**Barnet & District Angling Club**

The Annual General Meeting of Barnet & District Angling Club will be held on **Wednesday 9th April 2025** at **London Colney Community Centre, Caledon Road, London Colney, AL2 1PU.** Commencing 8-00pm.

**AGENDA**

1. **Minutes of 2024 A.G.M**
2. **Matters Arising**
3. **Adoption of Secretaries Report**
4. **Adoption of Treasurers Report**
5. **Retiring Chairman’s Address**
6. **Presidents Address**

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|  | **Nominee** | **Proposed by Seconded by** |  |
| **7. Election of Chairman** | **M. Saunders** | **Proposed by retiring Committee** |  |
| **8. Election of Hon. Secretary** | **P. Hutton** |  |  |
| **9. Election of Hom. Treasurer** | **C. Ruddle** |  |  |
| **10. Election of Vice Chairman** | **R. Drury** |  |  |
| **11. Election of General Committee** | **M. Barlow** | **Proposed by retiring Committee** |  |
|  | **R. Karasavvas** |  |  |
|  | **R. Manser** |  |  |
|  | **N. Pitt** |  |  |
|  | **D. Ruddle** |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |

 **12. Rule 8 Subscription Proposed by retiring committee**

 **Fees will be increased, as follows:**

**Senior will rise to £95,** **OAP will rise to £73, Disabled will rise to £73, Associate will rise to £70,**

**Junior will remain the same at £35.**

 **13. Shepherds Way Special Rules. All rule changes proposed by retiring committee:**

 **Rule (b) The use of keep nets are not allowed, unless organised by the club, club nets are only used for**

 **Matches and charged for use.**

 **14. Rule (d) Barbless hooks only maximum size 10. No main line over l0lb, no broken or bent hooks, no Carp**

 **Leader or heavy rigs.**

 **15. Rule (e) The following baits and methods are banned; fixed rigs, all floating baits on surface to include**

 **bread, (bread must be below minimum 12’’ of the surface) boilie, nuts, trout pellets.**

 **16. Rule (f) no guest tickets before October 1st or after 15th March**

 **17. Rule (i) Ground bait (limit one kilo) and carp pellets (limit half a kilo) are allowed, along with (worms,**

 **maggots, bread punch, wafters, mussels, sweetcorn, casters, paste, luncheon meat.)** NO OTHER BAITS

 **ALLOWED.**

 **18. Rule (j) No more than six members including juniors are allowed on any one night and must book via**

**Clubmate App.**

**19. New rule (o) All anglers must have a padded unhooking mat fit for the purpose and laid out ready for use.**

**20. New rule (p) No whipping of poles or rods on the surface water.**

**21. All members must take all their rubbish along with any discarded tackle with them at all times. If violated**

 **warnings will be given.**

**22. The toilet to be kept clean and tidy after use, door to be kept shut.**

**23. The gate to be locked at all times unless supervised.**

**24. No disposable barbecues are allowed at any time on all venue, only organised barbecues are allowed.**

**25. Club Rule 43 (a) At the start of all competition a starting and cease fishing time shall be announced, (If**

 **different from the fixture list)**, and stewards and **Scales Person** shall be appointed for the day.

**26 Club Rule 43 (d)** Before the starting time, no competitor may on any account feed the swim or disturb the

 water in anyway other than to wet ground bait, clear their fishing ground of weed or obstacles, position their

 keep net and rod rests, plumb the depth and shot their float provided that their hook is un-baited. **A swim**

 **feeder or a ledger weight may be cast before the starting signal for the purpose of range, location and**

 **depth finding but must be un-baited.**

**27 Club rule 43 (p) Matches should be booked in person with the club organiser or via Clubmate app. An**

 **exception to this rule will be made in respect of junior members where a senior member may book on**

 **their behalf. Where a match is not fully booked, a booking may be made by contacting the match organiser.**

**28 Club Rule 43 (r) Where a member books for a match and does not turn up without first notifying the**

 **organiser, they will not be refunded any peg fees paid. A warning on Clubmate will be issued against the**

 **angler’s profile if the offence occurs.**

**29 New Rule 43 (t)** **Any fish estimated with a weight around the 10lb mark or over must be weighed and returned**

 **immediately with a witness to verify the weight, also keepnets shall have a rough limit of 50lb per net**

 **maximum (anything over this weight would just be marked as 50lb),**

**30 Club Rule 43 (q)** Matches should be booked in person with the club organiser or via **Clubmate App**. An exception

 to this rule will be made in respect of junior members where a senior member may book on their behalf. Where a

 match is not fully booked, a booking may be made by contacting the match organiser.

