

ISLE OF WIGHT FRESHWATER ANGLING COMPANY

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at Arreton
Community Hall**

on Friday 22nd May 2026 at 19:30 hrs.

20 members were present at the meeting. Copies of last year's financial report from our accountant, and the agenda for this meeting were sent via e mail to all members. The 2025 AGM minutes were readily available on the Company website. The accounts have yet to be placed on the website, as awaiting members approval. The Chair welcomed attending members and opened the meeting.

Shirley Winn, chaired the meeting, five Directors and Company Secretary were in attendance. Shirley opened the meeting at 19.30 and welcomed all those that had attended and thanked Arreton community Hall for the use of this venue and access to the bar. It was appreciated that work and other commitments could prevent members from attendance. Notification of AGM had been distributed by e mail, inserted on the website, and advertised in the IOW Observer newspaper. All Health and Safety domestic arrangements for the venue were explained.

Agenda items

Item no	Discussion	Action by
1	Apologies. John Hopkinson, Derek Curtis, Neil Walker, Glyn Mills, and Gary Thornton	
2	2025 Minutes. Minutes of the 2025 AGM were readily available on the Company Website. The Company Secretary asked if there were any questions about the minutes and asked for a proposer and seconder if it was accepted that they were a true record of the 2025 AGM. Proposed Ray Kirby, Seconded Russ Bates. All in favour	
3	Annual statement to the Members from the Board. Shirley Winn then commenced the reading of the annual statement. Once again, another year has passed with many new members joining us and sadly some leaving us. The Board of Directors strive to ensure that every member can voice their opinions on things that are important to them and that those opinions will be considered carefully before any decisions made. As you can imagine with 793 members there is a lot of different opinions on what is the best way of dealing with something, so robust debate can often occur. If you wish to voice an opinion on something, or you have a complaint about an issue or another member, the correct procedure is to e mail the Company Secretary who will acknowledge your communication and forward it to the Board for discussion. We want to move away from the bankside complaints and move	

forward with constructive and realistic ideas and opinions.

If it is a complaint about another member, then written evidence will be required and if there are witnesses their details will also be required so that we receive a true picture of what occurred, so that disciplinary procedures can be instigated if necessary.

The Companies Facebook page is not a forum for debate, so comments are often switched off to prevent exchanges that have in the past become heated and personal. We have therefore found a need to introduce a social media policy giving guidance on what is acceptable and what is not. This will be attached to your renewal membership e mail.

The Facebook page is to inform members of venue closures, maintenance work or events that are occurring in the near future. We do realise that not every member is a fan of Facebook, so we do try and send out information in e mails via our membership database. Provided members don't change their e mail address without telling us or unsubscribe from the e mails, information is broadcast to the whole membership simultaneously.

Administering a large company such as ours is never an easy task and no officer or Director can be expected to be responsible for every action or task that needs to be done. We are very lucky that some Board members are willing to freely give their time to deal with a lot of maintenance, but some are finding it more and more difficult to find the time, or their age is starting to catch up with them. The Board therefore have to consider the use of contractors to deal with some of the workload. Work parties are a great way to deal with maintenance but in our Health and Safety environment somebody has to be in charge of it and direct everyone to do what is required and abide by Health and Safety policies. Unless we have a core of volunteers wishing to undertake this role it is often easier and more convenient to use a contractor. The recent Siltex application at our venues was an example of volunteers available and willing to help with the exercise, which was very encouraging, but tight distribution schedules and delivery meant that those experienced with the task were not available, so a contractor was used. Bailiffs and volunteers completed this task at Gunville which was greatly appreciated

As usual there has been lots of things happening during the year. Some good, some not so.

Gunville pond/lake has continued to benefit from considerable tree work after much consultation with the Isle of Wight Council Tree Preservation Officer. Site examinations had to be undertaken, and an approved arborist appointed to deal with the tasks. As reported last year Treecare was appointed for the job, and has been our preferred contractor and was used on a number of occasions on difficult tree work on various sites.

