

Amatola Fly Fishing Club

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at Gubu Dam

Date: Sunday, the 3rd November 2024 @ 09h00.

1. Present & Apologies

Present: Yasir Matvad, Andrew Johl, Wayne Schoof, Nick Biggs, Kevin Scott, Barry Wade, Rob Scott, Wouter de Lange, Karin Opperman, Robbie Opperman (jr), Scott Blair, Edward Truter, Rudi de Lange, Heath Field, David Stone.

Apologies: Mike and Dot Gerhold, Martin Davies, Ryan Lea, Justin Thackeray, Edward Steyn, Pat Fletcher, Ryan Phelan, Clint Du Plessis, Ian Gaylard, and Glenn Raath.

2. Financial Report AFFC treasurer, Scott Blair, reported the club's finances as of the end of the financial year on 31/05/2024, as follows:

FNB Current account:	R	19 678.16
Money market account:	R	91 568.35
Cash :	R	1 940.25
Float:	R	<u>835.00</u>
TOTAL CLOSING:	R	<u>114 021.76</u>

3. Chairman's General Report and Report-back

Club membership on the 31st October 2024 stood at 75 paid-up memberships, made up of 8 x family, 51 x local, and 16 x country memberships of various types. This membership is slightly down from the previous year although there are quite a number of new names. Hopefully, as typically happens, some members have just forgotten to renew and will still do so.

In recent times we lost Neil Hunter, Viv Schroeder, and Peter Brown to the fishing fields in the sky. Neil and Viv were stalwart, very long-time members and Viv was always an inspiration the way he tramped around Gubu actively fishing actively from the side regardless of his age. Those who were at last year's fundraiser competition event will remember the big contribution that Peter made to that and so these very sad goodbyes are indeed losses all-round.

On the subject of the annual fundraiser, that had to be a scaled down version this year due to the shrunken size of the planning and orchestration 'committee' (which by and large was very adeptly knocked together by Wouter de Lange and Scott Blair), the nett profit for the event was R 18 550. There were 47 attendees, which is an excellent turnout and reports were that it was very much a barrel-of-monkeys get together on the fun side!

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 2nd week of December 2024 with fish from the Glenara (Hogsback) Hatchery. These fish have been hatched from ova sourced from a mix of brood stock that include earlier generations of Giants Cup (Avni), Martin Davies TDS, and Sandile/Molapong lineages as were present in dams mostly in the Hogsback area. The planned approximate numbers are 15 000, 75-80mm size fingerlings for Gubu and 3000 fingerlings for Maden.

b.) Brown trout stocking: as brown trout stockings are on a two-year rotation, the next brown stocking will only take place sometime in January/February 2026.

c.) Fish transport trailer & system: two fish transport tank (the biggest being 2200L) systems with pumps, spray bars, oxygen diffusers, etc. were purchased recently by the club from Andre Bok, which systems the club had previously borrowed from Andre when having to collect brown trout fingerlings from far away. The tanks will be stored at Gubu for if in the event they will ever be required again and are also available to any other clubs wishing to transport fish a long distance.

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, in approximate order of priority, is as such):

>> Clubhouse grounds: a significant amount of general trimming, brush cutting, brush removal, grass cutting, and general grounds maintenance and tidying up, etc. has been undertaken at the Gubu clubhouse grounds of late, largely thank you to the initiative and co-ordination of John Rance (sr) and the team of workers he put together. Robbie Opperman has also been helping with this and David Stone of Yonder Lea Timber has pledged continued assistance with lawn mowing, etc.

>> Clubhouse cleaning: the point was raised that clubhouse users are still on the lackadaisical side regarding cleaning up after themselves yet at the same time avoiding paying for and requesting an official clean up by Karin. Some thought is going to be given to this over the next period to try and improve the situation.

>> Braai area: the new braai area is largely complete, the final phase of the braai area is to remove the old braai structures in their entirety and have two large, wooden picnic-bench type tables in the same space. The original concept of extending the current fireplace slab area and to add a raised fire pit of sorts for social fires/braaing during calm weather was scrapped as no-one at the meeting thought this was really necessary and concerns were again raised by plantation owners re fire risk.

>> Gear-drying hooks: it was agreed to install a series of hooks for drying wet gear like waders, nets, rain jackets, etc. against the outside wall of the clubhouse under the roofed braai area in order to partly free up space in the clubhouse and keep things drier when members wish to dry their gear out of the weather.

>> Clubhouse main (bricked-in) fireplace: this fireplace and part of its flue is on its 'last' and does not draw correctly leading to smoking-out the interior of the clubhouse. A new, used fireplace that is slightly bigger has been acquired and will be installed in due course. This will be quite a large task as the current, encasing brickwork needs to be removed and new encasing walls built. Rob Scott has volunteered to be involved.

>> Clubhouse painting: member, Nick Biggs, recently donated paint to be used for a new coat of paint for the clubhouse. Thank you Nick!

>> Improve the clubhouse flooring: a number of ideas were discussed including Health Field's original idea of an epoxy type floor coating, which his business could supply and apply at a reduced cost, but the consensus in the end was more towards the large, interlocking, PVC rubber-type, floor tiles often found in gyms, workshops, etc. Rob Scott subsequently identified a very suitable form of the latter product used in the Maclear Country Club, the feasibility and costs of which will be researched.

