

Minutes
National Sea Fishing Committee
Annual General Meeting
6 pm 8th October 2023
Travelodge Atlantic Cardiff

Nb: the meeting started early due to time constraints for meals on a Sunday

The Committee hoped to engage with member not able to travel via Zoom. Unfortunately, we did not have a laptop nor was the internet connection sufficient to be able Zoom to work.

1. Roll Call

Chairman: Jim Campbell, Northumbria Police -Retired

Secretary: Mick Hassen, Northumbria Police – retired

Treasurer: Mark Northam, South Wales Police, Wales representative

Nick Lark, Hampshire Police, South East representative

Medwyn Jones, Gloucestershire Police, South West representative

Donald Campbell, West Midlands Police, West Midland representative

Peter Morgan, Northumbria Police, North east representative

2. Apologies:

Chris Adams, Metropolitan Police, Metropolitan representative

Bob Murphy, Police Scotland, Scotland representative

John Wright, South Yorkshire Police, North West representative

Ian Hinchcliffe, Eastern representative

Andy Cleeve, PSNI, PSNI representative

3. Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes were agreed

4. Matters arising from the previous meeting

There were no matters arising

5. Update regarding regional representatives:

The representatives are:

Region Number	Region	Name of Representative
1	North West - Cheshire, Cumbria, Greater Manchester, Lancashire, Merseyside, Isle of Man Constabulary.	John Wright
2	North East - Cleveland, Durham, Humberside, Northumbria, North Yorkshire, South Yorkshire, West Yorkshire	Peter Morgan
3	East Midlands – Derbyshire, Leicestershire Lincolnshire, Northamptonshire, Nottinghamshire	
4	West Midlands – Staffordshire, Warwickshire, West Mercia, West Midlands	Don Campbell
5	Eastern – Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Essex, Hertfordshire, Norfolk, Suffolk	Ian Hinchcliffe
6	South East Hampshire, Kent, Surrey, Sussex, Thames Valley, City of London	Nick Lark
7	South West - Avon and Somerset, Devon and Cornwall, Dorset, Gloucestershire, Wiltshire, States of Jersey Police	Med Jones
8	Metropolitan - Metropolitan Police	Chris Adams
9	Wales - Dyfed Powys, Gwent, North Wales, South Wales	Mark Northam
10	Scotland – Police Service of Scotland	Bob Murphy
11	Northern Ireland - Police Service of Northern Ireland	Andy Cleeve
12	British Transport Police	
13	Civil Nuclear Constabulary	
14	Ministry of Defence Police	
15	National Crime Agency	John Wright will cover if required

It was noted that Lee Halstead from Lancashire is showing interest in the National overview and may be encouraged to join the National Committee. Additionally, Med is looking at a potential member from the Ministry of Defence and will update at a later date.

6. Election of Officials

The following were re-elected without challenge:

Chair: Jim Campbell – PSUK appointed (must be an ACPO rank)

Treasurer: Mark Northam – Wales representative

Secretary: Mick Hassen, Northumbria Police

7. Reports on National Boat and Shore Competition 2023

Boat: This year's event was held at Weymouth with 96 anglers in 24 teams. The event was well run with Andy Selby doing an excellent job in sourcing boats and organizing bait packs.

The results were collected and put into a software package for analysis, however there was a glitch which resulted in some confusion. This was addressed on the night. The Committee agreed that all results should be validated by the organisers prior to being released.

The winner of the event was Met A, second was Hampshire A and 3rd was Suffolk.

The individual winner was Peter Dutfield from South Wales. Congratulations to all who participated and to the winners of the competition.

The Committee wished to thank all those members involved in organizing the event. Scotland region did a great job.

It was noted that a proposal regarding the location of future events was to be discussed within the General meeting.

Shore

Peter kindly provided a report on the 2023 Shore Championship. The event was hosted by Norfolk Constabulary. 25 teams took part comprising of 95 anglers. The weather was not conducive to fishing and the anticipated run of smooth hounds and bass did not occur. Unfortunately, there were many blanks on the evening with a slight improvement on the second day.

The top three anglers in the individual competition tied on four zone points and were separated by tie-break scores. Winner was Andy Parson from Wiltshire with 296 fish points just pipping his teammate Paul Filer on 262. Third was organiser Tom Gibbs of Norfolk.

The team event was won by hosts Norfolk 'B' with 31 points followed by Wiltshire on 47 points. Scotland 'A' took third with 96 points.

Congratulations to all prize winners and to Norfolk for hosting an excellent event. As usual, those that stayed for the weekend's Bass Festival, were served a feast of fish with the run of smooth-hounds and bass turning up in improved conditions and with some large individual scores.

8. Representative Matches 2023

Combined Services: Don updated the meeting that the event was to take place from the 29th November until the 2nd December and was being run by the Navy.

Fire Service: Med updated that the event was being run by the Fire Service from Minehead next week, but it was noted that med had done a considerable amount of work to support the Fire Service. This would be the first time the Civil service would be entering a team.

Jim questioned whether the name of the event should be changed as the Civil Service were now involved. It was considered appropriate but further consideration was needed to formulate a name.

Home Internationals – this was cancelled due to bad weather and had been re-arranged for May 2024, which would mean that there were 2 Home internationals for 2024. The Treasurer assured the Committee that there were sufficient resources.

