

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

Date: Sunday, the 4th September 2016 at 11:00am

1. Welcome: the chairman welcomed all present.

2. Present and Apologies: The AGM was held directly after the fundraising competition's prize giving, and most entrants stayed on for the formalities; attendance was in the order of 28 members. Apologies were received from Mike and Linda Reinders, Dawie and Grezelda Stokes, Bruce Truter, Colin Levy, John van der Merwe, and Wayne Schoof.

3. Acknowledgements: The chairman listed all the various sponsors, committee members, and active club supporters and helpers, and re-iterated the club's appreciation for their dedication and support, and urged members to remember the names and brands when spending money. The Spring 2016 newsletter has the full acknowledgments list.

4. Chairman's Report (in the 1st person): "Membership on the 1st September stands at around 103 members but that includes 7 honorary members and 27 members who've not yet paid their subs, it however excludes a few members who have submitted resignations. So we're gaining some new members and losing a few, but given the tough times we are doing okay. Do please keep marketing us though by bringing your friends to our waters and talking to like-minded souls you meet along the way. We have numbers to gain before we are too many. Our finances are looking acceptably in the green but the moment we get into serious maintenance work and fish stockings (especially the proposed brown trout), our cash always takes a big dive, quickly.

You will notice some maintenance has happened at the Gubu clubhouse, re. the roof, re. some painting, the mammoth re-doing of all the windows, new light fittings and plug points, a new fridge, etc. We've also got the gas stove in place and running and some advancements in the fridges. Again, a huge thank you must go to Gordon/RV Smith for giving us a good deal on the roof, to Grant Wylie for the stove, to Shaun Peterson for co-ordinating and facilitating all the roof and window work, and just generally being there for all sorts of bits and bobs and to Ryan Smith for the lighting and the electrics, and him and Glenn Raath for helping out too with the fridges. Maintenance is never-ending and we've still got big jobs to tackle, but we're getting there nicely.

Re. the fishing, I've heard mostly good reports, by that I mean folks telling me they're catching fish and having fun fishing, and that's what it's all about. I also hear the odd bit of whining about no big fish, which is frankly a pain in the arse to hear. It's unlikely that Gubu can ever produce numbers of big fish; the odd five and six pounder (or even bigger) yes, but consistent numbers of fish over four pounds, no, it's physically not possible given the environmental constraints. That said we'll keep tweaking the stocking and trying ideas to see if we can achieve more, bigger fish. But for folks hell-bent on big fish, best they save their cash for the Winterberg waters or taking holidays in Patagonia."

5. Report-back arising from the previous minutes:

a) AFFC Constitution: member, David Marais, has applied his qualifications and legal experience to modify the original (somewhat wanting) draft prepared by E.Truter (using the historical STAC and FAS constitutions). The latest draft will be finalised and circulated for final comment during 2016/17.

b) Fees: rod tickets had been increased to R120 (R60 for under-14 year olds) and accommodation to R100 for the 2016/17 financial year.

c) Signage: new AFFC signage had been erected at Maden and Gubu.

d) Wolf River: Reports have been received of members taking advantage of the opportunities created in making this water accessible.

6. Financial Report (Glenn Raath/outgoing treasurer): Glenn reported that the club is in a sound financial position, and made mention of the following points,

a) The priority is to allocate monies to clubhouse maintenance.

b) For the roof repairs, insurance paid out R34 000, plus we used an additional R16 000 of the club's reserves.

c) It is essential that the club spend around R40 000 on a concrete drain on the western side of the clubhouse to prevent water damming up after heavy rains and damaging the wall sheeting.

d) Bank account signatories are to be changed to Scott Blair (incoming treasurer) and Ryan Smith.

e) Electricity rates have escalated dramatically over the past year from an average of R1 000 p/m to R1 650 p/m.

f) Spending on lawn-cutting labour last year was R11 770, but this spending is being reduced significantly during the new financial year due to the physical assistance of AFC and Rance Timber.

