

Minutes from the ordinary general meeting of Wantage & Grove Angling Club, held in the King Alfred's Head on Tuesday 9 January 2024.

Present: Matt Andrew (chair - by phone), Peter Constable (sec), John Blackwell, Bob Steele (match sec), Vicky Knowlson, Andy Moody, Danny Dance, Des Bushnell, Peter Powell, & Karl Dawson.

Apologies: Richard Harrison (treasurer), Les Teale, Phil Mansbridge.

Meeting started at 8:00pm, the minutes from December 2023 were read and accepted.

Pond Chemistry

Oxygen levels were between 68%-71% although water levels prevented a full survey.

Nitrate remains high at 5ppm, but nitrite and ammonia have fallen to zero.

The pH is 7.5, temperature 7.5°C. The voltage on the batteries could not be read.

Chair's Report

The water level remains worryingly high, which continues to prevent installation of the new batteries. Also, the installer has recently lost his mother, further delaying his work load.

At the moment it appears that only pegs 3 & 9 are fishable.

Cormorants are becoming a problem with numerous birds seen circling the pond and recorded on the cameras.

Treasurer's Report

The invoices from Network Rail and Cannings have been paid, leaving £xxxx in the accounts.

Match Secretary's Report

There is £113.90 in the match fund.

Secretary's Report

Waiting List – No new additions since last month.

Fish Purchase – The supplier hasn't confirmed delivery yet.

Any Other Business

The generator has not run at all since the last meeting. The bubbler is being run when there is sufficient power.	
Predation – 4 dead crucians and a bream of about 2lb have been found dead on the bank, presumably left by a heron. Also, a koi about 10lb was on the bank, probably left by an otter.	
Danny has spoken to Nick Ponting about a sharing a cormorant licence with The Plough	Danny to continue to discuss with Nick.
Danny has 1 bag of 4mm pellets and 1 1/2 bags of chix feed.	Feeding to continue.
John & Danny have used 13 barrows of hardcore to repair the bank at peg 9.	Monitor for any further signs of subsidence.
Danny has raised the tapes at south end of the pond to assist in cormorant deterrence.	
Danny has further raised the generator to lift it above the water.	
It is reported that the sleepers in pegs 19 and 20 have floated away and these pegs will need to be rebuilt once the water has receded.	
The club had agreed that there should be a bi-annual netting of the pond to assess stocks, however, some members queried the wisdom of this. A discussion took place regarding the netting of the pond this year, a vote was taken on the resolution "The club should request a netting of the pond this winter"	

Proposed: Matt A, seconded: Andy Moody For 4, Against 5, Not carried, therefore there will be no netting this winter.	
The application of dye to the pond was discussed. Some embers were concerned that it may cause an oxygen crash.	PC to contact the EA to gauge their opinion.
Hedge cutting – Karl D knows someone with a flail and will talk to them about contracting this work	Karl D to get costs and report back.
Rubbish by the fence – Peter Powell is able to dispose of this at £40 per load. It was agreed that he should go ahead.	Work scheduled for Tuesday 16 Jan.

Minutes from the annual general meeting (AGM) of Wantage & Grove Angling Club, held on Monday 5 February 2024 at the Old Mill Hall, Grove.

There were 22 members present: Matt Andrew (chair), Peter Constable (secretary), Richard Harrison (treasurer), Vicky Knowlson, (vice chair), Andy Moody (match secretary), Les Teale, Bob Steele, Des Bushnell, Gerry Austin, Danny Dance, John Blackwell, Karl Dawson, Andy O'Shaughnessy, Brian Johnson, Rob Wilkinson, Peter Busby, Peter Powell, Cruz Powell, Alan Bishop, Martin Bennett, Theo Andrew & Graham Wells.

Apologies: Phil Mansbridge

Meeting started at 7:00pm

The minutes from the AGM on Monday 6 February 2023 were accepted unanimously as a true and accurate record.

Chair's Report

Solar panel aeration

The bubbler system is in place however high winds soon after installation caused the floating power unit to overturn and components (including batteries) dropped to the lake bed.

Since then the batteries have been replaced and a new one added. The supplier is to visit the pond in February to swap-out the splasher to a more efficient unit.

At the same time another solar panel will be added (and the existing panels turned from landscape to portrait to free up space).

- There are no plans to net the pond this winter.
- The purchase of the boat is on hold until funds become available.
- There is a need for a new "clean" shed to allow the storage of life jackets and other items that cannot be stored in the existing shed.
- Matt would like to thank all those who have contributed to the running of the club, including, but not limited to, Danny and Jon for work at the pond, Peter Powell for his assistance in removing rubble, Karl for hedge-cutting and Les Teale for his water quality monitoring.
- Especial thanks were expressed to Bob Steele for his excellent work as match secretary over the last few years. The baton has now been passed to Andy Moody.

Treasurer's Report

The club has spent over £xxxx on bank work at the pond in the last year, however, the club remains in the black with £xxxx in the bank.

Secretary's Report

Waiting lists

Within OX12 postcode area

There are currently 41 people on the waiting list (31 adult and 10 junior).

Outside OX12 postcode area

There are 67 on this list (62 adult and 5 juniors)

Fish stocks

The club has ordered 100 qty 7-9 inch perch. These will be stocked at the end Feb/early March.

