



**Cymdeithas Genweirwyr Eog
a Brithyll Cymru^[SEP]
Welsh Salmon and Trout Angling
Association**



*Presiden: Paul Sharman, Secretary; Simon Jones, Treasurer: Richard Elms,
Chair: Paul Edwards, Vice Chair Elect: Alan Banwell, Assistant Secretary: Bob Mayers*

Minutes of Executive Committee meeting 2023 held on 3rd December at the Crown, Rhayader

1 Members present and apologies

Paul Sharman	President
Paul Edwards	Chair
Alan Banwell	Vice Chair Elect
Simon Jones	Secretary
Richard Elms	Treasurer
Bob Mayers	Assistant Secretary
Peter Thurnall	
Stephen Roberts	
Simon Davies	
Cheryl Bulman	
Des James	
Darren Williams	
Matthew Pate	
Alan Banwell	
Ray Lockyer	

Apologies were received from Sally Purkis, Phil Jones and Nathan Gittings

2 Minutes of October 2023 mtg

The Minutes were agreed as a true record

3 Matters arising

There was a discussion around the rules for the Autumn International to be held on Clywedog. /the Secretary advised that he had recently spoken to the fishery and they were firm in their view that all areas of the lake should be fished including the area around the cages. It was noted that there would be an opportunity for IFFA officials to speak with the fishery about this issue prior to the international and that it should now be left in their hands.

It was noted that the fishery were clear that it should be two fish kill and thereafter catch and release.

Hook rules would be barbed, de-barbed or barbless for the first two fish and de-barbed or barbless thereafter.

The Secretary undertook to advise the other three nations of these rules.

Under correspondence the Chair advised that the Federation of Coarse Anglers had now moved away from Angling Cymru and that now joint discussions were needed with Angling Trust and Sport Wales.

The Chair advised that there had been no reply from Angling Trust on Level 2 coaching.

The meeting was informed that there had now been expressions of interest from three individuals in the Ladies mini trial.

Under Any Other Business Paul Sharman informed the meeting that it was likely that consideration of the issue of the need for boatmen (excluding Ireland) would arise in the near future. He was also of the view that there was a need to look at the job descriptions of Managers and Captains. It was agreed that could be done as part of the more general review of the future of WSTAA.

The meeting noted that Paul's approach to the Autumn International was that he would be sharing responsibility with Darren Williams.

Alan Banwell raised the issue of the professional appearance of teams and the approach to team meetings. This would be picked up later in the meeting.

4 Proposals to amend lough style trial competition rules

Proposal 2 fell as there was no proposer or seconder.

Proposal 1 was proposed by Bob Mayers and seconded by Simon Jones. It was agreed that the issue of dates of the senior team trials would be considered later in the meeting.

An amendment to the proposal was proposed by Paul Sharman and seconded by Alan Banwell that there should be two trials on a Saturday and two on a Sunday. This amendment fell on a show of hands.

The proposal was passed including all Sunday trials was passed on a show of hands.

The meeting discussed the potential for dropping the rule barring people from the same club fishing together and having the draw in advance of the trial to save time at the beginning of the trial.

It was agreed that a full set of proposed new rules including those agreed at this meeting be brought for discussion and agreement at the next meeting of the Executive in 2024 and these new rules as agreed should apply to all trials beyond the end of the first quarter in 2024.

5 Proposal to endorse changes to Stillwater Bank International rules and adopt them in Bank trials in Wales:

Matthew Pate introduced this item explaining that a range of new rules were being considered such as the number of rods that could be set up and that he expected that these would be able to be brought back in proposal format for discussion and agreement at the next meeting of the executive with a view to adopting them for trials in Wales beyond the 1st quarter of 2024.

6 Proposal to change the date and venue of the 2025 Bank International Trials

Matthew Pate explained that new venues would be proposed for 2025 and he asked that this be scheduled for consideration and agreement at the Executive Committee meeting in Autumn 2024. The Committee noted this.