Japanese Knotweed which was discovered at Gunville continues to be treated by Groundsels. Full eradication can take up to ten years, and the site is closely monitored each year to ensure the treatment is successful. The projected costs are likely to be in the region of £10, 000, but fortunately thanks to the persistence of Gary Thornton who completed an Angling Trust

grant application, and we received a payment of £5,000 towards the cost. It is essential that we comply with the full eradication plan for as long as it takes.

During the late summer a team of around 15 members/bailiffs formed a weekend work party at Gunville to repair and upgrade the access track both inside and outside the gate. They also realigned the gate, so it hung better, removed many obstacles and tree roots as well as generally tidying up. Well done to all involved and many thanks for all the hard work.

Flooding has been a longstanding issue with Gunville, potentially affecting surrounding houses and resulting in venue closure due to unsafe flooded paths around the lake. We have also been badly affected by silt and water entering the lake from adjoining farmland. Steve Penman has been a Company representative at various meetings with Gunville residents and has been liaising with the Isle of Wight Council, and local councillors. The Company are very grateful with his determination to ensure our interests in this matter are heard and understood. There appears to be a stalemate at present with the council who appear not to be interested in the silt overflow onto our land, and the farm owner not accepting responsibility. The increase in flooding would seem to possibly be due to the blocking of ditches by the housing estate developer and not ensuring adequate drainage alternatives.

In this next membership year funds are being set aside for improvement and maintenance works with swim construction and path maintenance being a priority. There are also plans for the consideration of the construction of a silt trap.

The very heavy rainfall has also caused delays with the cutting back of brambles at all sites, and damage to the Holliers access lane with deep furrows gouged out by the volume of water running down. There are plans afoot in the new membership year to deal with this issue.

Disappointingly there was some deliberate tree damage down the access lane at Holliers which created some correspondence with the owners of the lane. We do like to keep the owner onside as relations can often be strained. Many of you will have noticed that notices have been erected recently stating the speed limit is 5mph. Our rules state 10mph and there is nothing in our sale agreements that specifies 5mph. However, to maintain good relations can you please keep the speed down when accessing the Holliers venue.

Holliers has benefited from the renewal of 18 swims, improved drainage, and the installation of a concrete path to help those with mobility issues. A number of trees had been removed that were likely to cause issues with Health and Safety.

The stock ponds at this site are showing encouraging signs of fish growth with Hunters pool having young Crucians, Tench and mirror Carp. These will eventually be used where required.

Merstone has also had its fair share of flooding issues over the winter with the venue closed on occasions. There are plans to improve the drainage situation with the construction of a drainage channel to the river, and the

construction of a bund at the far end of Heron lake with a water storage pool.

Merstone being our most popular site does tend to require the most maintenance, with swim repair, tree maintenance and undergrowth clearance akin to painting the Forth bridge. Any help however small with advertised work parties are always greatly appreciated.

We have purchased additional aerators that can be used when the older models cease to work or as supplementary units to assist when oxygen levels drop unexpectedly at any of our venues.

We have had to have a new pump for the sewerage disposal unit at Merstone as the old one suddenly stopped working.

Our energy Company "Yu energy" have finally accepted that we run lakes rather than houses and our electricity bills are going to be lower in the winter than the domestic consumer. We also now have a smart meter that finally works and appears to be recording accurate information. However it has taken 3 visits to Holliers to finally get it resolved. The visiting engineer was not used to installing smart meters in a field.

Once again, we will be holding our very popular junior fishing competition later in the year, so watch out for dates. Last September 11 juniors fished in Minnow Lake, and everyone was once again rewarded with a quality raffle prizes and burger/hotdog and refreshments afterwards. They went down well with mums and dads as well. The only cost to the company was the refreshments as Tim provided the bait and the cooking done in house, and all prizes donated by members. If anybody has good tackle that is no longer required and would make a great raffle prize, please let us know. Thanks to all helpers and those that organised the event.

Whilst talking juniors can we please point out that if you are accompanying a junior and are an associate member it would be wise to hold an Environment Agency rod license even though you don't fish. We would hate to see you assist your junior by holding the rod for them and then get accused by a EA Bailiff should they visit, that you were fishing! Fines can be hefty.