The cost is £400 (£1 per fish) there is no VAT and the supplier has kindly offered free delivery.

Match Secretary's Report

Due to the extremes of weather through the year there are still 4 matches to fish (including 2 aggregate matches), these will be arranged as soon as water levels permit.

The club holds £113 from peg fees

Bob wished Andy the best wishes as the new match secretary.

Election of Officers

Executive officers

There being no proposals for changes to, or resignations from, the executive committee, it was proposed that the existing executive officers were elected en bloc.

Proposed by Gerry Austin, seconded by Peter Powell, carried unanimously.

Non-executive officers

Vicky Knowlson continues to stand as vice chair.

Peter Powell stood as assistant match secretary

Proposed by Andy Moody, seconded by Bob Steele, carried unanimously.

Rule and Constitution changes

Standing Item	Membership fees – To remain unchanged at: £5 Joining fee; £35 Adult membership; £5 Junior membership, £25 guest permit. Proposed by Vicky Knowlson, seconded by Rob Wilkinson, carried unanimously
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Constitution

	Existing Rule	Proposed Change
7.8	Each Full Member of the Club shall be entitled to one vote at General Meetings.	Each full member of the club shall be entitled to one vote at general meetings, except relating to match rules where only those members who have fished any match in the preceding year can vote.

Proposed by Danny Dance, seconded by Matt Andrew, 20 for, 1 abstention, 0 against, **carried**

Match Rules

	Existing Rule	Proposed Change
14	No assistance may be given in landing a fish during a match, with the exception of junior matches or where it might be required by an angler with a disability.	No assistance may be given in landing a fish with the exception of junior or disabled anglers if required.
Proposed by Andy Moody, seconded by Peter Powell During the discussion Les Teale raised the issue of safeguarding and it was agreed that this issue would not be voted on at this meeting but postponed to an EGM once the issue has been investigated.		
23	22 points will be awarded to the angler with the highest weight on the day, 21 points to the second, and so on. In the event of a tied weight the points will be awarded for the place achieved (not split in half points).	22 points will be awarded to the angler with the highest weight on the day, 21 points to the second, and so on. In the event of a tied weight the points for those places will be added and evenly divided amongst those anglers.

Proposed by Matt Andrew, seconded by Andy Moody, 10 for, 0 abstention, 1 against, **carried** (only those who have fished a match in 2023 voted on this change)

There were no changes to the general rules

Any Other Business

Danny advised that work will need to be done on the pond once the current high water levels recede.
The proposed new shed will need to be sited above potential high water levels.
Two floating islands are still to be completed and installed, it is hoped this will happen early in the year.
There are two cameras at the pond, one looking at peg 21 to monitor any otter activity, and one at peg 16 to keep a record of any cormorants.
The dissolved oxygen levels are at 80-90%. The club has two years of records so can start to monitor trends and possibly forecast problems allowing pro-active responses.
The wooden frame around the solar panels will be replaced by a fabricated unit.
The meeting wished Steve Ferris all the best in his recovery from heart surgery.

The next AGM is on Monday 3rd February 2025, starting at 7:00pm, at the Old Mill Hall Grove.

Meeting closed at 9:20pm

Minutes from the ordinary general meeting of Wantage & Grove Angling Club, held in the King Alfred's Head on Tuesday 5 March 2024.

Present: Matt Andrew (chair), Peter Constable (sec), Richard Harrison (treasurer), Andy Moody, (match sec), John Blackwell, Andy O'Shaughnessy, Danny Dance, Des Bushnell, Peter Powell, Peter Busby & Phil Mansbridge.

Apologies: Bob Steele, Vicky Knowlson, Les Teale, Karl Dawson

Meeting started at 8:00pm, the minutes from January 2024 were read and accepted.

Pond Chemistry

Oxygen levels were between 66%-68% but continued high water levels prevented a full survey.
Nitrate remains high at 5ppm and nitrite and ammonia have fallen to zero.
The pH is 7.5, temperature 6.9-7.4°C. The voltage on the batteries could not be read.

Chair's Report

The water level continues to remain worryingly high and about half of all swims are in a fishable state.
The battery/panel installer cannot be contacted and efforts will continue.

Treasurer's Report

Membership monies have started to arrive in the bank account and weekly updates will be sent to the secretary for the renewal process.

Match Secretary's Report

There is £113.90 in the match fund.

Secretary's Report

Renewals – Now under way for the 2024/5 season.
Waiting List – There are two new applications since the meeting in January.
Fish Purchase – The supplier hasn't confirmed delivery yet.

