

Minutes from the ordinary general meeting of Wantage & Grove Angling Club, held in the King Alfred's Head on Tuesday 7 January 2025.

Present: Andy Moody (match sec), Peter Constable (sec), John Blackwell, Phil Mansbridge,

Apologies: Matt Andrew (chair), Richard Harrison (treasurer), Les Teale, Peter Powell & Des Bushnell.

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

Pond Monitoring

The pond has dissolved oxygen levels between 55% and 60% and a water temperature of 5.4°C. The pH is 7.5, Nitrates are 5 ppm, which is not significant and all other pollutants are effectively undetectable.

The cameras show cormorant activity as there are bird droppings on the solar panels. A single cormorant was caught by the camera on 3 occasions (29 Dec, 3 & 4 Jan).

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

Chair's Report

There is no report from the chair this month.

Treasurer's Report

There is no report from the treasurer this month.

Match Secretary's Report

The match at Cheriton Farm is booked for Sat 6 Sept.

Peg fees from the Christmas match were £50. The peg fee fund now stands at £176.60.

Secretary's Report

There has been no movement on the waiting list since last month and no other activity to report.

Any Other Business

Peter is to ask the netter for a few dates when he can attend and the club will prepare the pond.	PC to contact JS fisheries
Andy Moody reported that more feed is needed. These will be collected from Blakes baits	Andy to buy and cross charge club
Layers (chicken) pellets are also needed, 2 bags will be sufficient.	JB to supply the club.
The generator is in need of an oil change, oil should be purchased from Cannings for this.	Andy will get the oil

Minutes from the annual general meeting (AGM) of Wantage & Grove Angling Club, held on Monday 3 February 2025 at the Old Mill Hall, Grove.

There were 18 members present:

Matt Andrew (chair), Peter Constable (secretary), Richard Harrison (treasurer), Andy Moody (match secretary), Phil Mansbridge, John Blackwell, Gerry Austin, Bill Hailey, Danny Dance, Les Teale, Phil Copley, Karl Dawson, Graham Wells, Des Bushnell, Peter Powell, Cruz Powell, Tony Brooker & Brian Johnson.

Meeting started at 7:00pm

The minutes from the AGM on Monday 5 February 2024 were accepted unanimously as a true and accurate record.

Chair's Report

Thanks to everyone who helped the club through what has been a tough year. Special thanks were given to Danny Dance, who after many years of service to the club, has decided to stand down from his role on the committee and his unofficial work as fishery manager.

Also, many thanks to Peter Powell and Vicky Knowlson who have stood down from their roles as Assistant match secretary and vice-chair, respectively.

Solar panel aeration

The system continues to be developed and improved with new panels and batteries. The diffuser works well but unfortunately, the splasher doesn't work correctly and the installer will review this.

Cormorants

These birds are now spotted regularly on the cameras. To help encourage members to visit the pond and deter the birds (even just to drive around) the rope at the fishery entrance will be removed. To deter lorry drivers coming down there will be "No access" and "No through Road" signs erected.

- The pond will be netted on Monday 17 February.
- A new boat was bought, this is more stable and safer than the old ones.
- The new "clean" shed to allow the storage of life jackets and other items is planned for this year, it will be sited on the high ground behind pegs 13/14.

Treasurer's Report

The club had an income of £xxxx last year and currently has £xxxx in the bank.

Secretary's Report

Membership

- The adult membership is full with 200 members, of these:
- 198 are ordinary members (17 of which hold 5 year memberships) and 2 honorary members.
- Junior membership stands at 24 (from a maximum of 25)
- There are 27 guest permits.

Waiting lists

Within OX12 postcode area

There are currently 57 people on the waiting list (51 adult and 6 junior). However, I consider 16 of these to be valueless as they didn't reply or respond to membership offer in 2022.

Outside OX12 postcode area

There are 51 on this list (47 adult and 4 juniors)

Fish purchases

The club had 500 perch stocked last March. The club has an option to buy 100 4lb= bream and 8-10 inch crucians. A decision on purchase will be made once the fish stocks are established during the netting we will

Match Secretary's Report

- Trophy engraving cost £144 and that has left £32.60 in the match fund.
- Keepsakes for trophies were not bought this year.
- The tench and committee cup are missing, new trophies may be required.
- The club will purchase new weigh scales as the old ones are nearing the end of their useful life.
- Peg fees for away matches will rise to £10.

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 Danny Dance, seconded by Phil Mansbridge, carried unanimously.

Non-executive officers

Vice Chair

Vicky Knowlson has resigned from her position as vice-chair.