The Board would like to thank Ian Jones for picking up the mantle of Match Secretary duties. He has embraced social media by accessing Facebook and having a dedicated e mail address for this role. He has done a sterling job, particularly during the keep net ban which was introduced for fish welfare reasons and the more recent changes to net limits and general match rules. It is our belief that all competitions should be generally free to enter for any member that wants to have a go. Separate pools can be run alongside the match, but participation remains optional.

Water level markers are to be incorporated on some of the pegs to make it easier to assess changes in water levels.

The long running saga of Somerton has now been resolved with all liability for the site terminated. Despite the protracted period our solicitor has been dealing with the issue their costs were capped at £500 so a final settlement of £4000 was paid into our account.

Membership

The Company membership currently stands at 793, but this does include partners/wives/husbands and children in Family memberships. The actual number of active members amounts to 639

The membership can be broken down as follows:

224 - Family memberships

232 - Full memberships

177 - Concessionary over 66

33 -Concessionary disabled

55 - Juniors under 16

10 - Juniors 16 to 18

52 - Non fishing associates

5 - Honorary members

5 - Life members

The 2 free Guest tickets each membership year continues to be popular, but please remember unless 48 hours' notice is given supply can't be guaranteed. Guest tickets are only available for dawn to dusk fishing, and the member must accompany the guest and assume full responsibility for them. Additional tickets can be purchased at £10 per day per person but again the member must accompany them.

Finance

Income and expenditure for the year ending 31/03/2026

Our membership income = £75,292, a decrease of £982 on the previous year

Guest tickets = £29 a decrease of £11 on the previous year

Deposit account interest = £4260 an increase of £69 on the previous year

Total income = £89,078 an increase of £8028 on previous year

Our expenditure was £68,780 plus depreciation of £6,992 (total of £75,772), a decrease of £1375 on the previous year.

We have therefore lived within our budget for the year and produced a net surplus of £13,306 as compared to £3903 in the previous year

This has allowed the Board to not increase membership fees for the next membership year.

As at 31/03 our accounts stood at

Nat West current account = £170.79

	<p>Nat West Business reserve account = £6.07</p> <p>Nat West 95 day account = £130,363.30</p> <p>Santander account = £34.94</p> <p>Once again, we confirm that all Directors, Bailiffs or officers of the Company give their services voluntarily and receive no monies, honorariums or benefits of any kind. All pay their own membership</p> <p>Thank you for your patience, and if you do have any issues you wish to discuss please raise them in the any other business on the AGM agenda. Those issues will be taken away, discussed by the Board and you will be given a considered reply as soon as possible</p>	
4	<p>Accounts</p> <p>John Creaser Company Secretary admitted that as he is not aware of all accountancy law pertaining to companies all our invoices and bank statements are presented to our Accountants, Allegri & Co who compile our accounts each year in the correct format to comply with company law. They stated that the Xero bookkeeping was prepared to a good standard but again they had removed VAT again. As John had been particularly careful to remove any VAT notation on income he contacted the accountants to see what he had missed. Apparently as we do not pay VAT there is no need to show the VAT element charged in any invoices. This will simplify matters. The accountant has warned us that as our annual turnover is fast approaching the VAT threshold of £90,000 we would be liable to pay VAT. We actually made more of a net profit than we intended to, as unexpected income of £4000 from the sale of Somerton and a grant of £5000 towards the eradication of knotweed was not factored into our calculations. John asked for any questions about the accounts. Jeff Collins asked if we paid VAT on our electricity bills. Jeff asked as registered charities are going to receive relief from VAT, but unfortunately that won't reply to us as we are not a charity. Jeff Arnold then asked questions about the accuracy of the start and termination dates for Directors, as it would appear that some data was missing. John admitted that he hadn't noticed this as he was concentrating more on the financial transactions and thanked Jeff for pointing it out. Acceptance of the accounts were proposed by Jeff Collins and seconded by Jeff Arnold. The accounts will now be posted to the website.</p>	
5	<p>Articles and Bye laws</p> <p>Jeff Arnold said that our existing bye laws stated that the number of Directors can be between a minimum of 2 and a maximum of 14 and that a third of the Board forms a quorum when Board meetings are held. Jeff correctly pointed out that a minimum of 2 would never allow for a quorum to be present and that the minimum should be 3. This was accepted and will be changed. There was no other changes.</p>	
6	<p>Membership subscriptions.</p> <p>The Company secretary said that our Company does not want to make a</p>	