Any Other Business

The generator has not run at all since the last meeting.	
Danny has ⅓ bag of chix feed and ½ bag 4mm pellets.	Feeding to continue.
No dead fish have been found recently.	
Danny has spoken to Nick Ponting about a sharing a cormorant licence with The Plough but there is no progress so far.	Danny to continue to discuss with Nick.
The bag at peg 9 now appears to be stable.	Continue to monitor.
Correspondence with the EA suggested that it is safe to add dye in the winter but should be avoided in the summer. It was decided not to add the dye that the club has for now, but keep in reserve if needed.	
The hedge cutting has been completed. The club owes the contractor £90 for this work.	Contractor to submit invoice.
Thanks to Peter Powell for removing and correctly disposing of the waste. This was carried out as scheduled on 16 Jan. The cost is £40.	PP to submit invoice
The damage to the Network Rail fence near the entrance to the pond will be reported to NR via their online portal.	Richard will report this to NR
Phil Mansbridge questioned the “half way” rule for matches. Andy Moody advised that this will be enforced this year. Any member believing this rule is being broken should report it to Andy or Peter Powell.	
Richard advised that the insurance has climbed steeply this year. It was agreed unanimously that the club join the Angling Trust and purchase their insurance. Joining the AT also allows the club to make use of their Fish Legal service including drafting a child protection policy.	
The floating islands need to be constructed and a couple of swims need attention prior to the match scheduled for Sunday 10 March. Arrange an impromptu work party for Saturday 9 March, starting at 9:30.	To be promoted via web site
John suggested that, when the club builds a new shed, that the solar panels and battery are installed there, rather than in the middle of the pond as at present.	The feasibility will be investigated
John was also concerned about the amount of work involved in getting the pond back to a reasonable condition after the floods. The club is aware of the work needed and will do its best to rectify the issues and may employ contractors if necessary.	
Peter Powell raised the issue of junior members and asked what the club is doing to promote the club to kids. All junior members will be contacted to ask if they would be interested in coaching (with the club paying for a professional coach), matches etc. If successful then coaching could be extended to senior members.	PC to contact junior members
The anti-cormorant raptor kite has been put up.	
Matt has details of plastic piling that could be used to ensure safe access along the west bank (against the main road). The cost id £26.50 per sq metre.	John B will phone the company for more details

Minutes from the ordinary general meeting of Wantage & Grove Angling Club, held in the King Alfred's Head on Tuesday 2 April 2024.

Present: Matt Andrew (chair), Peter Constable (sec), Andy Moody (match sec), Les Teale, John Blackwell & Peter Powell,

Apologies: Richard Harrison (treasurer), Bob Steele, Vicky Knowlson, Karl Dawson & Danny Dance.

Meeting started at 8:00pm, the minutes from March 2024 were read and accepted.

Pond Chemistry

Oxygen levels were between 75%-92% but continued high water levels prevented a full survey.
All contaminants measured were at zero.
The pH is 7.5, temperature 8.5-8.7°C. The voltage on the batteries could not be read.

Chair's Report

Nothing to report this month

Treasurer's Report

No treasurer's report this month

Match Secretary's Report

No match secretary's report this month

Secretary's Report

Renewals – Renewal rate is progressing in a similar rate to last year.
Waiting List – 51 inside OX12. The first 40 on the list were emailed to check they wanted to remain on the listy, of these 29 said “Yes”, 2 said “No” and 9 didn't reply.
Fish Purchase – High water still presents a problem to the supplier as the stock ponds can't be effectively netted, it is hoped delivery will be made before the end of April.
Direct SMS – This is still being investigated to ensure that the T's & C's of the supplier prevent misuse of the phone numbers.

Any Other Business

The generator has not run at all since the last meeting.	
The club needs to purchase more pellets and chix feed. The rate of feeding should be increased once the water temperature is between 10 and 20 °C. A close eye will be kept on water quality during this time.	Feeding to continue.
The camera traps spotted otters on two occasions, 24 Jan and 8 Feb.	
It is unlikely that The Plough will need the assistance of W&G in applications for a cormorant licence.	
Network Rail have been made aware of the fence damage but it is not their priority.	No further action.
Child protection policy – club rules require that junior members are accompanied by an adult, however, the club needs a welfare officer in case vulnerable adults are fishing. Angling Trust is to be contacted.	Matt and Richard to liaise and talk to the AT.
The two new floating islands are almost ready for launch. They should initially be stocked with plants from the margins of the pond.	
A junior day was discussed and professional coaches approached to see if this is a viable option.	Matt to progress.
The nearest installation of the plastic piling is Hordle (New Forest). All fitting is carried out by third-party contractors. The possibility of a site visit is to be explored.	PC to talk to various parties.
There has been no further contact with the solar panel installer. The panels need to be re-sited when the water levels start to fall. This will require two people and the boat.	MA to continue to try to get hold of the contractor
With regards the boat. The club is aware that a new one is needed but will wait until after funds are replenished following renewals before investigating further.	
Peter Powell commented that peg 10 is very wobbly and needs attention.	
PP also said that some members are moving the anti-cormorant tapes, this	

should stop and members instructed no to do so.	
The temporary fixtures on pgs 1 & 2 will be removed as soon as possible as water levels allow.	
There will be a working party on Saturday 20 April, starting at 9am.	PC to advertise

Minutes from the ordinary general meeting of Wantage & Grove Angling Club, held in the King Alfred's Head on Tuesday 7 May 2024.

Present: Vicky Knowlson (vice chair), Peter Constable (sec), Andy Moody (match sec), Bob Steele, Les Teale, Danny Dance, John Blackwell & Peter Powell.

Apologies: Matt Andrew (chair), Richard Harrison (treasurer).

Meeting started at 8:05pm, the minutes from April 2024 were read and accepted.

