

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

Date: Sunday, the 30th September 2018

NOTE: the members present at the venue in the lead up to the planned 10 a.m. meeting time, deemed it unnecessary to have an AGM meeting as per conventional protocol and requested to be informed of what would have been discussed at the meeting via an e-mailed document. A small number of members did however discuss their questions and views informally. This document thus serves to inform members of the relevant news and items pertaining to the club.

1. Club Acknowledgements: Acknowledgements were made at the previous night's fund raising competition prize-giving, during which the chairman listed and thanked all of those individuals and businesses who had provided help to the club in the past year and/or sponsored prizes. See addendum for the acknowledgments list.

2. Chairman's Report (in the 1st person): On the 26th Sept. AFFC had a total of 62 paid-up memberships, and 8 special memberships, while 30-odd memberships still had to be renewed. Last-mentioned tardiness is repeated annually and is not an unusual situation. There have been some new memberships in the club, mostly as a result of upcountry folks taking an interest in our waters, and also the Eastern Cape Fly Fishing Association's junior anglers' activities (and especially Gareth Webster's efforts). But our membership has perhaps taken a slight downturn, which I'm assuming is a reflection of the economic climate, and I've heard of similar trends from other clubs. Some strategising for increasing memberships is a good idea.

Gubu clubhouse maintenance progress continues to make small jumps. The latest is the ladies' bathroom. Thank you to the work of Belinda Enslin and Richard and Cindy Field of Lifestyle Flooring and Decor. More of same is planned.

On the fishing front, from what I can tell via personal observation and reports from those who let me know about what they're catching, the average size of the individual year classes of the rainbows in Gubu has increased. We still need to process the catch-return data to determine this for certain, but I will report on it down the line. Catch-effort wise, rainbow catch numbers appear a bit lower than the last while but the average size and as mentioned, the condition factor of the fish is up, which tells me that we are possibly getting closer to finding the sweet spot re our stocking numbers and strategy. The browns stocked in Feb. 2017 have done exceptionally well and I'm excited to see how Gubu develops as a brown trout water. I've had very few fishing updates from Maden Dam.

I am very excited to be announcing later in the meeting that we have just about secured some new waters for the club and I really hope that our members will get out there and use them and take their non-member friends along. More details to follow.

3. Financial Report: AFFC treasurer, Scott Blair, has reported the club's finances as of the end of the financial year on 31/05/2018, as follows:

STAC current account:	R107,391.04
STAC call account:	R2,213.61
STAC 32 day account:	R15,316.42
CASH/CHEQUES on hand:	R6,547.45

4. Report-back arising from the previous minutes and new matters arising:

a.) New waters: We are excited to announce that an MOU is being signed in an agreement between AFFC and the BRC (Border Rural Committee), which once finalised will allow AFFC members open access to Mnyameni Dam and the Cata River. The details and protocols are still being worked on, but once it is all in place, members will be notified and the details will be on the AFFC website. Under the MOU, AFFC will lease the waters for R2500 annually until 2020, and thereafter be revised based on use. Other commitments from the AFFC side are that we'll invest in the waters by stocking Mnyameni Dam with brown trout, as well as promote and sell day tickets for the BRC waters. Once the protocols are in place, we would really urge members to use these waters and take along non-members as paying guests. Committee member, Devin Isemonger, has been a big part of getting this work done thus far, and we owe him our gratitude.

b.) Stocking and fishery planning/strategy: Rainbow trout stocking: The Sandile Trout Farm rainbow trout price, to AFFC, for the upcoming stocking will be R2.07 per fingerling. The stocking will take place some time in late October to early November with 12500 rainbows proposed for Gubu and 3500 for Maden, this is in keeping with the reduced but consistent stocking of Gubu begun in 2016.

Brown trout stocking: At a total cost of around R5.29 per fish, 3967, 4-5cm/1g browns were stocked into Gubu, and 382 into Mnyameni in late July. Maden's fish were diverted to Gubu due to the smaller than expected size of the fingerlings upon arrival. AFFC also arranged for browns for many other clubs and EC waters as part of the stocking, with an enormous thank you to Tony and Devin Isemonger (who transported the fish overnight from a Natal hatchery) and Anton Bok for the loan of his fish transport system. It is intended to stock with browns every year but to have a better communication/verification strategy in place to ensure we don't have a repeat of the size issue that happened this year due to miscommunication by the hatchery. In 2019 we will attempt to stock 8cm rainbows with 10cm+ browns

at the same time. Browns need to be bigger to be consistently successful as rainbow stockings due to the bottom-dwelling habits of browns and the associated increased predator-risk.