**31 Club Rule (r)** Where a member books for a match and dose not turn up without first notifying the organiser, they

 will not be refunded any peg fees paid. A warning on **Clubmate** will be issued against the angler’s profile if the

 offence occurs.

 **Minutes of the Annual General Meeting**

 **For Barnet and District Angling Club**

**Held at London Colney Community Centre, Caledon Road, London Colney, AL2 1PU on the 10 April 2024.**

**In Attendance Absent with apologies**

M Saunders – Chairman R Mouratsing - President

R Drury – Vice Chairman P Hutton - Secretary

C Ruddle – Hon Treasurer N Pitt – Committee

D Ruddle - Committee A Hayes - Member

M Barlow – Committee A Palmer - Member

R Mansor – Committee

R Karasavvas – Committee

**Meeting commenced at 8.03pm**

**Chairman’s address:**

The chairman thanked all the members that attended (9). He also addressed the non-attendance of our President who is on holiday, our secretary who was unable to attend due to Family matters and Nigel Pitt due to work commitments.

The minutes of the 2023/2024 were revisited with some of the copies handed to the members in attendance, the chairman asked the floor if there were any questions, as there were no questions raised a show of hands approved the minutes and that they were a true reflect.

**Presidents Report**

The president has sent the following report as he was absent. He expressed his apologies for non-attendance and welcomed all to the 2024/5 AGM. He highlighted that the past fishing season and the progress on improving our fisheries, albeit frustratingly slow with some bureaucratic processes from various local authorities. He would like to thank the committee officers and their perseverance in achieving these goals. Special thanks to Paul Hutton, Mark Saunders, Christine Ruddle, committee members of the club that have contributed in one way or another. He can now fish a bit more comfortably this coming season at Lowbell and Shepherds Way without forgetting Dave and Stuart’s efforts at Sonning and Blunham respectively. Finally thanked all and looks forward in seeing you all on the bank enjoying our favourite pass time.

**Secretary’s report**

In view that the secretary was unable to attend he kindly provided his written report and detailed his appreciation and thanks to all members for their continued support to the club along with thanks to the bailiffs and committee members given their time generously. He also reported that it has been a difficult period due to the about of rain over the last few months which has resulted in floods in the rivers and lakes, Shepherds Way has had a significant amount of water and caused some swims to be unfishable. He addressed the issue of the trees at Shepherds Way which were a concern to the safety to our anglers, he confirmed that the trees on the North Bank of the lake will be reduced to 7ft stumps, this has caused inconvenience to the anglers as a section of the lake had to be closed off. Further it was confirmed that 10 new swims at Lowbell, London Colney had finished, this is phase 1of the work. Finally, the secretary address that projects are financed by club funds with living costs rising sharply over the last few years it has become increasingly challenging to balance the books we believe a slight increase in the membership fees this year. Finally, the secretary is wishing all our members an enjoyable season ahead. The secretary’s report was read and approved by a show of hands from members on the floor.

**Treasury report**:

In brief the following notes were in the treasurer’s report, at the end of the **2023/24** season a drop in membership from **453** to **427** a loss of **26** members as at **31.01.24.**

The treasurer also stressed that a great deal of expense in the region of **£16,587** had been made to Shepherds Way, by way of piling work carried out in order to stop the loss of water. An amount of **£2,477** was donated by members to help with the upkeep to Shepherds Way and thanks were expressed.

Renewal forms for the 2024/25 season, should be with all members by the end of April 24 by the latest. Going forward more work needs to be done this coming season on the fishery to cut down/remove dangerous trees also additional works at Neate’s Lake for the banks.

It is also noted that an increase in the membership fee would have to be applied and needs to be approved at this AGM. The increases were discussed an approved by a show of hands. Any members that have or will attend a work party before 15 June 2024 would not have to pay the £10 levy.

Finally work at Lowbell Lakes have started through the funds held from various donated monies of £11,198 which were held in the Lowbell account from the 2020/21 season. The treasury report was read out in full and the floor was asked if there were any questions, there being no questions a show of hands for approval was report was accepted.

**Chairman’s further address**

Next on the agenda is the re-election of the current committee, all the existing committee members are prepared to be re-elected,a show of hands was asked for approval, a unanimous approval by the floor was recorded and the re-election in its current committee format remains the same. The chairman thanked all the members. Furthermore, a requirement for an additional Trustee needed to be elected, Martin Barlow (committee member) kindly volunteered and was duly accepted by all.

