

Annual General Meeting 20th February 2025

The Annual General Meeting of Paxmans Angling Club was held at the Foxash Social Club, Lawford, on Thursday 20th February 2025. The meeting was declared open by the Chairman with the rules and regulations of Paxmans Angling Club.

Apologies for absence:

Apologies were received from the following:

Mr Ashley Thomas, Mr Dean Barraclough and Mr Mark Sherman.

The minutes had been posted on the club web site and Facebook page for checking, and passed as a true record.

Proposed by Mr John Walker.

Seconded by Mr Darren Barraclough.

All present agreed.

Chairman's Report

Mr Jack Davison welcomed everyone to this year's AGM and thanked everyone for coming.

He then pointed out that this would be the club's 75th Anniversary and a special celebration 48-hour fishing match had been organised for the Friday 22nd August to Sunday 24th. A celebration evening has also been planned for the Saturday 23rd August with food and a raffle, with all the proceeds being donated to a men's mental health charity.

Mr Davison then explained this year his report would be linked with the Fisheries Officers Report as he held both positions, and would be in the form of a presentation.

St Osyth Triangle

The Carp are consistently being caught in this water, and we are still hiring it out for matches as it helps to feed the fish and helps with our income.

The level has stayed quite high as it was not really irrigated, but the aerator is on standby if needed.

If the level drops enough, we will be taking out the trees at the far end and making some new swims.

St Osyth Rectangle

The level on this water has been good all year, but again the aerator is on standby.

We have been removing the Carp, 180 so far, and this will help with the oxygen levels.

This season we have been restocking with 12,000 silver fish, Crucian Carp, Tench and 60 Bream between 2 and 4 lbs. There will also be more Tench and Perch going in very soon.

The older Bream are growing on very well and we hope to add still more silver fish in the near future.

In some places the bank is undercut by 2 – 3 ft so we will be talking to the land owner about resolving this problem.

Alresford

There is ongoing proactive tree work being done on this lake to stop the trees from falling in. On the higher banks, tree removal / thinning out will also help with the air flow across the water.

The original Common Carp have been showing, now in the mid 30's, along with the Grass Carp. The Pike have been very slow but those caught are in the upper doubles.

The land owner, Mr Mark Ost, along with his son, have been repairing swims, banks and steps.

Also, working with a contact they have, hope to make a new parking area at the bottom of the slope that will take on a first come first served basis.

Home Farm

The water level on this water has dropped although not as much as the previous year, at this point it should be full.

The Catfish are growing well, now reaching 100lbs, and 59 have been microchipped. There have also been a 34lb Carp caught.

There are now signs in each swim, identifying which swim is which.

Wix 1

The water level as usual, did drop this season, however it was not as low as it has been.

The Environment Agency has asked for the trees on the water line all be removed in case the roots damage the liner.

We moved 600 lbs of mixed silverfish and Carp from Wix 2 into Wix 1, this will be a big boost to the silverfish stock.

Lastly, the area between the 2 lakes has been improved for easier access.

Wix 2

The water level on here has been very low this season. Usually, the land owner pumps from Wix 1 first, but they have had problems with the pump so have had to pump from Wix 2 which unfortunately has left it very low. The fish and oxygen levels have been carefully monitored and all is ok.

The land owner will be filling Wix 1, and we will be filling Wix 2. Their pump isn't able to cope with filling both the lakes. They are planning to get a new pump, so hopefully, pumping from Wix 2 will be their last resort in future.

The committee netted this water and removed 8 Catfish which went into Home Farm, Carp in the upper doubles were left in Wix 2 and the smaller Carp were moved over to Wix 1, along with the silver fish. There will now be a yearly netting to remove the silver fish.

In September we introduced 9 new Carp.

The future planned improvements include: work on the track, putting in turning areas and laybys, and using wooden sleepers to make steps from the top of the bank to make it safer, more comfortable, and easier access to the waters edge.

Decoy Pond

Although the water isn't an irrigation water, the level still fluctuates, as the exit culvert can get blocked. This should now have been cleared out by Taylor Wimpey.