The brown trout strategy for Mnyameni is the hypothesis that the browns might predate on the high population of small rainbows, reducing the rainbow trout numbers and increasing the average rainbow's size and perhaps producing really big browns.

c.) Gubu Fishery study: Dr. Olaf Weyl from SAIAB's study on the fishes and fishery dynamics of Gubu Dam is underway and is in the data collection phase with respect to temperature loggers, and tissue sampling and we'll be making the various Gubu events' catch stats available. The results of this will help with understanding the food chain, growth, mortality, competition and all the other factors that affect what happens to Gubu's trout. It is hoped that this will provide some real guidelines for the future management strategy so that the fishery can be managed to its best potential.

d.) Fees review: subs for 2018/19 remain the same as the previous year, as do non-member accommodation fees at R100 pp/pn. But day ticket rod fees are to be increased to R150 pp/pd from mid-December to be in-line with other national fisheries that charge considerably more and also to nudge people to become members.

e.) Membership: based on what was mentioned earlier re. member numbers, we need to always be working on increasing our memberships. Outside of the normal bring-a-buddy fishing ideas, etc. another membership drive and marketing idea could be to invite up-country clubs to spend a few days on our waters in the hope that 'foreigners' see value in membership for a week-a-year type visits? Other ideas are welcomed.

f.) In-house skills and resources: The committee is appealing to members to kindly make known to the chairman how they feel they can contribute to the club's needs through their skills, businesses, contacts, etc. The more in-house assistance we can get, the less outsourcing costs us.

g.) Alien plant clearing around Gubu clubhouse (dam wall to Sunset Creek): the chairman has contacted the relevant authorities and now has permission to task the resident staff with the job, but equipment and chemicals are lacking for the moment.

h.) FOSAF membership/work: FOSAF continues to fight for trout legally and has recently launched a court interdict against the Minister of Environmental Affairs as FOSAF disputes the lawfulness of the Minister's proposal to list trout as an invasive species in terms of the National Environmental Management Biodiversity Act, 1998 ("NEMBA"). FOSAF needs support and have launched a new initiative whereby as an affiliated club member, one can join FOSAF for R150, which is half the standard fee. For this, one will also receive the Tippet newsletter, but will not be eligible for the Quarterly lucky draw. You may also be eligible for a discount from Retail outlets and Service Providers who are "on board", but at half of the Full Member rate, hence the need to have your Club membership card endorsed with your FOSAF status.

i.) Gubu clubhouse maintenance and repairs: soon after last year's plans to have Mark sand the paintwork in the kitchen area in preparation for painting, Mark moved back to East London, and the plan died. A big thank you to Richard and Cindy Field of LFD who donated bathroom tiles and Belinda Enslin who co-ordinated the work done in the ladies' bathroom. It's planned to do the men's bathroom soon, once the cupboard and clobber have been removed. Other larger issues are looming as well, especially re. the state of the corrugated iron cladding, which needs work due to some of the sheets lifting, if any of the members have the skills and time to get involved with this, please come forward.

j.) Gubu clubhouse facilities: the gas stove and old electric stove have to be removed and have been replaced with a more modern electric stove. The on-demand, electrical water-heating system fitted to the kitchen sink tap has still not been connected to the mains. It is planned to get rid of some of fridges/freezers that never get used and/or are faulty.

k.) Gubu clubhouse private cupboards: cupboards not labeled with the name of a paid-up member will be removed after the AGM as per earlier notifications. It is planned to have all of the cupboards in a dedicated area either in the kitchen or somewhere else that makes better use of space in the future.

l.) Boats and assorted clobber in the Gubu clubhouse: all boats and similar that are in the clubhouse and not removed by the AGM will be placed outside.

e.) Gubu clubhouse sleeping facilities upgrade: it is proposed is to have up to ten, new, rustic bunk beds made, with roll-out beds under the bunks, and to discard all the skanky beds and mattresses. Mould and bed bugs need to be controlled. Professional designer, Mandy Isemonger, has come up with a for-Gubu bed design and Glenn Raath will be behind getting the beds made.

