continued commitment and support, without them all, none of this could happen. In particular I would like to thank our Vice Chairman, Chris Watson who has done a fantastic job this year to deputise for me at committee meetings in my absence due to work commitments.

Once again...Thank you and tight lines in the 2017/18 club year!

7. **Treasurer's report & Statement of Accounts** - The Treasurer, Mr David Tattersall submitted the accounts for the year ending 31 March 2017 which showed a reasonable profit despite the additional outlay for various reasons. David outlined the accounts including the new & increased cost of rents for all our waters (*a copy of the accounts is available to current members on request*).

8. **Verification of Accounts** - The Annual Accounts for the year ending 31 March 2017 were verified and signed by Mr Robbie Roberts on 23rd March 2017 and were formally approved by the meeting without amendment.

9. **Motions from the Retiring Committee** - The following resolutions were approved without amendment:

- i. That subscriptions for the year 2017/18 shall be increased for obvious reasons (stated previously). It was voted yes by unanimous decision from the floor, that the membership costs shall be:

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|---|---|
| Adult membership | £55 |
| Adults & Partner (both-anglers) | £80 |
| Adults & Partner (non-angling partner) | £60 |
| Senior Citizen (65yrs+) (in line with rod licence) | £35 (& Spouse/Partner - £45) |
| Disabled Person (proof required) | £35 |
| Juniors (over 14yrs & under 18yrs) | £20 |
| Primary (10yrs to 13yrs inclusive) | £10 |
| Part Year Adult membership | £TBD |

- ii. That a new 'Declaration of Trust' be included in the Society Constitution, this is required due to the society now owning its own lake. It was voted yes by unanimous decision from the floor.

10. **Society Appointments** - Having been duly proposed and seconded, the following appointments were made:

President Mr Edward (Ted) Flatters.

Vice-Presidents Mr John Smith, Mr Bill Lucy, Mr Derek Pride, Mr Mike Park, Mr David Tattersall, Mr John Parkes, Mr Stuart Murgatroyd, Mr Eric Sherwood BEM & Mr Stan Strange.

Officers

Chairman Mr Mark Sims

Vice-Chairman Mr Chris Watson

Secretary Mr Steve Sudworth

Treasurer Mr David Tattersall

Membership Secretary Mr Paul Haigh

Match Secretary Mr Mick Brown

Junior Secretary Mr Ritchie Holmes (*assisted by Mr Glenn Richards*)

Club Captain Mr Terry Dell

Committee

Mr Graham Howard (& Risk Management Officer)
Mr Dave Beadnell-Smith
Mr Andrew Foyle
Mr Tom Foyle
Mr Roger Fullbrook
Mr Tony Turner
Mt Andy Tattersall (& Carp Sec')

Trustees

Mr Dave Beadnell-Smith & Mr David Tattersall

11. **Appointment of Bank Signatures** - The bank signatures for the year 2017/18 shall be the Treasurer plus any one of three designated officers, account verifiers or trustees.
12. **Account Verifier** - Mr Robbie Roberts will continue in this post for the foreseeable future.

In recognition of 60yrs continued membership of DDAS, the committee awarded Mr David Moxom & Mr Keith McIntrye with a 'Life Membership' from this year onwards...congratulations!!!!

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.08pm.

Post Meeting Important Note:

Access & Parking changes at Heath Lake: The new main gates have been fitted, please enter the current DDAS code (Harbour Bridge No. on your members card until 31st May) to gain access, please ensure the gate closes behind you (automatic hopefully), same on the way out please. Also, until further notice, please park in the lay-by opposite the car park. This is due to the requirement to keep the access to the Bridleway clear for large delivery vehicles to get through to the new 'Silverlake' Village now that they have been occupied. Once the main road access around the back has been complete, the car park will hopefully re-open. **THANK YOU.**

Non AGM Notes/reminders:

- a) *Please remember to carry & show your membership card (when requested by ANY other club member) at all times, it is also a requirement at Revels Fishery that you sign the log in the tackle shop on arrival, this provides proof that you are the holder of the membership (comparison of signatures), no membership - no session. Exchange books & Guest tickets are not accepted at Revels.*
- b) *Sign In/Out Logs that are provided at most of our waters ARE TO BE COMPLETED ON ARRIVAL & DEPARTURE at all times, please do not leave it until you leave (as has been the case on many occasions this year) If you fall in, drown & sink to the bottom, at least we know where you are!*
- c) *The dates provided in the log at Luckfield are the only periods that members are allowed to fish 24 hour sessions on the lake, please abide by all the rules as stated on the notice boards or in your members handbook. Please Respect your fellow angler/member.*
- d) **Please take all your litter home. Leave only footprints!!**
- e) *The keepnet ban at Luckfield, Sharnhill Upper/Lower & Heath Lake remains in place until further notice, sorry. Their use at Kingcombe, Revels & Harbour Bridge is at the landlord/fishery owners discretion. They are allowed on the river Stour for 'Silver Fish Only'. Please remember to lay it out behind you for at least 45 minutes before putting it in the water (this helps to kill any bacteria on the net) and if it is very warm weather, we ask they are not used at all. Thank you.*

Tight Lines for the 2017/18 club year to you All.

2017/18 Membership Application form overleaf