We haven't been able to do a lot of maintenance on this water at the moment as we won't have a proper lease until it is transferred to the local council. It has taken a bit longer than planned as the uptake on the houses hasn't been as fast as they hoped. There is a draft lease in place, so once the council take over, we can get the lease sorted, and start improving the swims etc.

There is less Carp in the pond at the moment as we have had a really serious poaching problem, the only positive thing being the Carp left now have the room to grow.

Web Site

The club's web site was updated a few months ago, and now there is a photo of all the lakes showing the swims and their relevant peg numbers.

The fish stocks and weights are also now listed.

The photo gallery is also up and running so any photos of fish caught would be welcome.

The larger fish from Home Farm, Alresford and Wix 2 are all being tracked, so if a caught fish is able to be identified, the photo and current weight can be submitted.

The rules for each water can be found on the web site and in the rule book.

Any changes during the season will be posted in the notice boards and on the news page of the web site.

Treasurers Report

Mr Cook explained the financial sheet to those present and said if anyone wanted so see the accounts, he had the book with him and was happy to go through it.

He pointed out that the purchase of more fish stocks would usually be entered under the Water Management section, but he has entered it in separately to show the amount they have cost.

Mr Cook then asked if there were any questions from the floor, there were none.

Election of Officers

Mr J. Davison asked if all the current committee were happy to stand again and the answer was yes, the current committee were happy to re-stand.

Proposed by Mr Mark Dennett.

Seconded by Mr John Walker and it was passed by the floor.

Any Other Business

The question was asked if Juniors could be allowed to night fish at Alresford.

It is to be discussed at the next meeting.

Mr John Walker asked if there were any signs of Otters at Wix.

Mr Davison replied, there hadn't been any sightings since we put up the Otter fence, and there hadn't been any sightings in the surrounding areas either.

Mr Garry Harris wanted to report the water level at Decoy Pond was becoming a problem. The ditch had been dug out, but it wasn't enough as the water can't drain away due to the slope in the culvert.

Mr Harris also reported there had been some motorbikes being ridden around the pond, he had tried to catch them but wasn't able to. They ride all the way round, and are making a mess of the paths.

Mr Harris also asked about our insurance as he had recently had an incident where his dog had picked up a bait and hook which had cost £3,000 to have removed. What would happen if he had been a member of the public, would our club insurance cover it.

Mr Davison replied it would cover their legal expenses, but until we have a lease, we wouldn't be liable. As the pond is completely accessible to the public, it is something we will have to sort out when we get a lease.

Member Mr David Bird wanted to make the committee aware that Decoy Pond isn't what it was and the general state of the pond is getting worse. He felt it wasn't worth rejoining for what they are getting.

Mr Davison told him we can only do the basic maintenance at the moment, but once we get an official lease we will be able to do more. Unfortunately, at the moment we are not responsible for the ponds condition.

Mr Richard Hartles asked about the process of getting a guest ticket.

Mrs Cook replied the guest tickets can be purchased from the tackle shops, or the easiest way may be to pay the fee by BACS and we can message over a photo of the filled in guest ticket to his phone.

Mr Tim Aves reported the scarecrow at the far end of Home Farm has fallen over as the pole has rotted away. He wondered if this was making any difference to the quantity of cormorants.

Mr Cook replied there are still scarecrows up at Wix land there are still cormorants, so he doesn't think they make much difference anymore.

Mr Richard Hartles commented that so far this year, the number of cormorants has apparently dropped.

Member Mr James Decourt asked what had happened to the ropes across the Rectangle at St Osyth.

Mr Davison told him they had been taken away when the lake was netted, but they weren't having any effect on the cormorants.

He also said we had originally stocked the smaller fish to get the quantity onto the lake, now we will be stocking larger fish to hopefully be cormorant safe.

Mr Hartles asked about the Carp rules for the 75th Anniversary match in August.

Mr Davison replied the Carp rules will be the same as in the rule book.

Mr Mark Ost asked about the 75th Anniversary Match and would it be judged on the heaviest Carp, and the heaviest Catfish.

Mr Davison replied, that is what will probably happen but it will be decided nearer the date.

Mr Davison again thanked everyone for attending, and wished all a good season.

No further business, the meeting closed at 8.26 pm.