The Chairman would also like to thank the vice- chairman Richard Drury, secretary Paul Hutton, treasurer Christine Ruddle and the rest of the committee for their support during the past year, he would also like to thank the committee members who have taken part in the numerous work at Shepherds Way, Blunham and Sonning, the chairman stressed he would like to see younger members coming forward to participate at the work parties during the coming months. There are further plans for more work at Shepherds Way to the banks, sluice trap and platforms for the coming year, but we do need help. He would also like to give special thanks to Dave Ruddle and Martin Barlow for all their hard work on the Clubmate system bringing BADAC into the 21st century. No chairman’s report would be complete without giving thanks to our fantastic bailiff’s Roger, Nigel and Ron at Shepherds Way and Stuart at Blunham, Kevin and Robby at Sonning.

**AOB**

Question from the floor with respect to the fixture list was raised as there appeared to be too many matches which now included Tuesday matches **(23)** in addition to the regular matches on Sundays. The floor and the committee felt that all these matches would have a detriment to the fish along with upsetting some of the members. It was agreed that alternative dates and venues should be considered. As the fixture list has yet to be published it was recommended that the fixture list should be revisited.

A discussion was had on member’s day outings to other Rivers and Lakes. This was received with interest but it was decided to wait until the revised fixture list had been completed and approved.

David Ruddle updated the floor on Lowbell and advised that 10 swims have now been completed from the Lowbell account, the funds came from the Environmental Agency and the Parish Council, further work to be done at Lowbell is to cater for the disabled with ramps/steps etc. There are also further work’s to be completed on the trees but not by Barnet and district Angling club.

Question from the floor “Why *are our membership fees so cheap*”? response:

We need to keep the membership fees to a reasonable level and attract more members as highlighted earlier, we have lost 27 members one way or another, but this will be reviewed as and when necessary. Christine informed the floor that donations from members are always welcomed and helps the clubs finances, we like to keep at least 2 years in reserve for unexpected costs.

Members can book a work party via clubmate so as the committee are aware of their attendance.

Although there were others questions from the floor these were more of information and not relevant for this report.

There being no further business the Chairmen thanked all the members and the committee for their attendance. The meeting closed at 9.25pm

**Chairmans Report**

Firstly, I would like to thank all our members, both old and new for your support.

We have had a few tough years and last year was no different lots of rain and high water, a club like this cannot run without the committee members, so a big thank you go out to Richard Drury (vice chair) Paul Hutton (Sec) Christine Ruddle (Treasurer) and the rest of the committee members.

I would also like to thank all the members who have taken part in work parties this year at Shepherds Way, Sonning and Blunham. But I will say it is still not enough of you taking part, It is your club so please help, where are the younger members when the work parties come along, please do not leave it to the 80 years old.

Thanks to Dave Ruddle and Martin Barlow for their ongoing work with Clubmate.

And a big thank you to the Bailiffs Roger, Nigel and Ron at Shepherds Way, Stuart at Blunham, Kevin at Lowbell and Robby at Sonning.

Mark Saunders

Chairman

**Secretary’s Report.**

The 12 months since last April has flown by. Maybe it’s my age? They say time gets quicker as you get older.

If you are like me, you may wait until the temperature is in double figures before you start reacquainting yourself with the pile of green and beige bags/holdalls that are in the shed or garage. I do know some of you are braver. In fact, I had a mail from a member during the recent cold snap. “Is Shepherds Way still frozen? I was thinking of popping down today” he said.

I had mentioned the rain in last year’s report and since then, it has continued in the same vein. Storms and flood warnings have become commonplace on the news with images of burst rivers, flooded homes and power cuts. The UK has had 5 major storms since Oct 2024 and there was 12 in the previous 12 months. Whilst most of the severe damage has mainly been focussed on the west of the country, the rain and wind has been an issue for us all, particularly on our fisheries.

At Shepherds Way, we have seen a significant amount of flooding as the water has poured through from the surrounding saturated fields. If you remember 3 summers ago, we had a very dry spell, and the water level dropped alarmingly. We discovered several holes and leaks in the far bank which, in addition to evaporation, was exacerbating the problem. The club spent a significant amount of funds shoring up and repairing 77 metres of banking. Since then, the lake has retained its water, but now we are experiencing heavy rainfall causing it to flood other areas where the banks are eroded. The club will be carrying out further work in the coming months to shore up and repair more of the banking to reduce the flooding of vulnerable swims. Suffice to say the venue has been fishing very well with not only good weights of carp but large roach too.