Peter Powell is proposed for this position by Matt Andrew and seconded by Peter Constable, carried unanimously.

Assistant Match Secretary

Peter Powell has resigned from his post as assistant match secretary.

Gerry Austin is proposed for this position by Peter Powell and seconded by Phil Mansbridge, carried unanimously.

Rule and Constitution changes

Standing Item	Membership fees – To rise by £5 across the board to: £10 Joining fee; £40 Adult membership; £10 Junior membership, £30 guest permit. Proposed put forwards by the exec committee. An amendment to keep the junior fee at £5 was proposed by Les Teale and seconded by Peter Powell. For:5, Against:10, abstain:3. Not carried. The overall proposal was the voted on, for:12, against:1, abstain: 5. Carried
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Constitution

	Existing Rule	Proposed Change
3.1	The club limits membership (at the discretion of the committee) to a maximum of 200 adult members (including all officers, adult and honorary members), and 25 junior members.	The club limits membership (at the discretion of the committee) to a maximum of 250 adult members (including all officers, adult and honorary members), and 25 junior members.

Proposed by Matt Andrew, seconded by Peter Constable.

An amendment to allow unlimited junior members was proposed by Danny Dance and seconded by Andy Moody. For 15, abstain 2 against, **carried**.

The new (amended) proposed change was voted on, for:14, abstain:3, against:0. **Carried**

Match Rules

	Existing Rule	Proposed Change
19	Christmas Match To qualify for the Christmas Match Competitors must have competed in a minimum of 4 (four) aggregate matches in the season leading up.	To qualify for the Christmas Match Competitors must have competed in a minimum of 5 (five) aggregate matches in the season leading up.

Proposed by Andy Moody, seconded by Matt Andrew. For:3, against:4, abstain:0. **Not carried**

New Rule – Team match selection

The team will be made up from the top 8 anglers from the previous years aggregate standings, if any of the top 8 are unavailable the next in the list to be asked and so on until the team of 8 is formed

Proposed by Gerry Austin, seconded by Phil Mansbridge. For:5, abstain:2. **Carried**

There were no changes to the general rules

Any Other Business

The generator oil is low and requires changing. New oil to be purchased for this.

The scarecrows at the pond will be moved more regularly to try to deter the cormorants.

In addition, the club will investigate buying a compressed-air bird scared or similar.

It was agreed that all meeting minutes will be published on the website (with financial information removed).

Minutes from the ordinary general meeting of Wantage & Grove Angling Club, held in the Bear Hotel on Tuesday 4 March 2025.

Present: Matt Andrew (chair), Richard Harrison (treasurer), Andy Moody (match sec), Phil Mansbridge, Karl Dawson & Des Bushnell

Apologies: Peter Constable (sec) & Gerry Austin.

Meeting started at 8:00pm, the minutes from January 2025 were read and accepted.

Pond Monitoring

The pond has dissolved oxygen levels are at 100% and a water temperature of 5.5°C.
The pH is 8.0, and all other pollutants are effectively undetectable.
A single cormorant was captured on camera on 25 Feb.
The camera shows that the aerators are operating as desired.

Chair's Report

Thanks to all for the AGM, Danny also offered his thanks to the club for the presentation at the AGM.
The recent work party was well supported and some fallen trees were removed.
The netting has been postponed to Thursday 13 March and the aerators will be removed prior to this.

Treasurer's Report

The club funds stand at £xxxx

Match Secretary's Report

The match fund remains in the black and the club will consider buying an engraving tool for trophies.
There was a discussion about having a meal after the Christmas match, this will be kept under review and a decision made closer to the day.

Secretary's Report

The club awaits a reply from the Angling Trust about training days this summer.
The renewals process has started but there is nothing to report at the moment.
The ODAA has invited us to join.

Any Other Business

The generator may have an airlock or be out of fuel.	Phil M will try to bleed the fuel line.
The aerators need to be replaced after the netting.	
The W&G-Exec WhatsApp group is to be updated (Bob removed and Gerry added).	PC to update group.
The contact list on the pond notice board needs to be updated.	PC to action.
The inclusion of peg 0 (23) in matches was raised. This is at match sec's discretion.	

Minutes from the ordinary general meeting of Wantage & Grove Angling Club, held in the Bear Hotel on Tuesday 1 April 2025.

Present: Matt Andrew (chair), Richard Harrison (treasurer), Andy Moody (match sec), Karl Dawson, John Blackwell & Des Bushnell.

Apologies: Peter Constable (sec) & Gerry Austin.

Meeting started at 8:05pm, the minutes from March 2025 were read and accepted.

