

NUAC Annual General Meeting

Tuesday 27 May 2025
7:32pm – 9:36pm

Minutes taken by: Jason Brewster

Version & Issue Date: 07/06/2025 v0.1

Present: Jon Weyer (JW), Patrick Aikens (PA), Jason Brewster (JB), Colin Heinen (CH), Paul Scarff (PS), Scott Maunder, Robin Bircham (RB), Richard Spicker (RS) & Steve Rawlings (SR).

Apologies: David Shorter (DS)

Minuted Items	Action Owner(s)
<p>1. Introduction</p> <p>Meeting held at The World's End, Mulbarton. JW opened the meeting and thanked everyone for attending.</p>	
<p>2. Minutes & Matters Arising</p> <p>JW reviewed matters arising from the previous AGM run on Tuesday 14 May 2024.</p> <p>Simon Clay & Mike Hoyland Memorial awards</p> <p>Nominations for these awards, in conjunction to the permit letter, had subsequently been sought via a Facebook post in October and the invite for this AGM. No nominations had been received for 2024/25.</p> <p>Wensum, Oram's Farm</p> <p>Steve Rawlings, after multiple attempts to contact the owners of this stretch, had finally been successful. Steve had passed on the owner's contact information; Jon had made an initial enquiry and was awaiting a response. JW thanked Steve for his perseverance.</p> <p>Minutes proposed by PS, seconded by PA and accepted as a true reflection by attendees.</p>	JW
<p>3. Review of 2024/25</p> <p>RS joined the meeting.</p> <p>JB provided an update on membership, which stood at 49, down one on the previous season. Seven 2023/24 members did not renew and six new members, consisting of two returning members and four committee recommendations, had been recruited. The membership fee remained unchanged for 2025/26 and membership invites had been issued on 26 May 2025.</p> <p>JW presented an overview of the season.</p> <p>Most of the season had proceeded in a business-as-usual fashion. The club had tried to negotiate access to Bridge Inn Fisheries when it re-opened as a day ticket water. An arrangement proved impractical given the temporary month-by-month nature of the day ticket access. The renewal of Hall Walk provided an unwelcome reminder of the ever-present risk of losing access to club waters. Unlike previous occasions, when a change in ownership had prompted the loss of Roger's Farm, Shallowbrook, Mack's Farm and Bridge Inn Fisheries, the situation in this case was driven by the concerns of the owner regarding the possible effects NUAC's access was having on his membership. The club has acknowledged the owner's concerns and reduced the maximum bookings per member for the remaining months of our access, which would help avoid a bottleneck of bookings as our access concludes. The club would like to complete the remaining time at Hall Walk on good terms with the owner.</p> <p>SR joined the meeting at 7:51pm.</p> <p>The club's smaller membership should help negotiate future partnerships with other fisheries and the club's bookings data has proved reassuring to other fisheries in respect of the expected demand from our membership. The club has made several enquiries including an approach to Layfields, formerly known as the Pines. JW asked if members had any photographs relating to the Pines to please forward them to the club; this archive material may help establish a relationship with the new owners. We welcome members sounding out fisheries as potential partners for NUAC. If members have any ideas for suitable partner fisheries, then please contact any of the committee via Committee contacts.</p>	

<p>JW was pleased to welcome Colin Heinen as a new committee member. The committee were impressed with Colin's membership application when he joined the club. However, his joining coincided with the arrival of Colin's first child and he was unable to commit to the committee. We are glad that, after a few years, Colin has joined the committee. Colin and Scott Swift have brought some fresh perspectives on the committee and both are contributing greatly.</p> <p><i>[The membership figures/fees above will be removed/redacted when these minutes are published.]</i></p>	
<p>4. 2024/25 Accounts</p> <p><i>[The accounts will be removed/redacted when these minutes are published.]</i></p> <p>Copies of the accounts were provided to the attendees.</p> <p>PA indicated that the deficit for 2024/25 was in part due to a delayed payment for Hall Walk for 2024/25 access and the additional costs associated with the Bigwood arrangement. Interest payments on the capital account outweighed the reduction in membership to the tune of five members. A change to the Bigwood arrangement meant that after an initial upfront cost for membership and a predetermined number of day tickets, further day tickets would be paid for monthly in arrears.</p> <p>Based on the current budget, size of membership and loss of Hall Walk, the forecast was to break even in 2025/26. Any new waters would be secured initially using capital and any resulting revenue shortfall would be addressed later.</p> <p>RS thanked the committee for continuing to balance the books, a good achievement under the circumstances.</p> <p>PA thanked Adrian Poole for auditing the accounts for the club.</p> <p>Accounts proposed by JW and seconded by JB and approved by attendees.</p> <p>JW thanked PA for his work as Treasurer.</p>	
<p>5. Election of Chairman</p> <p>JW thanked the officers and committee for their continued support.</p> <p>JW confirmed he was willing to continue in this role.</p> <p>JW stood down and JB took chair of the meeting.</p> <p>JB thanked JW on behalf of the committee.</p> <p>JW proposed by PA, seconded by RS and unanimously re-elected by attendees.</p> <p>JB returned chair of meeting to JW.</p>	
<p>6. Election of Treasurer</p> <p>JW confirmed that PA will continue in this role.</p> <p>PA proposed by JW, seconded by PS and unanimously re-elected by attendees.</p>	
<p>7. Election of Secretary</p> <p>JW confirmed that JB will continue in this role.</p> <p>JB proposed by DW, seconded by PA and unanimously re-elected by attendees.</p>	
<p>8. Election of Committee</p> <p>JW confirmed that there had been no new nominations to join the committee.</p> <p>JW confirmed that Colin Heinen, Scott Swift and Nick Walpole will continue on the committee.</p> <p>Committee proposed by JB seconded by RS and unanimously re-elected by attendees.</p> <p>Meeting adjourned at 8:35pm and resumed at 8:46pm.</p>	

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9. Any Other Business

RS asked whether the club had considered partnerships with other clubs. JW responded that we had a successful partnership with Wroxham DAC at Postwick. We have approached Norwich and District Pike Club which concluded unsuccessfully when we could not accommodate their request to access our partner fisheries. We have investigated a former Wroxham water which was ultimately deemed unsuitable for a number of reasons including the upkeep in both financial and maintenance terms.

There was a general discussion on the difficulties in recruiting people onto the committee. RS shared his experience as a former trustee of a charitable trust and DW shared his experience of professional guilds. Both sets of experiences reinforced how difficult it is to secure people's time on a voluntary basis across all age groups.

RS asked whether the club should utilise its capital to invest in technology/services to support the committee with the club's administration. There was a discussion regarding bookings and membership administration and the website. The consensus was that these areas were adequate and met the club's needs. JW acknowledged that the membership process required the most effort and welcomed CH's support on this occasion. JB thanked RS for his suggestion and signaled that the committee would consider this matter further.

10. Meeting closed 9:36pm

JW thanked everyone for attending and for their contributions.