The club has also used its funds to carry out important work at the Hambarn stretch of the River Ouse at Blunham. Several trees had fallen along the banking and many swims had become unfishable. We came to an agreement, with the landowner, and split the cost of removing debris and felling trees that looked dangerous. This not only resulted in opening the existing swims but also created a further 10 swims that had been lost under the wood and branches. I recommend members try this stretch out once the river season opens. It’s a great club water and on the back of this work, we renewed our lease for another 5 years. I would also suggest you venture out to our other venues. The Spinney is close to the Hambarn stretch and often fishes very well. The Thames at Sonning has recently seen some large Barbel coming out as well as 6lb chub. Carp have also been caught on the River Colne at Lowbell lane close to the bridge.

Whilst I have spoken about the inclement weather and the problems it causes, an equal challenge for the club is attracting younger members. It’s not just a problem for us as the average age of an angler in the UK is 55, according to the internet. I think the average for our club might be a little higher ☺. We are trying to address this by having our open day in May and we are planning another one in the Autumn. Youngsters are spending less time outdoors and things are not the same as when many of us were in our youth. Fishing was what you did in the summer hols, as well as building a camp or playing “run outs” round the flats. Many of us caught the bug and it became a lifetimes passion. Let’s hope we can persuade more to take up the sport.

Lastly, security at our fisheries is always a challenge and I am sad to report a recent break in at Shepherds Way. Several items of value were stolen. The committee is looking at renewing some of the fencing on the Shepherds Way Road and reviewing how valuable plant is stored. Unfortunately, we live in a time where stealing and poaching at fisheries has become commonplace and we will do the best we can, with the resource we have, to protect the clubs’ assets.

It leaves me to take this opportunity to thank my colleagues on the committee for their time and dedication and to you, our members, and wish you all an enjoyable year of fishing, full of good health and happy days on the bank.

Tight lines.

Kindest regards

Paul Hutton

Secretary

**Treasurers report**

We closed the **2024/25** season with **423** members, just four short of the membership number of the previous season **(2023/24**) the balance sheet shows an overall loss of **£3,782.00**, this was due to us paying out the amount of **£10,000.00** for the new swims at Lowbell, this amount of money was given to the club from the EA during the **2020/21** season, the big delay in using this money was mainly due to the Covid restrictions & delay from London Parish Council giving their permission for a start date for this work to begin.

Total monies spent on Shepherds Way Lakes in the **2024/25** season was **£8,495.55** (this money was mainly due to tree work, toilet repair, piling & new lock), an amount of **£1,481.00** was donated by members to help with the upkeep of Shepherds Way, the club gives its thanks to all members who were able to donate.

Renewal forms for the **2025/26** season, should be with you by the end of **30.04.25** at the latest, **there is a box on the form for Shepherds Way donations, for any members who wish or are able to donate any monies to help with the upkeep of this fishery**, going forward to the new season we expect to spend around **£10,000.00** for more piling work to the bank at Neate’s Lake also a new metal fence will be installed due to the recent break-in at this fishery, at the last committee meeting on **17.03.25** we agreed to increase the membership fees for the **2025/26** season by **£3.00** so seniors will be **£95.00** , **(this will include a Turnford ticket should you require one)**, **£70.00** for associate members , **£73.00** for over 65’s & disabled members **(this will include a Turnford ticket should you** **require one),** the cost of **£35.00** for junior members will stay the same, please note any members that have already attended a work party recently, or who will attend one before **15th June 2025** will not have to pay the **£10.00** work party levy to renew their membership for the **2025/26** season, members over the age of 65 are not required to attend a work party unless they wish to do so, disabled & any members with ongoing health issues are exempt from paying the **£10.00** work party levy.

This suggested membership price increase needs to be approved at the **AGM on Wednesday 09th** **April 2025**, please try an attend this meeting if you can it’s always good to hear about any concerns/queries the membership may have about the club.

Hopefully you will all support the increase in membership fees (although I do appreciate this is difficult times financially for many), as the club needs to keep its funds in the reserve account up to cover any unforeseen expenses that we may incur during the coming season, at Shepherds Way or any of our other waters.

Finally, the coming season of **2025/26** will be my last as treasurer of Barnet D A C, time for someone else to take over this role, hopefully someone younger & more local to the Barnet area will come forward to help run the club, if anyone is interested in this role could they please contact Paul Hutton (**pwhutton@btinternet.com**) the club’s secretary or myself (**barnet.angling@btinternet.com**) for more information.

Christine Ruddle.