Pond Monitoring

The pond has dissolved oxygen levels between 85-90% and a water temperature of 9.8°C.
The pH is 8.0, and all other pollutants are effectively undetectable.
The trail cameras set to detect otters and cormorants have seen nothing significant.

Chair's Report

The generator is now working and a battery is required.
The aerators have not yet been removed and the solar panel system is running on bubblers only.
The exec WhatsApp group has been updated.
The notices on the board at the pond require updating.
The rope across the entrance to the pond is to be removed to encourage people to drive down to disturb any predators.

Treasurer's Report

The funds from permits are arriving in the club's account and it currently stands in excess of £xxxx.

Match Secretary's Report

The books have been balanced for the year.
As previously agreed, for cost reasons there will be no keepsake trophies this year.

Secretary's Report

Training days

I have been in contact with James Roche from the EA and he has not given me any details on availability of trainers this year. I'll keep the contact going and hopefully get something soon.

Renewals :To 30 March we have had 55 renewals.

Oxford and District angling association

This will be kept under review, possibly put to members at the AGM.

Otter Fencing

Following the netting and obvious signs of otter predation the quote for fencing the pond is in the region of £11,000.

EA Grant

I have drafted a grant application to the EA for up to half of the total cost of the otter fencing but in its current state, with no formal agreement from Network Rail, I think our chances of securing any money are greatly reduced.

The meeting agreed that the application should be submitted in its current form and efforts made to contact Network Rail to get formal agreement.

Any Other Business

The club has been advised that swans can deter cormorants, in order to take advantage the club will buy 3 life-sized plastic swans and tether these to the solar panels.	
The contact list on the pond notice board needs to be updated.	PC to action.

Minutes from the ordinary general meeting of Wantage & Grove Angling Club, held in the Bear Hotel on Tuesday 6 May 2025.

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

Apologies: Peter Powell & Gerry Austin.

Meeting started at 8:00pm, the minutes from April 2025 were read and accepted.

Pond Monitoring

The pond has dissolved oxygen levels between 54-66% and a water temperature of 13.8°C (this is down from 15.3°C a week earlier).

The trail camera pointed at the walkway near peg 22 has not see any evidence of predators. The other camera has been removed as it is obscured by foliage.

Chair's Report

Thanks were given to Andy Moody for his work spreading the gravel on the path behind pegs 15-18, also to Peter Powell for attaching the plastic decoy swans to the aerator.

The battery on the panels is now fully charged.

Martin Bennett is to be contacted to see if he can repair the splashers. Joe Bowman said he will call Martin and arrange this.

Treasurer's Report

There is no report this month.

Match Secretary's Report

12 anglers fished the first match.

The match fund stands at £117.60.

The club has agreed to purchase a "crow hook" to support the scales and a new set of digital scales as soon as funds allow.

Secretary's Report

EA Grant - Otter Fencing

In order to try to complete the grant application for the otter fencing I have obtained a copy of the licence agreement between The British Railway Board and Wantage and Grove AC.

This was drawn up in 1993 and has Reg Couch at his old address as the contact.

The meeting authorised me to ask Network Rail to update the contact details. I am also trying to find the person at NR who can authorise an otter fence.

Renewals

To date we have had 146 adult renewals and 16 junior.

There are 20 new members and work continues to recruit from both waiting lists.

Fish Stocks

The club has ordered 400lb of carp between 3-8lb. This should be around 80 fish averaging 5lb. The cost is £1,000 incl VAT and delivery which is expected this week (w/c 5 May).

Electro fishing

This remains outstanding and should happen w/c 12 May

Any Other Business

<p>Joe Bowman has informed the club that a friend of his, who runs a trout fishery, wishes to get rid of an extensive population of coarse fish, mainly rudd but also roach and crucians. The "cost" to the club will be a 1 year honorary membership.</p> <p>PC raised a possible concern about introducing disease and it was felt that this risk was minimal.</p> <p>It was proposed by Andy Moody and seconded by Jow Bowman that we should take advantage of this offer, for 4, against 0, abstain 1. Carried</p>	<p>Joe Bowman to organise the fish catching.</p> <p>Also to get the details of the fishery owner to Peter so that an honorary ticket can be sent.</p>
<p>John B said that the grass needs strimming and that the pile of tree cutting behind peg 18 should be put on a bonfire.</p>	

<p>Andy Moody reported that 2 bags of feed have gone in over the last month, there is enough left for another month's feed.</p>	
<p>Matt raised an issue that had been of concern to some at the recent match. Disabled anglers are offered to draw the disabled pegs 3, 4 or 5 before the general draw. Some members felt it unfair as it allowed those anglers to practise on those pegs alone and gain an unfair advantage. After much discussion it was felt that the best solution may be to ask any disabled anglers which swims they can fish (even if they need assistance carrying their kit) then put those numbers in the draw before the general draw. This will allow a greater range of pegs to be fished by the disabled angler, thereby reducing any perceived advantage. Notwithstanding any of the above, the match secretary's decision on the day remains final.</p>	<p>Andy Moody to take action on match days.</p>

Minutes from the ordinary general meeting of Wantage & Grove Angling Club, held in the Bear Hotel on Tuesday 3 June 2025.