Pond Chemistry

<p>Readings taken on 2 May: Oxygen levels is at around 80%, well within safe limits, temperature is at 12.5°C. Les will increase frequency of measurements when the temperature approaches 20°C at which level there is a threat to oxygen levels. The batteries on the bubblers are working and the bubblers are running in the morning. Les will also continue to try to contact the solar panel suppliers about an additional panel.</p>
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Chair's Report

Nothing to report this month

Treasurer's Report

Club funds stand at £xxxx.

Match Secretary's Report

<p>15 Anglers fished the combined 10th aggregate from last year and blind pairs from this year. The match was won by Gerry Austin and Matt Andrew took the aggregate trophy. The match funds stand at £234.</p>

Secretary's Report

<p>Renewals - 183 members have renewed 149 Full adult, 17 Five year, 2 Honorary, 15 Junior</p> <p>Waiting list - There are 58 people on the waiting list within OX12. Memberships have been offered to the first 20 people on the list and I will continue to make offers until the membership is full.</p> <p>Fish purchase - The perch were delivered on Friday 19 April. The club ordered and paid for 400 fish but 500 were supplied to cover any losses in transit, however, all fish survived the journey.</p> <p>Direct SMS This has been tested for two items: a reminder was sent to all members who hadn't renewed and a notice was sent to the match anglers about the last aggregate match. These seem to have been well received and generated a good response. This is a chargeable service, it will cost approximately £7 to send a short message to all members. I have purchased £15 worth of "credits" with BulkSMS and used about one third of them so far.</p>

Plastic Piling

I have contacted David at the Pastic Piling Company about a site visit so that we can see the product in use.

He has put me in contact with Barry Killinger of Veralum angling (St Albans). I have left a voice mail with the fishery manager Barry Killinger asking him to call me to discuss a site visit.

Junior Trophies

Rob Wilkinson still has the junior trophies, he would like to know what to do with them.

Thames Water – I have messaged TW regarding the safety of lorries going down the wrong road. I have not received a response and will continue to try to contact them.

Any Other Business

The generator was run briefly on 5 May. The aerator in peg 7 needs to be removed and checked.	For work party or similar
The pond is being fed with chix pellets but we await delivery of the fish pellets.	MA to order pellets
There have been no otter sightings since 8 Feb.	
There is no movement on the welfare officer position. From April's meeting the club there is an outstanding action point where Richard or Matt were to contact the AT for advise.	PC to write to EA Richard or Matt to contact AT
The two new floating islands are almost ready and need to go in before they are damaged. They should initially be stocked with plants from the margins of the pond. They go to the right of pegs 8 & 22.	Peter Powell and Danny Dance to install these
No progress on a junior day.	Matt to progress.
The boat will be discussed in June when the club finances have settled after the renewals.	
Andy Moody and Peter Powell will visit the pond to make a list of actions needed for work parties.	
There is some subsidence at peg 4. Danny put in a has temporary fix with seven barrows of hardcore.	
No more dead fish have been found since the last meeting	
It was confirmed that there are no river matches this year.	
The situation regarding junior members fishing matches was discussed. It was agreed that the parent/guardian should fish a swim adjacent to the junior. Exact details to be set by the match secretary at each match as conditions dictate. This was agreed by vote, 7 for & 1 abstain.	

Minutes from the ordinary general meeting of Wantage & Grove Angling Club, held in the King Alfred's Head on Tuesday 11 June 2024.

Present: Matt Andrew (chair), Richard Harrison (treasurer), Peter Constable (sec), Andy Moody (match sec), Danny Dance.

Apologies: Vicky Knowlson (vice chair), Bob Steele, Les Teale, John Blackwell & Peter Powell.

Meeting started at 8:05pm, the minutes from May 2024 were read and accepted.

Pond Chemistry

Readings taken on 6 June:

Oxygen levels are between 51% and 63% and remain within safe limits, temperature is at 15.9°C.

PH is 7.5 and there are no detectable levels of contaminants.

Chair's Report

Nothing to report this month

Treasurer's Report

Club funds stand at £xxxx. All outstanding invoices have been paid

Match Secretary's Report

15 Anglers fished the first aggregate and 10 the second.
The match funds stand at £359.
The match trophies have been ordered due for delivery w/c 17 June.

Secretary's Report

Membership
Currently we have 191 senior and 24 Junior members (215 in total).

Waiting list
The waiting list within OX12 is now empty (except for the 4 lads for separate discussion).
There are 70 people on the outside OX12 waiting list, of these 37 responded to an email asking if they wished to remain on the list.
I have sent member invitations to the first 4 on the list.

Plastic Piling
I have contacted David at the Pastic Piling Company about a site visit so that we can see the product in use.
He has put me in contact with Barry Killinger of Veralum angling (St Albans). I have left a voice mail with the fishery manager Barry Killinger asking him to call me to discuss a site visit.

