

Amatola Fly Fishing Club

Agenda of the Annual General Meeting held at Gubu Dam

Date: Sunday, the 10th September 2023 @ 09h00.

1. Present & Apologies

Present: Ian Gaylard, Lyn Gaylard, Yasir Matvad, Andrew Johl, Justin Thackeray, Wayne Schoof, Christian Bodeux, Glenn Raath, Theo van Wyk, Dean Stoltz, Peter Brown, Anneli Domoney, Wouter de Lange, Karin Opperman, Robin Opperman, Scott Blair, Edward Truter.

Apologies: Brendan Croney, Fraser Bruce, Miles Dell.

2. Financial Report AFFC treasurer, Scott Blair, reported the club's finances as of the end of the financial year on 31/05/2023, as follows:

FNB Current account:	R	23 462.60
Money market account:	R	101 144.56
Cash :	R	13 952.52
Float:	R	<u>835.00</u>
TOTAL CLOSING:	R	<u>139 394.68</u>

3. Chairman's General Report and Report-back

Club membership on the 30th August 2023 stood at 83 paid-up memberships, made up of 9 x family, 67 x local, and 16 x country memberships. Particularly encouraging is the number of new-names, and new applicants whose application forms appear in my in-box. Interest in the club and growth, remain active.

The club lost two of its core working gears in the recent period, that being Richard Field and Ronald Opperman. But the legacy of their contributions manifest in the continued healthy existence of the club and we thank them immensely for their parts in that.

Karin Opperman has taken on all of Ronald's previous admin tasks as well as the majority of the membership admin tasks, all of which is helping significantly to keep things running in a smooth and practical way. Karin and Robbie (Robin Opperman junior), have also added some other changes, like their little shop in the bailiff's house, where visitors can find flies and other tackle that they might need or if they forgot something at home.

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 5th December 2023 with fish from the Glenara (Hogsback) Hatchery. These fish have been hatched from ova sourced directly from the Giants Cup Hatchery, which hatchery uses a significant number of wild-caught brood stock each year. The planned numbers are 15 000 fingerlings and 3000 fingerlings for Gubu and Maden respectively.

b.) Brown trout stocking: it is planned to stock Gubu with 3 800 and Maden with 180 browns (of 3"-4") in the third week of January 2024. The reason for the lower numbers for Maden and zero for Mnyameni is that the browns are costing in the region of R12 each (!). The browns are being sourced from the Bushmans River Trout Hatchery, bred by Dean Hunter, and are a mixture of predominantly 2017 generation Danish-import genetics crossed with a small number of locally captured Loch Leven (male) genetics. As has become the club's standard MO, AFFC will contact other clubs and interested parties in the EC in order to co-ordinate a combined order of browns for all who wish to partake.

c.) Triploid rainbow trout: the Bushmans River Trout Hatchery does have triploids available, which could be delivered together with the browns, but it was decided against this due to the complexities of the transport logistics and limited tank space available to separate the browns and rainbow triploids.

d.) 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 largely complete, the final phase of the braai area is to remove the old braais and have two large wooden picnic tables in the same space, as well as to construct a raised fire pit of sorts for social fires/braaing during calm weather.

>> 'Picnic Site' Braai area: Chris Bordeaux has volunteered his services to construct a concrete braai in the picnic/camping area under the pine trees, on the east side of the clubhouse.

>> Fly tying and storage table with overhead lighting: the construction of a long table for fly tying and tackle tinkering, with storage cupboards below, to be placed at right angles to the southern wall of the main lounge area is in-progress, courtesy of Scott Blair.

>> Counter top with private storage cupboards: the concept of a counter top structure along a length of the southern wall with under-counter cupboards, which members could lease for storage was not deemed a priority for now but will remain on the to-do list.

>> A jetty on the clubhouse grounds: a jetty, primarily as a fishing platform, remains an attractive proposal but this project remains in a state of flux until a project manager, and a robust design that is cost effective comes to the fore. The committee welcomes further engagement on this subject should any of our experienced jetty-builder members wish to get seriously involved.