Present: Matt Andrew (chair), Andy Moody (match sec), Peter Constable (sec), John Blackwell, Des Bushnell.

Apologies: Peter Powell, & Gerry Austin.

Meeting started at 8:00pm, the minutes from May 2025 were read and accepted.

<p>Pond Monitoring The pond has dissolved oxygen levels between 40-64% and a water temperature of 17.2°C. All contaminants are undetectable.</p>

Chair's Report

<p>Nothing new to report this month</p>

Treasurer's Report

<p>The renewals and new members have generated £xxxx and the club funds currently stand at £xxxx.</p>

Match Secretary's Report

<p>The 2nd aggregate saw 13 members fish but only 10 fished the 3rd. The weigh staff and hook cost £53.99. The match funds now stand at £174.11, there are sufficient funds to purchase a new set of weigh scales. The resignation of Gerry Austin as assistant match secretary has been accepted. It is understood that Gerry must put his family first. Thanks to Gerry for his work was offered.</p>

Secretary's Report

<p>Training days There has been no further movement on this and is unlikely to happen this year.</p> <p>Membership The renewals process has been completed and new members invited from the waiting lists. Membership now stands at 221 members, of which: 195 Adult (176 full, 17 5-year and 2 honorary) & 26 Junior There are 20 guest permits issued</p> <p>There are 26 new members, 13 each within and without the OX12 postcode area. In total there are now 46 members outside the OX 12 postcode area. All those on the waiting list have been invited and the lists are now exhausted.</p> <p>Pond contract with Network Rail</p>

I have contacted a number of departments at Network Rail regarding updating the contact details for the contract. I think I've found the right one but have heard nothing back from them yet. I believe that they are also the people who would be able to provide permission to erect an otter fence. I have emailed the team in question (network property services Western) twice and not received a reply, I have emailed the team who directed me to the Western team to ask if they have alternative contact details (either a phone number or different email address).

Any Other Business

Following conversations with Matt, Martin Bennett has suggested we use a third party to strip and repair the splashers (1 hp motor, single phase). Suggested contacts are SI pumps, Botley, 01865 791719 or aquacultureequipment.co.uk .	Peter to try to arrange a service
The carp will be delivered as soon as Jack (JS Fisheries) can do so. The proposed electro fishing will be postponed to next winter.	
So far about 400 rudd (from all year classes) have been transferred into the pond from the trout fishery.	Transfers to continue
The grass needs cutting, Peter Powell will pass the strimmer to Andy Moody	
There is no feed pellets left. Chix feed will be ordered and Matt has purchased 4 bags of fish pellets, these will be picked up by Des Bushnell.	
John Blackwell reported that the oil in the generator has been replaced and it is now ready to run.	
The willow in the corner has split and part fallen in. This needs to be removed and a tree surgeon is to be contracted for this and other tree work as necessary.	PC to find a tree surgeon and get a price
In the absence of an assistant match secretary all those at a match who are able will be put into a draw bag and an assistant drawn on the day.	Andy to arrange at each match
It was suggested that matches start an hour later and an additional 15 minutes be given to the setup time.	To be considered for next year.

Minutes from the ordinary general meeting of Wantage & Grove Angling Club, held in the Bear Hotel on Tuesday 1 July 2025.

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

Apologies: Peter Powell, Joe Bowman & Gerry Austin.

Meeting started at 8:00pm, the minutes from June 2025 were read and accepted.

Pond Monitoring
The pond has dissolved oxygen levels between 18-45% and a water temperature of 23.1°C. All contaminants are undetectable.

Chair's Report

Thanks to Andy Moody and John Blackwell for removing tree that fell at the entrance to the pond, this was done at short notice.
Also, thanks to Peter Constable for arranging the recent stocking of 200 small carp.

Treasurer's Report

The club funds stand at £xxxx.
The club expects invoices of £750 for the carp and £170 for the pellets.