	<p>profit, merely break even. We want to keep our subscriptions as low as we can for the benefit of our members, so it was felt that we are able to keep the membership costs for this year the same as last. We don't want to consider membership costs for the 2027 year until closer to the time as everything depends on the financial state of the Company and its ability to meet all anticipated and projected costs.</p>	
7	<p>Election of Directors</p> <p>There has been no new nominations for Directors within the permitted time frame but there are 2 Directors who have been co-opted onto the Board, and 3 that have served their 3 year tenure.</p> <p>The first co opted Director is Chris Langdon. Chris is not showing as a Director on Companies House due to difficulties in the registration process. All Directors are now required to prove their identity, and Chris has had major issues with the Companies House portal. He has been making decisions as a Director of the Company, and in due course will be recorded. Eric Hayles had left the Board then requested to be part of it again, so both these persons need to be voted on at this AGM.</p> <p>Chris Langdon – Show of hands - All in favour</p> <p>Eric Hayles – Show of hands – All in favour</p> <p>The first Director for re-election if they wish to stand is Shane Pearce. The Company Secretary asked if he was prepared to stand for re-election which he was. The floor was asked for a show of hands for Shane to be re-elected. All in favour.</p> <p>The second Director for re-election is Ian Winn. Ian was again asked if he wished to stand for re- election which he was. The floor was asked for a show of hands for Ian to be re-elected. All in favour.</p> <p>The third Director was Shirley Winn. Shirley was asked if she wished to stand again which she was. The floor was asked for a show of hands for Shirley to be re-elected. All in favour.</p> <p>The Company Secretary did advertise his position earlier in the year, but to his dismay nobody has stepped forward so he will continue until somebody feels brave enough to attempt it. Shirley and Ian Winn have shadowed the Company Secretary so in the event of ill health they can step in. The floor acknowledged that John was doing a good job and would likely have the job for life. John thanked the floor for their appreciation.</p>	
8	<p>Any other business.</p> <p>The floor was then opened up to any questions. These would be noted discussed at the next Board meeting and a considered reply given.</p>	

Shirley Winn asked for the minutes to reflect the Boards appreciation and thanks for the work undertaken by the Company Secretary.

Ray Kirby asked why a law regarding "crusting" had been removed from the match rules. Crusting refers to all floating baits. It was thought that this was in the match rules but has been overlooked in the latest version. This will be taken away and discussed with Ian Jones the Match Secretary..

Jeff Arnold thought the match rules were not very good. John explained that we had taken on board a lot of rules that Ian Jones the Match Secretary wanted to be included as well as suggestions from other match participants. These were then all amalgamated to form the rules. Jeff thought that some of the wording like "if you don't like it, don't take part" was inappropriate and should be removed.

Ray Kirby also stated that the rule that says no Pike to be landed in matches has been removed. Tim Oatley said that the venues on which competitions are held do not contain Pike, so this rule is probably not needed. Shirley Winn thought that it would be a good idea if Jeff Arnold contacted Ian Jones to discuss these rules with a view to revising them to everybody's satisfaction.

Ray Kirby then raised the issue about having 3m keepnets on the grounds of fish welfare. Both Shane Pearce and Tim Oatley admitted that we had started to discuss this issue at the last Board meeting and would be dealing with it at the next Board meeting.

Ray Kirby then asked if we were going to net Kingfisher this year? All were reminded that the Board announced last year that there would be no netting in 2025/2026. The Board had already discussed this and the earliest date for netting would be in the winter of 2027. It had been proposed to drop the water level in Kingfisher before the next netting to get a true picture of the stocking levels in the lake. Some members had been concerned about the lack of Roach.

Danny Saunders one of our authorised shooters emphasised the damage that Cormorants can do to our Roach stocks by recalling one bird that had 14 Roach in its crop. There was then a general discussion about Cormorants and the restrictions placed on shooting them.

