

Amatola Fly Fishing Club
Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at Gubu Dam

Date: 7th September 2014 at 9:00 am

1. Welcome: The chairman welcomed all present.
2. Present and apologies: 26 members were present; the rest of the members who had been at the competition left early because meetings reminded them too much of their jobs. Apologies were received from Brian Clark, Bruce Truter, Craig Jacobs, Dean Warkus, Pat May, Harvey Carr, and Wayne Schoof . The chairman apologized for misplacing the list of apologies received from others.
3. Acknowledgements: The chairman re-iterated the importance of the various sponsors, and club supporters at all levels and urged members to remember the relevant names and brands when spending money. In alphabetical order he thanked: Andrew Pautz; CB4 Retails and Malcolm Klein; Columbia Sportswear and Jackie Badenhorst; Compusys and Matt Bekker; Debonairs Oxford Street and Glenn Raath; Dean Rhind; Distell (Hunter's Gold & Sedgewick's Old Brown) and Sarah Gibson; Hylton Lewis; Karl and Victor Krull; Martin von Holdt; Pennypinchers and Miles Vice; Omnispool and Alex Macleod; Robin & Ronald (in the house on the hill); Rapala VMC and Grant Pledger; Rance Timber / Amathole Forestry Company and Craig Rance, Craig Warren, and Francois Sparks; Sandile's Rest and Grant Wylie; Target Line and Dean Stoltz; The Kingfisher and Shane Maharaj; Tourette Fishing and Keith Clover and Rob Scott; Xplorer and John Geils.
4. Chairman's Report: the chairman reported on a very positive year and that memberships currently stood at 91, with about 110 members (given couple and family memberships). Approximately 10 members had not renewed their membership. Furthermore there has been a general increase in interest and awareness of the club through active promotion initiated by the AFFC committee (e.g. displaying and distributing flyers in EC tackle shops, Facebook, magazine snippets, etc.). Dean Stoltz from Target Line and the committee had over the last while noted an increase in the number of people asking for information about the club and wanting to fish club waters. The chairman said that he was happy with how the fish from the last stocking had grown and performed. It was said that as news of the improving fishing was spreading, so too was interest and energy in the club growing and that this should be a continuing trend, which was necessary for the club and its fisheries to reach a stable and economically sustainable footing for the long-term. The chairman mentioned that as 46% of the AFFC membership was made up of 'ordinary-local' members (who also pay the highest subs), it was by these members recruiting more members that the best progress would be made in achieving a viable and stable status for the club. The chairman expressed concern that the maintenance of facilities remained an issue as very little maintenance had been carried out, but that thanks to new pledges of assistance in this regard, progress was imminent albeit in little steps, which is the nature of how these things work.
5. Report-back and arising from the previous (1st September 2013) minutes:
 - a. **A new constitution following STAC-FAS amalgamation:** a new constitution has been partly drafted, once complete it will be circulated to members via e-mail for comment before being finalized.
 - b. **Clubhouse maintenance and changes/additions:** very little has been done in this regard, but Martin von Holdt has volunteered his services as a maintenance coordinator going forward. Miles Vice of Pennypinchers has also volunteered the support of his business on the materials side. Martin has prepared a rough job-list and will work through this. AFFC members can expect to hear from Martin from time to time with respect to lending a hand.
 - c. **DWAF/Bailiff house and its maintenance:** As part of establishing a formalised agreement between AAFC and DWAF re. the use and maintenance of DWAF facilities, a DWAF surveyor undertook a survey at Gubu in early 2014, but there've been no further developments. In the meanwhile, AFFC will take responsibility for basic maintenance.
 - d. **Budgeting and regular costs:** The chairman drew up a budget which was e-mailed to members and presented in summary at the 2014 AGM and which is discussed further on in the minutes. To help cover the high electricity base cost, new electricity tickets are in use (R40/22kwh).
 - e. **Controlling poaching & access:** the chairman reported that he had received numerous reports of the same person poaching and spinning at Maden dam and further to an appeal at the 2013 AGM to have the vehicle registration numbers of poachers reported to the stac.trout@gmail.com address, he had received the vehicle registration no. of the guilty party. Contact was made with the person, the error of their ways explained and an effort was made to convince the person to join the club.

Signage is in the process of being made by CB4 Retail and will be erected at Gubu and Maden.