Match Secretary's Report

The 4th aggregate generated £75 for the match fund and the committee cup added £45.
The scales and bag were £77.98
Funds now stand at £213.94

Secretary's Report

Membership

Membership now stands at 221 members, of which:
198 Adult (179 full, 17 5-year and 2 honorary) & 26 Junior
There are 20 guest permits issued

Pond contract with Network Rail

I continue to try to contact the relevant team at Network Rail.
I have been directed to complete an online form, this I did on 16 June and received an automatic reply saying they will respond within 20 working days.
I await their answer.

Otter Fencing – grant application

This is held until we get permission from Network Rail.

Tree Surgeon

Following a meeting with Ben Kent from Tiptop tree surgeons to discuss removal or pollarding of the willow on peg 10 and the willows around peg 18 a maximum cost of £1,000 plus VAT was given. This will be refined for a formal quote.

Crucians

A member, Paul Wilson, has a friend who is involved in the UK Crucian carp project and asked if he should contact his friend. I suggested he should go ahead and ask, even if we get tuned down as there are carp in the pond.

Splasher Servicing

I have spoken to SI pumps in Oxford. They can service the units if we get them there.
Action – Andy will dismantle the splashers and I will take them into Oxford.

Secretary's report – continued

Filming at the pond

I have received an approach from Ruth Berkley from Studio Lambert (they produce Squid games, The traitors, Race across the world, Goggle and other programmes).
They would like to shoot a sequence on Station Road (running behind the pond) between midnight and 4am.

I said that the club would have no objection but that the land is owned by Network Rail and she should seek their permission. Ruth has said she will keep the club updated when shooting will occur so that members can be advised.

Action – There is no objection so I will contact Ruth and let her know.

Any Other Business

As the temperature rises a close eye will be kept on dissolved oxygen levels and the feeding will cease if levels fall below 20%	
The solar panels need cleaning. This will require getting the boat out and wiping the panels down.	
Approximately 500 rudd (all year classes) have been transferred to the pond from the trout farm.	
Andy Moody has the strimmer and fuel this will be used to cut the grass.	
Peter raised the problems about finding a coach and wondered if the club	PC to investigate

should fund one from its membership. The cost of a 3 days course with the Angling Trust is £290.	further
Richard asked if, as the definition of the club account with the bank includes the word “charity” should we have a charity number. It was agreed that the bank’s account is a catch-all for non-profit organisations and we need take no action.	
A work party is needed and a date will be set at the August meeting.	
Tommy Carter and Charlie Bishop were caught at the pond again. The police were contacted but they left the pond before the police would respond.	

Minutes from the ordinary general meeting of Wantage & Grove Angling Club, held in the Bear Hotel on Tuesday 5 August 2025.

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

Apologies: Peter Powell & Phil Mansbridge.

Meeting started at 8:05pm, the minutes from July 2025 were read and accepted.

Pond Monitoring

The pond has dissolved oxygen levels between 33-60% and a water temperature of 19.5°C.
All contaminants are undetectable.

Chair’s Report

The work done by TipTop tree services was professional and tidy.
Thanks go to Andy Moody for tidying up and other work at the north end of the pond.
Thanks also go to Andy and Peter Powell for clearing the ground between pegs 10 & 11.

Treasurer’s Report

The club funds stand at £xxxx
There are no outstanding invoices.

Match Secretary’s Report

The match funds now stand at 253,94.
The peg fees for the 5th aggregate were £90 and the lake cost £50.

Secretary’s Report

Membership

Membership now stands at 234 members, of which:
207 Adult (179 full, 17 5-year and 2 honorary) & 26 Junior
There are 20 guest permits issued

Pond contract with Network Rail

There has been no contact from Network Rail so I will see if I can get hold of their legal team regarding change of details on the contract.

Otter Fencing – grant application

This is held until we get permission from Network Rail.

Splasher Servicing

The pumps have been tested and run up to speed by SI pumps and no faults found. I will collect and return them to the club. The cost is £50.

Filming at the pond

Completed and no further action.