7 Proposal to standardise team captain selection process across all teams

Paul Edwards proposed and Cheryl Bulman seconded that with immediate effect the rule that Captains are chosen on the basis of the number of caps they hold in the relevant international category (the selected individual with the most caps should initially be offered the captaincy. If they don't wish to be captain then it will be offered to the individual with the next highest number of caps and so on until a captain is identified. If an individual has been captain previously (the number of caps gained since they were last captain) be applied across all teams without exception. The Committee agreed this proposal.

8 Team reports

Youth – it was reported that there was a vacancy in the team. It was agreed to organise a mini trial to identify a further individual to join the 2024 team.

The committee noted that the 2024 team had enjoyed themselves despite gaining the wooden spoon. There had been no issues associated with the International.

Senior – The Committee agreed to appoint Darren Williams as the team Manager and thanked him for volunteering to undertake the role.

It was noted that further discussions would take place between the team captains and manger about the approach to team meeting and team practice planning.

Rivers – It was noted that Simon Barton had taken on the role of team Manager. The Committee asked the Chair to thank the previous Manager, Racheal Smalley, for all the work she had done during her period as team Manager.

Ladies – Sally Purkis was appointed team Manager.

9 Review of current insurance position

The Secretary informed the Committee that he had been in touch with Angling Trust to establish exactly what was covered by the insurance WSTAA has through them. It is clear that the limit of our cover is for activity undertaken by WSTAA officers and employees (should we ever have any) and any volunteers undertaking activity directly on behalf of WSTAA. The Secretary advised that he had had confirmation that this would include, for example, cover for individuals acting as boatmen on behalf of WSTAA during international competitions. Insurance on damage to items would only extend to items directly owned by WSTAA.

It was agreed that in the guidance which would be issued to all triallists at the beginning of the trial season their attention should be drawn to the need to ensure they all had appropriate individual insurance. For example anyone fishing in Ireland would need to have their own personal travel insurance

10 Future of coaching arrangements in Wales

Ray Lockyer raised the issue of there being no real knowledge about the number and level of coaches in Wales. There was a discussion about the state of coaching in Wales and the importance of having coaches in place and available was emphasised as critical for the future of fly fishing in Wales.

It was agreed that future discussions with Angling Trust should include discussions on how best to develop a coach training programme in Wales.

11 Correspondence

Cheryl Bulman brought the Committee's attention to correspondence she had received from the National Library of Wales following the deposit of Moc Morgan's papers and records with them. The Library was seeking formal approval to lodge WSTAA documents with them.

The Committee agreed that this was a good idea and that agreement should be given. It was further agreed that enquiries should be made of the National Library about the intention to and timescale of digitising the papers.

The Chair drew the Committee's attention to correspondence regarding the change in the Commonwealth International venue in May 2005. This would now be held in the Midlands (England). The Committee noted this change of venue.

12 Any Other Business

Kit protocols – It was agreed that this should be agreed between the 2 Senior International Captains and the Senior Manager.

Calendar

The following dates and venues were agreed:

Inter Teams (inc Ladies and Youth mini trials)	7 th April	Trawsfynydd
1 st Senior Trial	14 th April	Trawsfynydd
2 nd Senior Trial	2 nd June	Clywedog
3 rd Senior Trial	14 th July	Clywedog
4 th Senior Trial	6 th October	Brenig
Ladies Trial	21 st July	Brenig
Rivers Trial	24&25 th August	TBC
Disabled Trial	21 st July	Brenig
Youth Trial	8 th Sept	Trawsfynydd
Bank Trial	28 th Jan & 25 th Feb	Garnffrywd
World Trial	17 & 18 th Aug	TBC

An issue was raised regarding the conduct of behaviour within one of the teams. The Committee agreed that unless the situation was resolved it would need to be considered formally by the Committee at its next meeting. Matthew Pate proposed and Paul Sharman seconded that a specific proposal on action should be brought to the next meeting should the situation not have been resolved. This was agreed by the meeting.

13 Date of next meeting

The date of the next meeting was agreed as 10.30 on Sunday 18th February at The Crown, Rhayader.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 3.20pm