Any Other Business

It was considered that a visit to St Albans to see the panels was unnecessary. The fishery manager of the local club will be called to seek their opinion of the panels.	PC to call Barry Killinger.
The junior trophies are to be disposed of.	Matt to contact Rob Wilkinson about this.
There is to be no further action taken regarding signage from Thames Water at the pond entrance.	
The generator has not been run since the last meeting.	
A 25Kg bag each of 4mm and 6mm fish pellets has been delivered and feeding has started.	
Richard confirmed that the club is insured with the Angling Trust.	
The two new floating islands have been installed. They were stocked with plants from the margins of the pond.	Thanks to Peter Powell and Danny Dance.
Welfare Officer. It was agreed that the club will have a welfare officer. Richard has spent time researching this and Matt has agreed to take this role. Changes to the constitution will be required. Once everything is in place the various updates will be made and communicated to the members.	Various people to act as and when required.
For health and safety reasons the purchase of a new boat will be given priority over other spending. The suggested boat is a YAK245.	
Junior teaching to be investigated further. It was reported that Tony Gee at Ace tackle is a registered coach.	PC to contact Tony Gee at Ace tackle.
Work Party, the following items need attention:	

All overhanging branches to be trimmed, the tree in peg 22 should be removed entirely. The walkway between peg 21 & 22 is rotting and must be made safe. Following the high water pegs 20 and 21 require rebuilding. The boards on peg 10 are loose and the railings on the disabled pegs require attention.	
Further to May's meeting the decision to allow junior members to fish matches on their own was rescinded. If a junior member fishes a match a responsible adult must be in close supervision (in the same swim).	
Since the last meeting one dead ghost carp of about 5lb along with a few small roach and perch have been found.	
The club thanks Phil Mansbridge for fixing the notice board.	
More signs about parking next to the fence need to be erected.	

Minutes from the ordinary general meeting of Wantage & Grove Angling Club, held in the King Alfred's Head on Tuesday 9 July 2024.

Present: Matt Andrew (chair), Richard Harrison (treasurer), Peter Constable (sec), Andy Moody (match sec), Danny Dance, John Blackwell, Peter Powell & Phil Mansbridge.

Apologies: Vicky Knowlson (vice chair), Bob Steele, Les Teale,.

Meeting started at 8:00pm, the minutes from June 2024 were read and accepted.

Pond Chemistry

Readings taken on 9 July: Oxygen levels are between 42% and 50% which are towards the lower safe limit, temperature is at 17.2°C. PH is has fallen to 7.0, nitrate is at 5pmm (within safe limits), there are no detectable levels of other contaminants. There have been no otters en on the cameras. The solar powered diffusers run daily 1-7am. The power cable to the splasher will be replaced soon.
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Chair's Report

After a conversation with Nathan the grass will be cut w/c 15 July.

Treasurer's Report

Club funds stand at £xxxx. All outstanding invoices have been paid
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Match Secretary's Report

12 anglers fished the third aggregate and 13 fished the fourth. The match funds stand at £384.

Secretary's Report

<p>Membership The membership is now full with 200 adult and 24 junior members. 181 full, 17 five-year, 2 honorary. The club has issued 21 guest tickets</p> <p>Waiting list The waiting list within OX12 is now empty (except for the 4 lads for separate discussion). There are 32 people who are still "active" on the list outside the OX12 area.</p>
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<p>Plastic Piling I have called Barry Killinger of Veralum angling (St Albans). He has no complaints about the installation and standard of the plastic piling his club have had installed.</p> <p>Banning Letters These were sent recorded (signed for) delivery to Charlie Bishop & Tommy Carter.</p> <p>Fishery plan July 2024 Updated and needs approval prior to publication.</p>

Any Other Business

The generator has been fired up once since last meeting to check that it is working. The generator is OK but the aerator on peg 7 is not functioning.	
Feeding, this was stopped as the temperature rose but has now resumed.	
The boat (a YAK245) will be ordered this month. It will be delivered to Andy's house.	Richard to place order.
<p>Work Party - Sunday 21 July 9am The platforms on pegs 18 & 19 need rebuilding. Pegs 20 & 21 must be checked. The walkway between pegs 21 and 22 must be made safe. All overhanging branches to be clipped back. Fix the loose boards on peg 10 and check the status of peg 5. There is a hole under peg 16 that needs attention.</p>	PC to communicate to members via email and SMS.
One dead fish, an F1 about 4lb, has been found since the last meeting.	
<p>Welfare Officer Richard has created documents based on the Angling Trust recommendations. These will be reviewed and incorporated into the constitution. This will take a month or two to finalise and agree all documents.</p>	Various people to act as and when required.
PC contacted Tony Gee at Ace tackle regarding coaching. Tony said he is retiring, no longer coaching and that he couldn't think of anyone else locally who could help.	
The plastic piling company is to be contacted and pricing obtained for the work required	PC to arrange a quote
The barley straw will be delivered on 28 July.	JB to liaise with Nick Ponting.
It was requested that the "Match in progress" sign is used as appropriate.	
There was a general enquiry about a river stretch, the club is continually open to leasing one should a suitable venue be found.	
Andy said that a weigh bucket and tripod would help at weigh-ins.	Andy to buy these from the match funds.

Minutes from the ordinary general meeting of Wantage & Grove Angling Club, held in the King Alfred's Head on Tuesday 6 August 2024.

Present: Matt Andrew (chair), Peter Constable (sec), Andy Moody (match sec), Danny Dance, John Blackwell, Peter Powell, Cruz Powell & Phil Mansbridge.

Apologies: Richard Harrison (treasurer), Vicky Knowlson (vice chair), Bob Steele, Les Teale.

Meeting started at 8:05pm, the minutes from July 2024 were read and accepted.