Any Other Business

Pellets/feeding As the oxygen levels remain above 20% feeding will continue. The club need more layers and carp pellets. Blakes are to be approached to see if we can open a credit account	Des B to contact Blakes
There are a number of logs left from the tree work. A log supplier has expressed interest and can collect free of charge	Richard to follow up
The solar panels have been cleaned	
Matt is interested in the coaching course.	PC to contact the EA for more details
A work party is scheduled for Saturday 16 August.	PC to advertise
Andy Moody has spoken to PC Jerry Aldroid regarding Tommy Carter & Charlie Bishop. Copies of the letter banning the two will be given to PC Aldroid and he will present them directly to Bishop & Carter	Andy to give letter to PC Aldroid
Strimmer Safety over-trousers should be worn when using the strimmer and a double-shoulder harness should be used	Andy M to follow up
The hedge needs trimming	Richard to get quote
There have recently been two lorries from the grain store trying to get down the track. The cost of a cantilever gate will be looked at.	Richard to look at options
Peter asked if the club should get a number of realistic mannequins as a cormorant deterrent. It was felt these would be vulnerable to vandalism.	No action
There was a discussion regarding the restarting of Siltex application. On a vote of 5:1 in favour it was decided that Siltex application should resume. To be carried out in winter and only half the pond done each year.	

Minutes from the ordinary general meeting of Wantage & Grove Angling Club, held in the Bear Hotel on Tuesday 2 September 2025.

Present: Matt Andrew (chair), Andy Moody (match sec), Peter Constable (sec), Richard Harrison (treasurer), John Blackwell, Des Bushnell, Joe Bowman & Theo Andrew.

Apologies: Peter Powell, Gerry Austin, Andy Earl & Phil Mansbridge.

Meeting started at 8:05pm, the minutes from August 2025 were read and accepted.

Pond Monitoring

The pond has dissolved oxygen levels between 46-72% and a water temperature of 19.1°C. All contaminants are undetectable.

Chair's Report

The pumps and splashers are now working, the original fault appears to be the result of faulty (crossed) wires as the colour coding on the splashers are not standard. Thanks to Martin Bennett for resolving this.

There may be a fault with the generator, this may be the result of a faulty battery and a new one will be purchased. If this fails the oil pressure switch should be replaced, if all fails a new generator will be required.

The work party on 16 August was very well attended and thanks go to all those who gave their time.

Treasurer's Report

The bream stocked recently have been paid for and club funds stand at £xxxx. There appears to be an odd credit for £3, Matt will contact TSB to find out more.

Match Secretary's Report

The pegs fees for the 6th and 7th aggregate were £70 and £60 respectively.
The match funds now stand at £383.94.

Secretary's Report

Splasher Servicing

The club was charged £30 for the testing of the pump/splashers.

SMS messaging

The use of the bulk SMS service appears to be a good way to contact members and will be continued. It costs about £9 to send a simple message and the club will continue to use this service.

New Member Cut-off

The request that any new member applications are deferred to next year (April 2026) was agreed.

Any Other Business

A credit account at Blake's for the purchase of pellets has yet to be set up.	Des B to contact Blakes
A log supplier will collect the logs left over from the tree work.	Richard to follow up
The solar panels need to be cleaned again as ducks are roosting on them.	
Matt is interested in the coaching course.	PC to contact the EA for more details
Another work party is scheduled for Saturday 13 September. The trees at pegs 1-3 need to be removed and others trimmed.	PC to advertise
Andy confirmed that the letters have been given to Tommy Carter & Charlie Bishop by the police.	
The harness for the strimmer has been delivered and the safety trousers for use with the chain saw are on order. Ear defenders and safety glasses are needed.	Andy M to follow up
The contractor for the hedge trimming is on holiday.	Richard to follow up
A cantilever gate for the entrance was discussed, it was estimated that this would cost in the region of £2,000 including ground works.	No decision was made
Joe Bowman asked if he can leave an aggregate match once it has started, yes, but if anything has been caught the nets must be left to weigh-in	
Joe also asked which pegs he can fish in matches and can this be limited to pegs 3,4 & 5. The counter argument was that Joe could fish any of pegs 1-10 as these are adjacent to the parking and that other club members will help him get his tackle to and from the water.	
John B said that the chain link fence at peg 10 is broken, probably by a vehicle turning round or Network Rail contractor	
The club will introduce barley straw again this year to suppress algal growth.	John B to contact Nick Ponting
John also requested that he be kept informed about fish stocks. Apologies were made and he will be kept informed in future and that quick decisions (such as the introduction of the bream) will be communicated to members.	
John B says that his son can service the generator, the club will see if its actions (described in Chair's report) are successful first.	
Andy reported that more layer's pellets are needed.	

Minutes from the ordinary general meeting of Wantage & Grove Angling Club, held in the Bear Hotel on Tuesday 7 October 2025.

Present: Matt Andrew (chair), Andy Moody (match sec), Peter Constable (sec), Peter Powell, John Blackwell, Des Bushnell & Mark Ould.

Apologies: Richard Harrison (treasurer), & Gerry Austin.

Meeting started at 8:05pm, the minutes from September 2025 were read and accepted.