>> 'Picnic Site' Braai area: Chris Bordeaux originally volunteered his services to construct a concrete and brick braai in the picnic/camping area under the pine trees, on the east side of the clubhouse. The first phase of this job (a concrete slab) has been completed. The rest will be completed as and when funds allow for it.

>> 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 with good lighting has largely been completed, courtesy of Scott Blair and his team.

>> 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.

>> Additional private bedroom: it was decided that the best place to build a fourth private bedroom was adjacent to the current southeast private bedroom 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. Building an additional room in this space will require rotating the current fireplace that will be near one of the new walls, by 45 degrees, which is quite feasible.

>> On-demand water tank system: the new water system using an on-demand pressure-switch pump to feed into the bathroom and kitchen plumbing to avoid pressure and blockage issues has been completed by Scott Blair and his helpers and is functioning perfectly.

>> 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 as a very low priority.

e.) Maden and Mnyameni Dams: A number of reports were received through the season of good catches at Maden and Mnyameni, with proportionally a good number of browns coming out at Mnyameni. Scott Blair reported that some of the best fishing areas at Maden are becoming more and more encroached upon by emergent vegetation. A potential solution for this is the introduction of triploid (sterile) grass carp, which will be looked into. Rob Scott reported that the rainbow growth rates at Maden seemed slower than average, but that he couldn't say for sure as he was not 100% certain of the age of the fish he was catching.

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. A local retiree landowners, a certain Mr. Mbete (with a well-qualified background in environmental and conservation work) who owns a stretch of the stream, is keen to work with the club and 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. Edward Truter held a meeting with Mr. Mbete in September 2023 to discuss options on moving forward. Mr. Mbete presented a practical and reasonable budget to have a team undertake alien tree clearing work, managed by him, which is a very feasible approach but the big issue is there has been no-one forthcoming in the club who has the time and/or background capacity to take on the fundraising and overseeing of this project. If anyone does however wish to take this on, please contact the chairman.

g.) Club boats: It was agreed that once the Gubu Dam level drops again, that a new entry point for the club boats needs to be prepared and all larger rocks and stones removed so as to avoid accelerated wear and tear and damage to the boat hulls.

h.) Fire risk: The point was raised that fire risk, particularly to adjacent commercial timber plantations is a concern for the plantation owners and the club. Costs and liability incurred due to an accidental fire

started by a club member could destroy the club totally dead financially. David Stone of Yonder Lea Timber proposed that their enterprise undertake annual fire risk mitigation measures on the DWS land behind the clubhouse. This proposal was accepted with the caveat that the subject be dealt with in-communication with our other neighbouring forestry company, AFC, in order for the situation to remain totally transparent and adequately taken care of.

i.) Gubu clubhouse insurance: An insurance assessor was recently requested to evaluate the club's clubhouse insurance cover. The assessor reported that the cover was somewhat short given the total area of the clubhouse and the new braai area, and that the sum insured regarding reinstatement values needs to increase from R 1 400 000 to R 2 400 000 to ensure the building can be rebuilt in its entirety should it be lost. This amendment will be made and at the same time the Maden Dam cabin (at R92 500) will be removed from the policy as this building is no longer in use.

j.) Risk assessment: The point was raised that the club should consider undertaking a risk assessment to inform measures to mitigate personal risks, having sufficient liability cover, and to be able to show that the club has undertaken risk assessment mitigation measures in the event of someone taking civil action against the club. No conclusion was reached on exactly how to move forward with this, but it will continue to be discussed by the executive.

k.) Annual competition fundraiser: The scaled down, simplified format of the annual event as put together by Scott Blair and Wouter de Lange in September 2024 was deemed a great success, and especially so given the funds raised per unit effort of the limited manpower. For this reason it was decided to continue with this format. An appeal was made 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 2025. Heath Field volunteered to be part of the next event's team.

l.) 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 many reasons. A contract has been written up and signed with Robbie and Karin Opperman, who currently, jointly fill the club bailiff's role. One of the important components of this contract is a stipulation to provide continuous alien invasive plant control within the riparian zone, successfully achieving this will earn the club much favour in the eyes of DWS and Amathole Water.

m.) 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 originally submitted in August 2023. A request to reapply was received, and completed, in August 2024. No feedback has been received yet.

n.) Fees increases: it was decided that to avoid having to apply major fees increases every few years, it was better to apply an annual increase defined by the reported year on year CPI amount for the respective period (usually about 5%-6%), which will come into effect as of the end of the financial year on the 31st May 2025.

o.) Acknowledgments: in every organisation there are folks who step forward to volunteer their personal and/or collective resources, and then there's also those who quietly help with things in the background, all of which is really the lifeblood of keeping any club alive and healthy. Names that deserve special mention in the last while are: David Stone of Yonder Lea Timber, John Rance (sr) and the AFC/Rance Timber 'family' (Ian, Craig R., Gideon, ...), Wouter de Lange (and Natasja at home), Scott Blair, Karin and Robbie, Ryan Phelan, Pat Fletcher, Chris Bodeux, Rob Scott, Barry Wade, and apologies to those who my lack of secretarial skills caused me not to note down.

5. Committee for 2024/25

See below the members who will make up the executive committee for 2024/25.

Executive Committee	
Chairman (and half-secretary)	Edward Tuter
Vice chairman (and chicken farmer)	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	Heath Field
Events committee	unfilled
Without portfolio	Rob Scott
Without portfolio	unfilled