Pond Chemistry

Readings taken on 1 August:

Oxygen levels are between 38% and 45% which are towards the lower safe limit, temperature is at 21.9°C, this is above the safe limit for additional feeding and this should cease for now.

PH remains at 7.0, nitrate is at 0.25pmm (barely traceable), there are no detectable levels of other contaminants.

Cameras

There have been no otters or anything else of any significance on the cameras.

Solar aerator

An additional solar panel has been installed and there are now 5 batteries supporting this system. The Nautilus splasher and hose have been returned and await installation. The aerator is running from 1-7am daily.

Chair's Report

Many thanks to all those who attended the work party.

Karl Dawson is to be asked if he can cut the hedge along the track.

Treasurer's Report

No treasurer report this month.

Match Secretary's Report

£150 has been paid for trophies, a weigh bag was purchased for £44 and the drinks for the away match cost £161. There remains £161 in the match fund.

Secretary's Report

Waiting list

There are now 2 people on the waiting list within OX12

Plastic Piling

Firstly based upon a 10m run with a 4ft so 1.2m pond bank height, the options would be

DuoRib 3m – (Stock length) so driven slightly more than 50:50, £24.50/m of product but 600mm wide so you only need 17 x 3m sheets = £1249.50 + Vat

MultiLock hybrid (shorter length you supply the posts or tubes) 1.5m sheets driven 300mm £ 26.25/m and 500mm wide so you need 20 sheets = £787.50 + Vat

MultiLock on its won in 2.5m (stock length) and again needing 20 sheets so £1312.50 + Vat

So, this then leaves the 70m job, this would need the same sheet lengths and so your prices are

Duorib 117 x 3m = £9213.75 + Vat

MultiLock 1.5m = £5512.50 + vat

MultiLock 2.5m = £9187.50 + Vat

To buttress the piles use 4 way connector, these are available in 3m lengths at £19/m.

Delivery is extra

Fishery plan July 2024

This has been updated and published to the website.

Coaching and junior day

At the recent Orchard lakes match I spoke to the coach there and he gave me details of two local coaches who may be able to help. They will be contacted in due course.

Emergency number for Network Rail

This will be added to the list on the noticeboard

Any Other Business

As the water temperature has reached over 20°C feeding has stopped. Once the temperature falls below 20°C feeding can resume.

There is no update on the purchase of the boat (a YAK245). When ordered it

Richard to place order.

will be delivered to Andy's house.	
A work party is proposed for Sunday 18 August, starting at 9am. The date will be confirmed and members advised once the scaffolding poles (10qty x 12 foot) have been obtained. Priority will be given to pegs 18 and 19 and the walkway between.	MA to buy scaffolding poles then PC to communicate to members.
The barley straw has been delivered, this now needs to be broken up, stuffed into the onion sacks and put in the pond.	
The club will buy an unhooking mat and swan neck hook for the scales (to come from match funds).	Andy to purchase.
Peer P showed that the match weights have fallen consistently over the last few years and asked what could be done. There was agreement that we should restart adding Siltex, add manure and up the feeding rates when appropriate. It was also agreed that we should net the pond this winter to assess stocks. A vote was taken on this proposed by Peter P, seconded Andy M. For 6, abstain 2, carried.	Danny D will ask Billy if he can contact Moore and Moore. PC to contact Jack at JS Fisheries.
Peter P also suggested that we should remove the lilies and add some fish cages to give year round predator protection.	PP to get details.
John B said he believes that the tench cup has been lost, as he donated this he is disappointed.	A search will be made.
One dead F1 has been found since the last meeting.	
Phil M asked how the team for the match against The Plough was selected. After a discussion it was agreed that the match secretary alone decides without reference to any placing in league tables or other ranking.	
The generator and aerator will be run each night for the forthcoming week. Danny has purchased 40l of diesel.	
Welfare Officer The update to the constitution is an ongoing project.	Various people to act as and when required.

Minutes from the ordinary general meeting of Wantage & Grove Angling Club, held in the King Alfred's Head on Tuesday 3 September 2024.

Present: Matt Andrew (chair), Andy Moody (match sec), Danny Dance, John Blackwell & Des Bushnell.

Apologies: Richard Harrison (treasurer), Peter Constable (sec), Peter Powell, Vicky Knowlson (vice chair), Bob Steele, Les Teale.

Meeting started at 8:00pm, the minutes from August 2024 were read and accepted.

<p>Pond Chemistry The oxygen levels fell to around 20% on Wednesday 28 August but after the aerator was run for a few days this has improved to between 45% and 50%. The run times for the bubblers will be changed to 11pm to 8am. Also, it will be seen if the speed of the splasher can be increased.</p> <p>Other chemistry remains completely within safe levels.</p>

Chair's Report

<p>The new boat has been delivered to the pond. The scaffolding pole were delivered prior to the work party on 18 August but this was poorly attended and little work was completed. The barley straw has still to be applied.</p>
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Treasurer's Report

The club has a balance of £xxxx

Match Secretary's Report

There have been 4 matches since the last meeting. The match fund stands at £286.27.

The tench cup has yet to be found.

The weighing mat and swan-neck hook support have yet to be purchased.

Secretary's Report

There is no report this month.