Russ Bates queried why the Board had not decided to limit the use of the number of rods on Gunville during the busier months as he had suggested in e mails on two occasions.. If every angler kept within the limit of their swim it was felt there should be sufficient room and no need to limit rod numbers. Shane Pearce felt that if the confines of your swim only dictated the use of two rods then as a responsible angler that's what should be used. Russ was of the opinion that the size of the lake and the distribution of available swims was not designed for the use of three rods. Russ felt that even though there are 16 swims at Gunville the venue is full up with six anglers. Russ felt that the use of three rods tempts Carp anglers to spread baits outside their allotted swim, limiting room for others to fish. Shane felt strongly that members should play by the rules, rather than changing the rules to allow more to potentially fish. It was acknowledged by Russ and Tim Oatley that

this occurs on a regular basis, and that now the venue has become more popular the situation will only get worse. Russ felt frustrated that he was often explaining to members that they can't keep placing their baits outside the swim perimeter, and just wanted something done to ease the situation. Ray Kirby suggested we make it a two rod venue.

Steve Hobbs asked if the Board felt there should be a maximum line size in Kingfisher, as he has snagged into lines and hooks that would be more appropriate to sea fishing. This did generate a lot of discussion. Steve felt we needed rules that were appropriate to a particular lake rather than rules that were the same for each lake. Some members present believed that if they fished a small fish venue, they used lighter tackle and fishing a bigger fish venue meant using heavier tackle. It was felt that education should play a big part in this and get members to realise what is balanced tackle and appropriate for the fish they are after, rather than introducing new rules.

Russ Bates then asked if there were any plans to move the large Carp out of Kingfisher as many are near 20lb or over. This again generated a lot of discussion. Many members who can't fish nights delight in the chance of catching one of the heavier Carp, and those that fish matches think they are too big. It's also nice for family members to stand a chance of catching something bigger. Pete Clark did mention that he had seen anglers set up on Heron lake, then come and fish Kingfisher, effectively taking up two swims. He was assured that we had cracked down on this and this doesn't happen very often. We thought it was in the rules but apparently its not. To be examined. There were also questions raised by Jeff Arnold about the use of day shelters on Kingfisher. These are permitted as long as the path is not blocked. There was genuine concern that if anglers are not in close proximity to their rods there is a chance they will get pulled in. Most if not all anglers targeting Carp on Gunville or Heron will use a bait running reel which allows the Carp to run off with the bait without pulling the rod in, but those fishing Kingfisher many do not.

After mentioning education a few times, Russ Bates asked if it was ok to offer some guidance to new members who want to fish Gunville. That was felt to be a very useful idea. The Company Secretary said if Russ was producing written guidance or advice he would ensure it was sent out to all the membership.

Pete Clark then returned to the subject of what should we do with the large Carp in Kingfisher. It has apparently been brought up in the past but nothing seems to happen about it. Again there was a lot of discussion about what we should do with them which got a little heated when it was suggested if we can't move them anywhere we destroy them. Ray Kirby said that the majority of members didn't want big Carp in Kingfisher and Tim Oatley didn't want them in Heron. Tim disputed this and asked Ray to provide evidence of that fact and we would take it into account . Shirley Winn then intervned as the discussion was holding up the progress of the meeting and going nowhere. Pete was told we will discuss it again and get back to him and the membership.

Russ Bates asked if the Board had any long term aspirations to purchase any new venues. The Company Secretary explained that although we have £130K in the bank we have enough trouble maintaining our venues at

	<p>present and any new venues could be difficult to manage. It may be possible in the future but certainly not yet.</p> <p>Ray Kirby asked if we were going to cap the membership this year. The Company Secretary explained that we have 70 on the waiting list and we expect to lose that many members on renewal as historically we always do. It was felt that as long as we don't increase our numbers too much we should stay within the VAT threshold and also not be liable to increased membership fees for The Angling Trust or our membership database.</p> <p>Nigel Pearce wanted to thank the board as the last 2 years have been his best years at the Kingfisher lake.</p> <p>The Company Secretary thanked all those that did turn up this evening it was appreciated</p>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No other questions raised, meeting closed at 20:47 hrs. 	

Proposed Seconded

Secretary/Chair/...../.....