Pond Monitoring

The pond has dissolved oxygen levels between 56-72% and a water temperature of 13.0°C.
All contaminants are undetectable.

Chair's Report

All the details for the setting up of a credit account with Blake's (for the purchase of pellets) have been passed to Richard.
The solar panels have been cleaned.

Treasurer's Report

There is no treasurer's report this month

Match Secretary's Report

The pegs fees for the 8th and 9th aggregates were £90 and £60 respectively. The pegs fees for aggregate 8 were £120.
The new scales and weighing staff have been purchased leaving £468.94 in the match fund.
The recent work party was not as well attended as the first. There are trees down in the lake (notably at peg 1) and a new work party is required, this will be on Sunday 19 October.
There are 13 anglers qualified for the Christmas match.

Secretary's Report

There is nothing new to report this month.

Any Other Business

Matt is to directly look at the coaching courses on the Angling Trust website.	
Peter Powell raised the issue of Joe Bowman's access to the pond at matches. There was no conclusion to this other than confirmation of earlier correspondence. (see notes, below).	
The rules from other clubs will be checked to see if we can bring ours in line.	PC to check
All the safety equipment for use with the chain saw and strimmer has been delivered and will be used as required.	
The club needs to buy some barley straw for algae suppression.	John B to contact Nick Ponting
A new oil pressure switch for the generator has been purchased and needs to be fitted.	Matt to action
Des B had bought 4x25Kg bags of pellets at £40 per bag. The receipt has been passed to Richard for payment.	
John B says that his son can service the generator, the club will see if its actions (described in Chair's report) are successful first.	
Des B requested that the start time for matches in autumn be reviewed so that the draw is done in better light.	Andy M to review
Matt asked about the delivery of the carp that were ordered earlier this year.	PC to chase
John B reported that the lily cutter needs sharpening and the lilies cut back.	
Andy Moody reported that more layers pellets are needed.	JB will supply

There was a short discussion about the future of the New Forest match with no definite conclusion.	Andy M will review
Peter P said he has clean concrete that can be used as backfill, he will deliver this to the pond and it needs to be barrowed to pegs 21 & 22 to be used as backfill.	
The work party on Sunday 19 October needs to be promoted.	PC to action

Minutes from the ordinary general meeting of Wantage & Grove Angling Club, held in the Bear Hotel on Tuesday 4 November 2025.

Present: Matt Andrew (chair), Richard Harrison (treasurer), Peter Constable (sec), Peter Powell, John Blackwell, Des Bushnell, Joe Bowman, Mike Ould & Alan Rose.

Apologies: Andy Moody (match sec) & Gerry Austin.

Meeting started at 8:00pm, the minutes from October 2025 were read and accepted.

Pond Monitoring

The pond has dissolved oxygen levels between 60-70% and a water temperature of 11.1°C. All contaminants are undetectable.

Chair's Report

There was disappointment at the turnout for the work party but thanks were extended to those who did attend, especially to Robin Ackrill who put in an extraordinary amount of work. The fallen tree in peg 1 has been removed and other trees tidied up. There is still work to be done.

Treasurer's Report

The is £xxxx in the club's accounts and there are no outstanding invoices. The club has spent £xxxx on fish this year. A credit account will be set up with Blake's to ease the purchase of feed for the pond.

Match Secretary's Report

There is no report this month.

Secretary's Report

The rules of ten angling clubs (a mixture local and large clubs) were read to see what they said about disabled access. Apart from rules regarding the landing of fish in matches there was nothing specific regarding disabled access to swims. (appendix 1, below)
I received a Leisure Facilities Assessment and Strategy (LFAS) review questionnaire from the South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse district council. This was duly completed and returned. (appendix 2, below)

Any Other Business

The club needs to buy some barley straw for algae suppression.	John B to contact Nick Ponting
Onion sacks will be needed for the barley straw.	Peter C to buy
Matt is to directly look at the coaching courses on the Angling Trust website.	
The generator casing has to be removed to fit the new oil pressure switch. John Blackwell's son can do this as part of a service.	John B to arrange
The New Forest match has yet to be confirmed, Andy Moody will advise the viability depending on the number who want to go.	Andy M to report
The lily cutter is blunt and requires sharpening.	Matt A to check

A pair of new blades is around £70. The club will buy new blades if required.	
Peter Powell advised that the back-filling behind pegs 20-22 is ongoing.	
John Blackwell suggested that we don't put more stock in until the recent fish have settled. Also, the club should set a budget for fish purchases.	Keep under review
Peter Powell reported that the solar panels need to be fixed together. The current solution is temporary and a permanent solution must be found.	