AFFC finances as of end August 2016 were as follows:

STAC current account:	R123 695.80
STAC call account:	R1 997.27
STAC 32 day account:	R13 559.33
CASH/CHEQUES on hand:	R3 426.87

7. Matters arising:

- a) Constitution: see report-back, 5. a).
- b) Clubhouse repairs and repairs update: see Chairman's report and the Financial Report.
- c) Fees review: subs for 2016/17 were increased by 6% in accordance with the CPI index increase as agreed to at the last AGM and this policy remains in place for the future. Electricity tickets would be increased to R55 with immediate effect but could be increased at any time in accordance with further increases (note: AFFC endeavours to cover 66% of the club's billed electricity costs).
- d) Stocking: it is planned to stock Gubu with 13200, and Maden with 3200, 8cm, mixed-sex rainbow trout in late October 2016. A vote was taken not to stock additionally with Thrift 'Trophy Strain' fish. Devin Isemonger volunteered to lead an experimental fyke netting and spawning exercise of Gubu Dam fish in the coming winter.
- e) Brown trout: all things being equal, the Sandile Trout Farm hatchery is planning on hatching brown trout ova in March 2017, 3-5000 fingerlings of which will be purchased for stocking in AFFC waters.
- f) Sandile Trout Farm cages at Gubu proposal: Grant Wylie, proprietor of the Sandile Trout Farm requested the club's views on using Gubu Dam as a cage grow-out facility for table trout. The consensus was that in principle, the club does not object to the proposal as long as the following conditions are met: 1. Placement of the enclosures is such to avoid the risks of eutrophication, algal blooms and similar problems associated with the waste and high nutrient levels emanating from the trout enclosures. / 2. That every effort is made to control and prevent the spread of disease, pathogens, and parasites to the free-ranging trout and other fishes and aquatic life present in Gubu Dam. / 3. That every effort is made to prevent the escape of trout from the enclosures into Gubu Dam as escaped trout could result in the natural food chain being compromised. / 4. In the event of the quality of the trout fishing and outdoor experience at Gubu Dam being affected negatively in any way due to the presence of the Sandile Trout Farm grow-out facility, Sandile Trout Farm would take the necessary restorative actions.
- g) 2017 AGM and social event fundraiser to be held on the weekend of 1-3 September. The competition will start on Friday, 1 September at 14:00 and run through to Saturday 18:00.

8. General

- a) Shaun Petersen reiterated that the Gubu clubhouse requires an industrial vacuum cleaner, and it was requested that if anyone has one that they wish to donate, to please come forward.
- b) It was agreed that the Gubu clubhouse geyser is to be replaced with an on-demand, electrical water-heating system fitted to the shower heads and kitchen sink tap, to be overseen by Glenn Raath.
- c) It was agreed that the electrical stove is to be removed from the clubhouse.
- d) Glenn Raath reported that he had replacement blinds, which would be fitted to the Gubu clubhouse windows.
- e) It was proposed that member, Shama Bachar (the plumber), be approached re. attending to a num of plumbing issues issues e.g. cracked men's toilet cistern, and cracked, lady's wash basin.

9. Committee for 2016/17:

Chairman	Edward Truter
Secretary	Ryan Smith
Treasurer	Scott Blair
IT Admin & communications	Justin Thackeray
Without portfolio	Mandy Isemonger
Without portfolio	Devin Isemonger
Without portfolio	Marco Olivieri
Without portfolio	Glenn Raath
Without portfolio	Shaun Petersen

Long-standing treasurer for the FAS, STAC, and AFFC, Glenn Raath, has decided to step down as treasurer and was replaced by Scott Blair. The chairman thanked Glenn for his many years of highly efficient, and always perfectly-orchestrated service.

- 10. The meeting was adjourned at around 12:30 and each went upon their merry way, some went fishing.