f.) Gubu clubhouse braai area upgrade: Mandy Isemonger has proposed a very practical plan and design to build a wall extending the the kitchen's western end on the northern side and to incorporate into this an open-plan braai. And at the same time to extend the outside roof to include covering this new area. We appeal to any builder-types in the club who are willing to get involved with this job to kindly come forward.

g.) Next AGM and social event fundraiser: all things being equal, it will be held on the weekend of 31 Aug 2019, and with the fishing competition being a by-length event whereby each fish is measured and recorded as was done for the 2018 event.

5. Committee for 2018/19:

Chairman and current secretary	Edward Truter
Secretary	Need one, please come forward anyone?
Treasurer	Scott Blair
IT Admin & communications	Justin Thackeray
Without portfolio	Devin Isemonger
Without portfolio	Mandy Isemonger
Without portfolio	Belinda Enslin
Without portfolio	Gareth Webster
Without portfolio	Glenn Raath
Without portfolio	Ryan Smith

ADDENDUM

The following is a list of all those individuals and businesses who have provided assistance to the club in one way or another. Take note of these names and give them your support wherever possible, without them, we'd be dead in the water. Please forgive us if we've erroneously omitted your name.

<u>Sponsors and General acknowledgements - 2017/2018</u>
AFC / Rance Timbers, Craig & John Rance Jr., Francois Sparks - general support and assistance
AFC / Rance Timbers, Craig Warren, Ian Taylor, Jonathan Norman, Andre van Deventer - general assistance
Alex Mcleod & Omnispool - Omnispooler prize sponsor
ANCA Foods - catering sponsor
Arno Laubscher & Scientific Fly - Goodie bag and prize sponsor
Belinda & Kayla Enslin - general assistance
Bilimoria Fishing Tackle - prize sponsor
Cloete Du Plessis - prize sponsor
Colin Levy - records clerk and general assistance
Dean Stoltz & Target Line - prize sponsor and general assistance
Gareth Webster - general assistance
Glenn Raath - general assistance
Grant Wylie, Andre De Bruyn & Sandile's Rest - prize sponsor, hatchery owner/operator and general assistance
Jacqui Mauer @ Price Waterhouse Coopers South Africa - prize sponsor % Ricky Goldsmith
John Geils, Dayle Mack and Xplorer - prize sponsor and general assistance
Justin Thackeray - website and general assistance
Karl, Victor and Noah Krull - catering sponsor, general assistance and stocking

Keith Clover, Rob Scott & Tourette Fishing - prize sponsor
Kirstie Eastwood - general assistance
Lee-Ann Mitchel & Crocs South Africa - prize sponsor
Liz Woodroffe & Awesome Tools (Leatherman, Opinel, LED Lenser, Eze-Lap, Picquic) - prize sponsor
Lyle & Debbie Mandel and Stutterheim Pick n' Pay - catering sponsor
Lyle Smith @ Stud Fly Fishing - prize sponsor
Malcolm Klein & team @ CB4 Retail - all printing, signage, stationery, etc.
Martin & Ryan Von Holdt - stocking and general assistance
Morne Bayman and The African Fly Angler (TAFA) - prize sponsor
Murray Pedder, Flyz Inc. - prize sponsor
Pierre Swartz - catering and general assistance
Reg Morgan and Queenstown Fly Fishing Club - prize sponsor
Richard & Cindy Field and Lifestyle Flooring and Decor - prize sponsor and general assistance
Rob Scott & The Shire Shire Eco Lodge
Robin & Ronald, (in the house on the hill) - general assistance
Ryan Smith and First Class Power - general assistance
Scott Blair - treasurer and general assistance
Shamai Bachar & Global Plumbers - plumbing and general assistance
Shaun & Reel Fly Fishing - general assistance
Shaun Peterson - general assistance
Shilton Reels - prize sponsor
Stan and Helen Dugmore & Natural High / Forestway - general assistance
Tony, Devin, and Mandy Isemonger - catering and general assistance, and especially stocking
Tudor Caradoc-Davies and The Mission Magazine - goodie bag sponsor
Viv Schroeder - help in and around the Gubu clubhouse