- f. **Water quality and forestry management around Gubu Dam:** as per an earlier request, clearing of pines began around Doctor's in August 2014. It is not known when the job will be completed. Re. the problematic eucalyptus and oak tree stands, Craig Rance of RT/AFC explained that a new division of the company was tasked with marketing these types of by-products and that it was hoped to find a buyer for the timber in the future.
 - g. **Youth development and promoting the club:** Marco Olivieri, Ryan Smith, and Glenn Raath reported that there had been some movement in this respect with getting youngsters from Hudson Park and Stirling involved and that they would continue to promote the idea of schools using AFFC facilities at discounted rates.
 - h. **Endangered Wildlife Trust Source to Sea program in the Amatolas:** this project is currently underway and through various means is involved in improving conservation measures (e.g. better catchment management) with respect to a number of endemic and/or threatened species (including two species of fish, a frog, a toad, and a damsel fly) and biodiversity and habitat as a whole.
 - i. **BRC (Cata & Mnyameni) feedback and promotion weekend:** only one family took up BRC's offer to host AFFC members at the BRC's waters and facilities for a free weekend in late 2013. Grezelda Stokes reported back saying they had a great weekend all-round and hoped to revisit the area. Due to construction on the dam wall, the Mnyameni Dam remains closed for fishing. No further work has been done in securing an agreement between BRC and AFFC to share each others' waters but as the initial proposals were positively received, this remains an option for the future.
 - j. **Wolf River:** due to requests by members to make this water more easily accessible, the chairman, facilitated by Craig Rance, met with the local Headman in late 2013. A request was made for permission to liaise with local families in order to find suitable and secure parking areas to fish various parts of the stream. Permission was granted and the rest of the plan is in process. Progress will be reported in future via newsletters and on the AFFC website.
6. Financial report (treasurer, Glenn Raath): the treasurer presented a positive report and the financial statements up until 31st May 2014. AFFC finances as of 1st September were also reported and the balances are as follows:

STAC current account:	R85658.19
STAC call account:	R 1810.44
STAC 32 day account:	R12219.02
CASH/CHEQUES on hand:	R 1360.00
CASH on hand from 2014 fundraising weekend (includes entry fees, raffle, late subs, etc.):	R 13767.00

7. Matters arising:

- a. **Budgeting, future finances, and fees:** the chairman explained that at the current income derived from subs it was possible to break-even against current, mandatory costs. But, that there would be a deficit in the future assuming a 10% increase in the mandatory costs and by adding to that a budget for maintenance, repairs, and minor alterations of R18000. The chairman made an appeal asking each 'ordinary-local' (OM-L) member to recruit one more, as an increase in the number of OM-L subs would have the biggest positive, financial impact. At the same time it was agreed to adjust the current OM-L subs to R870 per year (equal to R73 per month) starting in June 2015. The rest of the fees would be adjusted accordingly but for example the 'retired country member' fee would be approximately R350 in 2015.

It was explained that accumulation of a healthy surplus balance was important as a buffer in the event of unforeseen, major changes in the future, and could also serve the club in the acquisition of nice-to-haves, for example, stocking brown trout.

It was agreed that day rod fees for juniors (age 14 or younger) would be 50% (R50) of the standard R100 fee.

- b. **Bank account name change:** the delegates unanimously agreed to change the name of the club's FNB bank (current) account from STAC to AFFC, and to appoint treasurer, Glenn Raath, and secretary, Ryan Smith as signatories.
- c. **Stocking strategy, dates, and logistics:** the chairman explained that as the stocking numbers and strategy applied in 2013 were based on broad consultation and an exhaustive desktop study, and appears to have been successful after the first year, the same strategy should be adhered to until such time as either the environmental

conditions change (e.g. drought) and/or the condition factor of the respective generations of trout indicate that the waters' food chains are either under stress or being underutilised.

All things being equal, Gubu will be stocked from the Sandile Trout Farm hatchery on Friday 7th November with 18000/8cm mixed sex rainbows, and Maden Dam on Saturday 8th November with 3500/8cm mixed sex rainbows. The total cost for the stocking will be in the order of R34,500. Further info will be provided in a newsletter and e-mails.

- d. **2015 AGM, open day competitions, etc.:** It was proposed to hold the 2015 AGM fundraiser competition day and AGM on the weekend of 4-6 September 2015. The chairman requested that if anyone had ideas on what to add to or change in the event to inform him during the course of the year.

8. Committee for 214/2015:

Chairman	Edward Truter
Secretary	Ryan Smith
Treasurer	Glenn Raath
General and relief coordinator, etc.	Marco Olivieri
Website administrator	Justin Thackeray
Maintenance coordinator (general)	Martin von Holdt
Maintenance (electrical)	Rodney Webb
Without portfolio (IT support)	Matt Bekker
Without portfolio	Dean Stoltz
Without portfolio	Shaun Peterson

9. Closure, followed by the option of a tour of the Sandile Trout Farm hatchery.