Any Other Business

The generator has run for 47 hours since the last meeting and a further 40 litres of diesel have been purchased.	
Fuel for the strimmer has also been purchased.	.
A request will be made to Peter Constable to contact Jack from JS fisheries to see if he can work with the plastic piling.	
Consideration for fish purchases will be made at the October meeting.	
In light of the apparent need for fish purchases the fees will also be discussed in October.	
The Christmas meal should be booked soon but it is unlikely there will be sufficient funds for the club to contribute.	
Karl Dawson will be contacted about the hedge.	
Both aerators must be removed and serviced, one runs intermittently and the other doesn't work at all.	
There is an increase in the amount of litter left at the pond.	
Welfare Officer The update to the constitution is an ongoing project.	Various people to act as and when required.

Minutes from the ordinary general meeting of Wantage & Grove Angling Club, held in the King Alfred's Head on Tuesday 1 October 2024.

Present: Matt Andrew (chair), Andy Moody (match sec), Richard Harrison (treasurer), Peter Constable (sec), Bill Bailey, Theo Andrew, Phil Mansbridge, Ray Wells & Des Bushnell.

Apologies: Danny Dance, Karl Dawson, John Blackwell, Gerry Austin, Peter Powell, Vicky Knowlson (vice chair), Bob Steele, & Les Teale.

Meeting started at 8:00pm, the minutes from September 2024 were read and accepted.

Pond Chemistry

The pond has dissolved oxygen levels between 27-31% and a water temperature of 13°C.

The pH is 7.0 and all pollutants are effectively undetectable.

The cameras show no cormorant activity but the splasher appears ineffective, a video has been sent to the supplier and they will act on this.

Chair's Report

Some of the barley straw has been applied, there remains a bale unused and more onion sacks will be ordered.

Following an exceptionally wet September the water is over the bank from pegs 15 onwards, care must be taken here.

Treasurer's Report

The club has a balance of £xxxx – there have been recent payments to Cannings and for pellets.

Match Secretary's Report

Spare batteries for the scales have been bought.
The pegs fees fund stands at £405.28.

Secretary's Report

There are 16 people on the waiting list within OX12.

Any Other Business

The generator has run for 50 hours since the last meeting.	
The Christmas meal has not been booked but following last year's disappointing meal the RBL in Hanney has been approached.	.
Peter Constable will contact Jack from JS fisheries to see if he can work with the plastic piling.	PC to act as appropriate
The litter problem has receded, it was probably due to kids during the summer holiday.	Continue to monitor
Gerry Austin suggested two new rules: that fish not be handled with gloves or towels, and that keepnets are laid out for 30 minutes before a match. It was felt that these were unnecessary but that Gerry could find a seconder and put them to the membership at the AGM.	To go to AGM for voting
Andy Moody suggested that the rules be changed to require members to fish a minimum of 5 aggregate matches to qualify for the Christmas match. This was seconded by Matt and will go to the AGM of approval.	To go to AGM for voting
Karl Dawson confirmed that he will be able to trim the hedge.	
Joe Bowman asked if he pays additional match fees can he fish the Christmas match. It was decided against this as it would open it up to others.	
Danny Dance Relevant parts of Danny's letter tendering his resignation from the committee was read out. There was agreement that the club should honour Danny at the AGM and will source a suitable gift.	
Andy reported that the anti-cormorant ropes were generating complaints. However, these should be left in as the club must do all it can to deter these birds.	
Welfare Officer The update to the constitution is an ongoing project.	Various people to act as and when required.
Fish Purchases After a long discussion it was agreed that the club should purchase some fish, placing an order for delivery this winter if possible *. Ideally the club will buy: Crucians: 200 qty 8-10", £1,200 Bream: 50 qty 2lb plus, £1,000 Ide: 300 qty 8-10", £1,800 Roach: 300 qty 8-10", £660 Total £4,660, all costs are best estimates at the moment.	
New Shed Peter Powell has kindly agreed to build a new shed on the high ground behind peg 14, this will be at material cost only.	Peter Powell to act when available
Membership Fees After much discussion regarding the costs the club is planning to incur soon	To go to AGM for voting

(fish purchases, shed, bank work etc.) it was agreed that the club would benefit from a £5 increase across the board on all fees. Consequently, the fees should be: Adult: £40, junior: £10, Joining fee: £10, Guest permit £30. This will be put to the AGM as a committee recommendation.	
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* Post meeting note: Peter Constable confirms that the Live Fish Movements Site Permit (renewed in September 2023) for the club water covers all these species.

Minutes from the ordinary general meeting of Wantage & Grove Angling Club, held in the King Alfred's Head on Tuesday 12 November 2024.

Present: Matt Andrew (chair), Andy Moody (match sec), Peter Constable (sec), Peter Busby, Theo Andrew, Joe Bowman & Des Bushnell.

Apologies: Richard Harrison (treasurer), Phil Mansbridge, Peter Powell & Les Teale.

Meeting started at 8:00pm, the minutes from October 2024 were read and accepted.

Pond Monitoring

The pond has dissolved oxygen levels between 18% and 26% and a water temperature of 9.6°C. The pH is 7.0 and all pollutants are effectively undetectable. The cameras have not detected any predator activity in the last month. The solar powered bubblers are set for 7 hours of operation but are operating at less than this due to insufficient solar input.

