

Amatola Fly Fishing Club

Agenda of the Annual General Meeting held at Gubu Dam

Date: Sunday, the 20th November 2022 @ 09h00.

1. Present & Apologies

Present:, Devin Isemonger, Mandy Isemonger, Heath Field, Rob Scott, Scott Blair, Edward Truter, Wouter De Lange, Barry Wade, Kevin Warkus, Justin Thackeray, Ian Gaylard, Robin Opperman, Brendan Crony, Karin Opperman, Yasir Matvad, Douglas Immelman, Andrew Holdstock.

Apologies: Richard Field, Natasja de Lange, Peter Brown, Christopher Brooke, Penny & Ronel, Mike Gerhold, Miles Dell, Belinda Enslin, Chris Bodeux.

2. Financial Report AFFC treasurer, Scott Blair, reported the club's finances as of the end of the financial year on 31/05/2022, as follows:

Current account:	R	40 825.27
Money market account:	R	78 644.95
Investments:	R	21 541.25
Cash float:	R	8 458.41

3. Chairman's General Report and Report-back

Club membership on the 1st October 2022 stands at 80 paid-up memberships. At face value this does not show significant growth, but what is very noticeable is that there's a significant number of new names and faces who have joined the club in the last year, while many of our longstanding members have just been slow on their renewals admin. New-member growth has typically been at the the two ends of the spectrum, i.e. the under-35s and the over-60s.

The club goes from strength to strength, especially thank you to a growing core of committee members who have stepped in more and more to take on all of the tasks at hand.

There has been significant rain in the Amathole region over the last year, so our waters are all full (or nearly full) and have been fishing well across the board. Our annual fundraising event was held at the beginning of September and it attracted a total number of 99 visitors, 58 entrants, and 311 fish were caught during the event. This was the club's biggest turnout in recent decades, thank you to the very hard work of a dedicated planning and co-ordination team.

Earlier in the year, the club purchased two, new, state of the art, fyke nets from the UK, on behalf of the Andersen's Glenara Hatchery (Hogsback), which were to replace the now-dilapidated fyke nets the club had previously arranged for the hatchery. The new nets have and will enable the Glenara team to more effectively sample and select brood stock from the Amathole waters, and so we look forward to the positive spinoff of that on the ends of our lines.

4. Current Matters & Matters Arising (as reported by the chairman unless otherwise stated)

a.) Rainbow trout stocking: the next stocking of rainbow fingerlings at Gubu and Maden Dams is planned for the 15th December with fish from the Glenara (Hogsback) Hatchery. All things being equal come the actual date, the planned numbers are 15 000 and 3000 fingerlings for Gubu and Maden respectively. Messers Pat Fletcher and Ryan Phelan reported in the lead up to the AGM that they would again make their boat available for stocking Gubu.

a.) Triploid rainbow trout: the chairman mentioned that triploid rainbow trout were available at times from the same hatcheries that provided the club's brown trout stock and that it could be an option to purchase small numbers of triploid rainbows for stocking with the browns in order to test if it will produce some above-average sized rainbows. This proposal was met with neither objection nor excitement and will be considered again at the time of the next purchase of brown trout fingerlings, with the idea to add not more than 2000 rainbow triploids to the stocking mix.

b.) Brown trout stocking: the last brown trout stocking of Gubu, Mnyameni, and Maden Dams took place on 22 January 2022. And while it was discussed at the November 2021 AGM that if possible it might be useful to stock browns every year to better ensure continuity in the case of a lack of supply, it was decided at the current AGM that the logistics-to-quantity costs (and effort) ratio negatively outweighed the risk of lack of supply given that hatcheries in South Africa seem to be fairly on-track with consistently producing browns. It was decided that our next brown trout stocking will thus be as per the club's previously planned every-two-years protocol, i.e. end 2023/start 2024.

c.) Gubu clubhouse, clubhouse maintenance, and clubhouse grounds improvements suggestions, etc.: The status of previously proposed and actioned ideas, more recently proposed ideas and new ideas is as such:...

>> Braai area: the new braai area is half complete, the main work that remains is to close off the two ends of the under-roof area with sliding doors that can be opened or closed depending on the weather and wind direction. Scott Blair reported that he hoped to have said doors in place some time during early 2023. Following that, the final phase of the braai area is to remove the old braais and have two large picnic tables in the same space, as well as to construct a raised fire pit of sorts for social fires/braaiing during calm weather.

>> Fly tying and storage table with overhead lighting: Scott Blair proposed the construction of a long table with storage cupboards below, to be placed at right angles to the southern wall of the main lounge area. It would also have sufficiently bright, suspended overhead lighting in order to create an ideal fly tying and/or tackle prep surface that would be particularly useful for anglers wishing to have group, social, or even organised tutorial fly tying sessions (i.e. as part of outdoor workshops for school groups).

>> Counter top with private storage cupboards: the concept of a counter top structure along the entire length of the southern wall of the main lounge area was again raised and agreed to, especially in the context of building under-counter cupboards, which members could lease for storage. It was not deemed a priority for now but will remain on the to-do list.