>> 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: Richard and Health Field were applying their expertise on working on an epoxy-sealed floor coating option that was deemed the best plan for the clubhouse. But after Richard's passing, the idea has understandably received no further work.

>> 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 new water system using an on-demand pressure-switch pump to feed into the bathroom and kitchen plumbing to avoid pressure and blockage issues: Scott Blair has volunteered, as per usual, to throw his technical expertise, personal time, and manual labour at this to get it done.

e.) Maden and Mnyameni Dams: These very pleasant and picturesque waters continued to produce some good catches but they remain very underused. The concept to better introduce and familiarise members to these waters by organising social club days to visit them as a group was tested, but the

turnout was very disappointing. More thought needs to be given to this concept and what can be done for it to fair better, and also whether, in the bigger picture, it remains in the club's interest to retain these waters. Scott Blair further proposed to plan club-outings to other, non-club waters in our area. This idea was well received.

f.) Wolf River Project: This project, which is to ultimately rehabilitate the lower section of river that has become infested with black wattle has not progressed beyond some initial (and successful) clearing work that was made possible through funds donated by FOSAF-EC and co-ordinated by Rob Scott with involvement by Devin Isemonger as well. It still remains to test the application of a new black-wattle herbicide that is extremely easy and quick to apply. Another development is that one of the local retiree landowners, a certain Mr. Mbeté (with a well-qualified background in environmental and conservation work) who owns a 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. The big issue is who within the club has the time and background capacity to take this project on? Edward Truter will be having a meeting with Mr. Mbeté later in the month to discuss options on moving forward.

g.) Club boats: It seems that the club boats are being well enjoyed by those who like to fish as loners. 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. We also need to watch wear and tear on the hulls and try to avoid damage to the plastic undersides by rocks.

h.) Annual competition fundraiser: With the passing of Richard, who's energy, drive, and ideas were instrumental in significantly gearing up the club's previous annual fundraiser event model, the concept for the next event is somewhat uncertain at this stage. However, Scott Blair and Wouter de Lange do have ideas that they are looking into, which basically put, due to the reduced planning-team size/time is a return to our earlier years' model. An appeal was made at the AGM for anyone wishing to be part of the planning team, or wishing to contribute, to make themselves known during the time leading up to next year's event, which will probably be held in early September.

i.) AFFC bailiff contract: the club has never had a formalised contract defining the official relationship, deliverables, tasks, etc. between the club and its bailiff, which is potentially problematic for obvious reasons. A draft contract has been written up and is available to members for perusal and input, and will be discussed further with Robbie and Karin Opperman who currently, jointly fill the club bailiff's role.

j.) DWS Leases for AFFC waters: further to being contacted by The Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) who manage most state-owned dams in S.A., informing us that we have to enter into formalised lease agreements with DWS in order to continue our activities on Gubu and Mnyameni Dams (Maden is municipal), the reams of required paperwork were submitted in August. No feedback has been received yet.

k.) Fees increases: as there had been no increase in the various membership and visitor fees for a number of years, and during which many costs have escalated (especially those of the cost of fish, and dramatically so), it was agreed to increase the fees charged to the following:

>> Local ordinary membership: R1200 (note, the other classes of membership are scaled as a function of this baseline fee).

>> Rod-ticket: R200 per full day but R150 if purchased after 13h00.

>> Clubhouse accommodation for member-accompanied non-members: R150 pp/pn.

>> Clubhouse grounds camping for member-accompanied non-members: R100 pp/pn.

5. Committee for 2023/24

See below the members who will make up the executive committee for 2023/24.

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	Karin Opperman
IT, IT admin & website	Scott Blair
IT back-up	Justin Thackeray
Events co-ordinator & committee	Wouter de Lange
Media & advertising co-ordinator	unfilled
Events committee	unfilled
Events committee	unfilled
Without portfolio	Rob Scott
Without portfolio	unfilled