Appendix 1

List of clubs where rules were checked for specific disabled access notes:

No specific rules : Birmingham AA, Thatcham AA, Newbury AA, South Cerney AC, Littlemore AS, Abingdon & Oxford AA & Lavington AC.

Old Windsor AC – only rule relates to netting of fish in a match,

Reading and District AA – only rule relates to landing of fish in matches but is not disabled specific, - London AA – disabled references deal with fishery access only

Appendix 2

Questions and responses to the South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Council Leisure Facilities Assessment and Strategy (LFAS) Review

1.Name of club - Wantage and Grove Angling Club

2.Sport or Activity - Angling

3.Contact name - Peter Constable

4.Club or contact email - wag_sec@gmx.co.uk

5.Which district does you club operate in? - Vale of White Horse

6.Please provide the name(s) of the facility that you use. - Station pond, Grove

7.How many members do you currently have in your club? Please break this down where possible into Juniors/ Adults/ Male/ Female etc. - 234 members (208 Adult and 26 Junior members).

8.Do any of your sections have waiting lists, if so please specify which sections and the amount waiting. - None

9.Have there been any facility changes since the 2024 document was produced? (If you use more than one facility, please be clear which facility the comments relate to.)

No recent changes

10.Have any future plans for the facility been identified? (I.e. modification, expansion)

The club has plans for one of the committee to gain formal coaching qualifications. Once this is in place we intend to have open days for those who live locally and would like to experience fishing or improve their skills. This is in accordance with the club's constitution to promote angling in the local area.

11.Does the club have any key updates, changes, or issues to raise, not mentioned above?

The club experiences predation from otters and cormorants. We have a desire to adopt measures to minimise predation but currently have neither the funds nor the requisite permission from the land owner.

12.If you have any further comments, please note them here:

A recent study led by Anglia Ruskin university shows that angling promotes general wellbeing and mental health, as per the quote below from Lee Smith, Professor of Public Health at Anglia Ruskin University (ARU):

"This would suggest that encouraging participation in fishing could be a good dual-method strategy for both promoting relaxation and good mental health, as well as encouraging increased levels of physical activity within those with mental health issues such as anxiety disorder."

Minutes from the ordinary general meeting of Wantage & Grove Angling Club, held in the Bear Hotel on Tuesday 2 December 2025.

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

Apologies:.

Meeting started at 8:00pm, the minutes from November 2025 were read and accepted.

Pond Monitoring

There was no pond monitoring report this month.

Chair's Report

Thanks were extended to all other committee members for their hard work through 2025.

Treasurer's Report

There is £xxxxd in the club's accounts.

A credit account will be set up with Blake's to ease the purchase of feed for the pond.

Match Secretary's Report

Thanks to Pete Powell for running the memorial match. It was proposed by John B that the monies raise (£30) are donated to the air ambulance, this was seconded by Peter C and carried unanimously. The peg fees stand at £498.94 and £30 will be forwarded as above.

Secretary's Report

There is no report this month.

Any Other Business

The barley straw for algae suppression is ready to be collected from Nick Ponting.	Pete Powell has said he can do this
The generator service is due this week.	
Matt is to directly look at the coaching courses on the Angling Trust website.	
The back-filling behind pegs 20-22 is on-going. It was felt that this needed shoring up or the material will just slide into the pond.	Peter P to check prices
The work to fix the solar panels together remains outstanding. Electrical conduit or similar is needed.	Matt A to check
It was decided to buy new lily cutter blades.	Matt A to buy
There was a short discussion about membership renewals and Clubmate was considered.	Peter C to get details
Fourteen anglers qualified to fish the Christmas match and it was agreed that £200-£220 will be spent on prizes (in line with last year).	Andy M to buy these
There will be no organised Christmas meal this year but members are all invited to the Volunteer pub after the Christmas match. Meet at 2:00-2:30 on Sunday 14 December.	
The poaching from the local lads seems to have ceased but this is expected at this time of year.	Continue to monitor
Andy said that more pellets (both carp and layers) are needed. These will be collected from Blake's and supplied by John B (as appropriate).	Des to collect
The logs have yet to be collected.	Richard to chase
The hedge requires cutting and a local contractor will be found.	
The AGM is on Monday 2 February in the Old Mill Hall, Grove, starting at 7pm	Matt to book the room
The Siltex will be applied in late Feb / early March and need not be ordered mid January.	
Pete P asked if there would be any rule change regarding disabled access following Joe Bowman's complaints. It was agreed that if Joe wished to make any changes he should submit these for consideration at the AGM.	