SAMF

The match was planned by the Sea Anglers Match Federation on the beaches of Bacton, due to be used for the PSUK shore national competition. The event took place on the 10th and 11th of March 2023. Once again, the Fire Service were unable to enter a team so yet again just three teams took part. In the week leading up it became clear the forecast was for a big northerly sea and poor travelling conditions for some; especially Gregor Hay and Innes Coull from Police Scotland. It turned out to be a very sensible decision for them to call off early, but replacements were found to make up the numbers.

Accommodation was at Castaways Holiday Park at Bacton. The family run park was compact but nicely presented caravans and excellent hosts who could not do more to accommodate everyone involved.

Day 1 was an evening match scheduled for the beach below the park, however 12-foot swells with white water as far as the eye could see was not what was required. Local anglers checked alternative venues at Gorleston and Kelling however taking on their advice the captains called off the evening and made it a one-day event. Sensible decision despite some SAMF lads still giving it a go but failing to find fish.

Day 2 was changed to the deeper water at Kelling and the sea had died to a much more manageable condition with pleasant sunshine. Fish were there but not in great numbers with all anglers catching something. The higher numbered pegs producing better scores.

Paul Diment and Doug Thorpe, guesting for the police, and James Layfield were top rods in the team.

Another SAMF professional performance saw them retain the trophy. Combined Forces were second ahead of the police. An approach is underway for the Civil Service to join the event next year.

The presentation dinner was a dry run for the PSUK shore event coming up and a lovely meal was had along with a singer to entertain us. There were some excellent entertaining dancers on the floor namely Willy Groombridge and myself.

Thanks to Tony Thomas along with Ian Bowell for their excellent preparation and organisation once again. The 2024 event will be hosted by the Police and date and venue still to be decided.

9. Financial Report

Mark presented the following report which was accepted by the Committee.

TREASURERS REPORT FOR PSUK 8TH October 2023.

Current finances as of 8th October 2023

The account currently stands at £4060.89.

Expenditure for the Police v Fire Service/Civil Service is as follows:

Expenditure for accom., boat hire, bait etc. £2,530

Revenue from levy 8 x £170 £1360

Expenditure for PSUK £1170

Expenditure Police V Combined Services is as follows:

Accommodation already paid by PSUK £1044

Expenditure for boat hire, bait, dinner etc. £3,456.75

Revenue from Levy 16 x £175 £2800

Expenditure for PSUK £656.75 (plus £1044 previously paid)

The 2023 Holmes had to be cancelled due to inclement weather and has been rescheduled for May 2024.

Accommodation has been paid for by PSUK (£1008) and this can be moved to the new dates however, there will be an increased payment of approximately £500 due to the time of year difference.

Other expenditure for the event will be £2,200 boats £360 bait and £200 dinner, with a levy of £700 this will raise £2,800 leaving PSUK to cover approximately £460.

With the above expenditure taken into account we are left with a balance of £1374.14 which will allow us to provide funding for the SAMF 2024 competition which is generally held in Feb/March in advance of our PSUK allocation which is not normally received until May/June 2024.

The Committee thanked Mark for his work as Treasurer.

10. Update from PSUK

Jim reported that there was nothing to report from PSUK other than some forces are reducing their levies which may lead to less funds being available for sections.

11. Publication of minutes

Mick presented a briefing paper which highlighted the delays in agreeing minutes for publication due to meeting schedule. The AGM will take 12 months for minutes to be agreed and the General Meeting anywhere between 6 and 9 months. This has caused some problems in anglers being updated with changes to rules agreed by the Committee. The following suggestions were agreed as policy:

- The secretary will produce the minutes from meetings within 2 weeks.
- The minutes will be circulated to all members of the Committee. Who will review them and raise any amendments with the secretary within 2 weeks of receiving the minutes.
- The Chair will review the amendments and decide if the minutes can be circulated to a wide audience.
- The Chair has the authority to prevent wider circulation if they feel that is appropriate and deal with the minutes at the next meeting.

Action – implement the policy

12. Sharing details of all PSUK Sea Fishing Contacts

Mick presented a briefing paper to the Committee requesting guidance on the following:

- Do Committee members want access to the full list of local fishing representatives?
- Ensure access to a more comprehensive list of anglers by identifying any anglers missing from the Secretary's list or to ensure Committee Members have a consolidated list
- Contact current members on the list to comply with Data Protection requirements

Following a discussion, the following was agreed:

- Members only wanted details of local representatives in their region
- Secretary to contact current members on his list and ascertain:
 - 1) If they wish to remain on the list
 - 2) Are they willing for the Secretary to share their details

Action – Secretary to contact all members on his list of local representatives and ascertain their views.

13. Policy documents

The Secretary will be compiling a list of all policies and providing updates to the Committee at each meeting.

Action – Secretary to complete the list

14. Any Other Business

Med brought to the Committee concerns that had been raised regarding the use of 2 hooks rather than 3 in shore fishing events. The original decision was based upon a need to preserve fish stocks and to have parity across both shore and boat fishing.

The concerns were as follows:

The majority of competition use 3 hooks

Shore fishing does not produce the same quantity of fish as boat fishing

15. Date of next meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting take place in February in Sheffield

The meeting was concluded at 7:30 pm.