Chair's Report

Matt is trying to get 2 spare sets of shed keys cut.
The tree in peg 16 was in danger of collapsing into the water and has now been completely removed, many thanks to Peter Powell for his assistance with this.
Also thanks to Karl Dawson for cutting the hedge.
Les Teale will be asked if he can bring back the timing on the aerator by 1 hour (to 6 hours) to prevent the batteries getting stressed by continual complete draining.

Treasurer's Report

There is no report this month.

Match Secretary's Report

The pegs fees fund stands at £450.28.
There has only been one match since the last meeting, that was the 10th aggregate.
The issue of the return leg of the team match against The Plough was discussed with them. This was due to be held at Newbridge but the only available parking is not suitable (the usual places are unavailable due to waterlogged ground). Therefore it has been decided the return match will not take place this year.
Conversations will take place between those who fish matches to see if there is any desire to continue the matches versus The Plough.
Due to the high cost of trophies and engraving the club will consider reducing the number of "keep-sake" trophies and may purchase a pantograph inscriber to bring the etching process in-house.
The peg fees for away matches will increase to £10.

Secretary's Report

Waiting list

There are now 20 people on the waiting list within OX12

Fish Purchase

Fish prices have been obtained from JS fisheries:

Ide are not available

200 8-10" Crucians £1,240

50 2lb+ Bream £1,000

300 8-10" Roach £1,260

The Crucians and Bream are coming in at about the expected cost but roach are double what was anticipated.

Plastic Piling

Jack from JS fisheries can work with the plastic piling and can visit the pond at 10am on Friday 15 November to cost up the job.

Fishery management course

I will be attending a course on fishery management provided free of charge by the EA. This is on Saturday and Sunday 7 & 8 December. Peter Powell will also attend.

Any Other Business

The cost of the Xmas meal at RBL in Hanney was too expensive so the Alfred's head has been booked.	.
Danny Dance Richard has found a suitable watch for an award to Danny.	
Two bags of litter have been found at the entrance to the pond, however, this was general household waste, not left by anglers.	Continue to monitor
Peter Busby reports lots of rats at the pond. This is a recurring annual issue (made worse by waterlogged ground). There is nothing the club can do and the number of rats should reduce over the coming weeks.	Continue to monitor
There was a discussion about the merits (or otherwise) of a fee increase. This will be fully dealt with at the AGM.	

Minutes from the ordinary general meeting of Wantage & Grove Angling Club, held in the King Alfred's Head on Tuesday 10 December 2024.

Present: Matt Andrew (chair), Andy Moody (match sec), Peter Constable (sec), Richard Harrison (treasurer), John Blackwell, Phil Mansbridge, Peter Powell & Des Bushnell.

Apologies: Les Teale.

Meeting started at 8:00pm, the minutes from November 2024 were read and accepted.

Pond Monitoring

The pond has dissolved oxygen levels between 50% and 57% and a water temperature of 7.9°C.

The pH is 7.0 and all pollutants are effectively undetectable.

The camera set for otters has not seen any predator activity in the last month but the other was obscured by fallen trees.

The solar aeration is set to run from midnight to seven am, weather permitting.

Chair's Report

There are no local key-cutter who can copy the various keys. Phil Mansbridge has offered to take them into Oxford to get them cut.

Treasurer's Report

The rental for the pond has been paid to Network Rail.

Club funds stand at £xxxx.

Match Secretary's Report

The prizes for the Christmas match cost £208.68 leaving £241.60 in the match fund.
Teo "away" matches have been booked: Stacey's Whitehouse on Saturday 26 July and Cheriton Farm on Saturday 14 June.

Secretary's Report

Waiting list

Within OX12: 35, outside OX12: 56.

These numbers are a maximum and include some who were contacted in May 24 and didn't respond.

Fish Purchase

The roach were deemed too expensive so the estimated costs of those have been spread between the crucians and bream.

The club has ordered 300 8-10" crucians for £1,860 and 75 2lb+ bream for £1,500 from JS fisheries.

Plastic Piling and work in top corner between pegs 10 and 11

I met with Jack from JS fisheries and he has priced the work at £8,500 plus VAT (£10,200). The work would involve :

Clearing the land between pegs 10 and 11, digging out the bank material back to solid ground.

Supply and install bank stabilising products (either plastic piling or steel/wood as appropriate and cost effective), back-fill and restore back to bare earth, convert all woody material to wood chips but not removal.

It was felt that the club could not afford to undertake this work in 2024/25 and will look to have this done in 2025/26.

Fishery management course

Due to the appalling weather and warnings issued by various agencies it was decided it was unsafe to travel. Consequently Peter and I didn't attend the course.

I sent our apologies to the EA and they will keep out names on the list for any future courses.

Any Other Business

For the Christmas match Danny has requested a peg on the road side as he has recently undergone an operation. He will be offered a disabled peg but this is not to set a precedent, these pegs are normally offered as a priority to blue badge holders only.	
The pond is in a poor state following the recent bad weather and a working party is required. The lack of attendance at working parties will be raised at the AGM.	
The two young lads (Tommy Carter and Charlie Bishop) were caught fishing the pond again, this time they refused to go and acted aggressively. The police were called and they issued a warning notice so that any future infringement will be dealt with as a criminal rather than civil offence.	
The generator is in need of an oil change	Phil Mansbridge has offered to do this