>> A jetty on the clubhouse grounds: previously decided to be a good idea, primarily as a fishing platform, no concrete progress re a design for the jetty has been forthcoming with respect to building a structure that will withstand Gubu's weather and waves. A number of designs were again proposed at the current AGM, some of which might have technical merit. Mr. Andrew Holdstock, one of our members with significant experience in building jetties indicated that a structure of the likes that we envisage will not be inexpensive. This project is thus very much in a state of flux until a robust design that is cost effective comes to the fore. The committee welcomes further engagement on this subject should there be other experienced jetty builders amongst our members.

>> Build a fourth private bedroom in the current "reading area" but include an inter-leading door from the current adjacent bedroom so that the two rooms can serve as a larger private space for families or friends-groups but which door can be closed when required for full privacy: there has been no progress on this as Scott Blair (who is the club's treasurer AND take-it-upon-self maintenance/improvements driver and co-ordinator) discussed that he was still juggling various options/designs before being

happy about proposing an actual design.

>> Improve the clubhouse flooring: based on advice, proposals and discounted pricing from interior and decor specialist members, Richard and Health Field, it was decided an epoxy-sealed floor coating option would be best and can hopefully be actioned in the near future.

>> Construct a shelter for boat storage, kick boats, wet-waders drying area etc.: This was proposed in order to partly free up space in the clubhouse and keep things drier when members wish to place their kick boats and similar gear out of the weather. One proposal is to use the area behind the clubhouse bathrooms, and to just have a roof (extending from the clubhouse roof) and slab enclosed with wire netting or similar. This project was again deemed not high priority so will be looked at when finances and time allow.

>> Install a cell signal booster for better connectivity, safety, contact-with-home, etc.: this has been successfully completed by Scott Blair and vastly improved connectivity at the clubhouse.

d.) Maden and Mnyameni Dams: These very pleasant and picturesque waters produced some good catches during the past year, however they remain extremely underused. It was proposed that a concept to better introduce and familiarise members to these waters was to organise social club days to visit them respectively as a group. This was deemed an excellent initiative as it provides a social element to those members who enjoy the camaraderie, a technical element by mixing into the group anglers experienced on the water with those who don't know it, the familiarity of how to reach the water in future, and the realities rather than perceptions of the real-world state of the water and its surroundings. Future club-visit days will be announced via e-mail and WhatsApp.

e.) Wolf River Project: This project, which is to ultimately rehabilitate the lower section of river that has become infested with black wattle is still very low-key, but there has already been a positive intervention of a section of the stream. The club still has some of the funds available that were donated by FOSAF-EC, which Rob Scott will be using to test the application of a new black-wattle herbicide that is extremely easy and quick to apply. A number of constructive ideas were proposed on how to keep moving forward with this project including mention that one of the landowners of a significant stretch of the stream is keen to work with the club. It was proposed that a priority be given to this privately-owned area during this early testing phase as it circumvents some of the complexities of dealing with this complex community.

f.) Club Boats: The club's four Angler Craft boats were transported to Gubu in December 2022 and are chained up on a stand, in the shade, under the pine trees at the clubhouse. Members wishing to use a boat can obtain a key from Karin and Robbie. A member raised concerns that the bank where the boats are stored made it awkward for him to launch a boat. If we receive similar comments that others are battling too, we will try make some changes if they won't affect the integrity and erosion rate of the bank.

g.) Annual competition fundraiser: Based on last year's AGM decision to step the club's annual event up a notch, the Fields and their event dream team went all-out this year. There were 58 entries for the competition and more than 80 people visiting as part of the festivities, which netted R31 225 into club coffers, i.e. a very positive end result!. It is hoped and planned to continue the event in similar vein and an appeal was made at the AGM for anyone wishing to be part of the planning team, or wishing to contribute

h.) Club Communication: the previously proposed WhatsApp Group has been created for members and is only used for one-way, admin-driven, occasional notifications and important announcements. If anyone is not on this group who would like to be, they must please e-mail their name and number to Scott Blair +27 73 076 8141.

h.) Gubu dam wall site quarry threat: through a call for comment from interested and affected parties, it recently came to the attention of the chairman that a stone quarry is proposed for a site that is an extension of the old stone quarry adjacent to the southwestern flank of the Gubu Dam dam wall. The chairman immediately engaged with the consulting company appointed to administrate the public engagement and also notified Amatola Water, the Department of Water and Sanitation (previously Water Affairs) and the Amathole Forestry Company, most of whom were unaware of the proposal due to the under-the-radar-tactics of the developer. The AFC legal representative in these types of matters, together with one of the club's ardent supporters and helpers, Mr. Craig Warren, attended the relevant public meeting and also engaged further with the developer. Thank you to the reactions of those involved, the developer has for now decided to put the quarry on-hold, but this is not necessarily the longterm strategy and is a situation that will have to be watched closely as an active quarry at the proposed site will have numerous negative environmental, noise pollution, sight, ambience, tourism, and related impacts, etc.

5. Committee for 2022/23

See below the members who were proposed and seconded for the executive committee.

Executive Committee	
Chairman (and half-secretary)	Edward Tuter
Vice chairman	Devin Isemonger
Treasurer (and other half-secretary)	Scott Blair
General Committee	
Records clerk & membership admin	Colin Levey / Karin Opperman
IT, IT admin & website	Scott Blair / Justin Thackeray
Events co-ordinator & committee	Richard Field
Media & advertising co-ordinator	Cindy Field
Events committee	Heath Field
Events committee	Belinda Enslin
Without portfolio	Mandy Isemonger
Without portfolio	Rob Scott
Without portfolio	Wouter de Lange
