

Amatola Fly Fishing Club

Agenda of the Annual General Meeting held at The Beacon Bay Country Club

Date: Tuesday, the 2nd November 2021 @ 18h30.

1. Present & Apologies

Present: Miles Dell, Wayne Schoof, Greg Coetzer, Lester Opperman, Chris Bodeux, Devin Isemonger, Mandy Isemonger, Richard Field, Heath Field, Belinda Enslin, Alfred Rohrs, Scott Blair, Edward truter, Viv Schroeder, Wouter De Lange.

Apologies: Ryan Phelan, Patrick Fletcher, Brendan Croney, Barry Wade, Dawie & Grezelda Stokes, Malcolm Klein, Martin von Holdt, Cindy Field, Natasja de Lange, Ricky Goldsmith, Penny, Ronel.

Footnote: The AGM turnout was extremely poor even though there had been many requests over the years to have it in East London. Some of those that were not there deserve a damn good hiding! Frankly, it was a waste of time, effort and finances by all those involved to get it done. It is unlikely that it will be held in EL again and will most probably revert to the Gubu Dam clubhouse in future, so at least those who make the drive can enjoy some fishing. Rant over.

2. Financial Report AFFC treasurer, Scott Blair, reported the club's finances as of the end of the financial year on 31/05/2021, as follows:

STAC current account:	R	126 984,02
STAC call account:	R	2 555,78
STAC 32 day account:	R	18 262,71
CASH + FLOAT + CHEQUES on hand:	R	10 902,56

3. Chairman's General Report and Report-back

Please refer to the Autumn/May 2021 newsletter for the general report back, available on the club's website (<https://www.amatolaflyfishingclub.co.za/index/newsletters/>).

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

a.) Rainbow trout stocking: the next RT stocking at Gubu and Maden Dams is planned for mid December, but is somewhat dependant on the growth rate (size) of the the Glenara Hatchery fingerlings, which is dependant on water temperatures, amongst other factors. The second half of 2021 has been relatively cool and so growth is a little slower this year. The intention is to stock a similar number of rainbows, adjusted relative to their size class, as per the stocking model that has been developed over the last seven years. (Addendum: 15 000 fingerlings were stocked on the 14th December.)

b.) Brown trout stocking: Devin Isemonger suggested that largely due to the unpredictability of brown trout supply it might be a good strategy to stock brown trout fingerlings every year instead of every second year as has been the general plan since the first brown (Gubu) restocking in January 2017. Based on this reasoning, the chairman has subsequently confirmed with a number of brown trout suppliers that future supplies should be relatively stable but it has been decided that it's not a bad strategy to stock with browns every year, albeit in smaller quantities than every two years, so the next stocking should be early in 2022.

c.) Gubu clubhouse, clubhouse maintenance, and clubhouse grounds improvements suggestions, etc.: A number of ideas were proposed, discussed, and voted on where necessary, with the following conclusions ...

>> A jetty on the clubhouse grounds, primarily for fishing from, is a good idea, but will have to be properly researched first to ensure that it will hold up to the weather and waves.

>> 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.

>> Improve the clubhouse flooring, probably with a mix of tiled areas and carpeted areas that will allow the underlying concrete to breathe. Interior and decor specialists, Richard and Health Field, agreed to consider the viable options and advise.

>> 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 not deemed 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. Scott Blair reported that he had researched the options and found a system that should work well for around R12,000 and which will be installed in good time. (Addendum: this booster has now been installed.)

d.) Maden Dam: Maden, being stocked with rainbows and browns remains imminently fishable and a rainbow of 3.9kg (that's 8lb+!) was caught there in August 2021 by Greg Coetzer. In August 2021, the chairman held a meeting with leaders of the local (ancestral) community to discuss plans that the community has for developing the area in and around Maden and Rooikrantz dams for tourism. If the development goes ahead it will largely be beneficial to fishing at Maden and the chairman pledged the club's support and his personal support (in his capacity as being involved in tourism development in rural areas). (Addendum: 3 500 Rainbow fingerlings were stocked into Maden on the 14th December.)

e.) Mnyameni Dam: Apart from some water leak issues and a Hogsback-local trout-poacher, all has been well at Mnyameni. Having an overnight hut, and/or basic campsite was proposed for Mnyameni, which is a feasible option that will be studied further, especially if this very pleasant venue continues to grow in popularity.

f.) Wolf River Project: This project, which is in it's start-up phase is to rehabilitate parts of the lower river that have become infested with black wattle. It has taken a while to get off the ground (mostly due to COVID issues), but initial clearing has begun, removing "branch weirs" that are barriers to flow and result in a sequence of stream and water quality degradation beginning with bank erosion and channel-widening/shallowing. Devin Isemonger is the main force behind this project with support from Rob Scott and Pat Fletcher. More funds will have to be raised to keep the work going.

g.) Club Boats: The club has purchased four Angler Craft boats for club member use. Three boat will be at Gubu and available for use by requesting a boat key from Robin/Ronald. One boat will go to Mnyameni at a later date. The boats still have to be transported from Gauteng, but this is being planned for by Chris Bodeux around the 3 December. (Addendum: the boats have subsequently been delivered to Gubu, thank you Chris!).

h.) Annual competition fundraiser: Richard Field, who was one of the fundraiser team members who this year organised the most successful fundraiser event at Gubu in recent years, put the question to

the meeting of whether it would be preferred to keep the event at the same scale or to try make it a bit bigger. The consensus was for the latter, with the idea that if the club can raise more money it can spend more money on especially clubhouse and related improvements.

i.) Conduct for Payments (re. EFT payments, cash and key deposits @ Gubu): The treasurer, Scott Blair, reiterated that members paying cash to the bailiff at Gubu Dam for key deposits, electricity, day/rod tickets insist on a receipt and ensure that they complete the register including the details of the visitors accompanying them.

j.) Signage at Gubu Dam: It was stated that new signs were to be made noting prices, reminder re. requesting receipts, and the main rules (e.g. no unaccompanied non-member overnight accommodation, etc.) would be erected at the Gubu Dam clubhouse and on the bailiff's entrance gate.

k.) Amathole Forestry Company (AFC) Permits: It was made known that in future all non forestry staff or visitors on any land around Gubu Dam, outside of the clubhouse grounds, would require an AFC permit. The club, in discussion with AFC, is looking into the idea of annual permit system for members. It was reiterated that a specialist, rural security company (Magma Security) is now contracted to patrol AFC areas and that Magma Security staff will request anyone found at Gubu Dam to produce proof of membership or day tickets.

i.) Membership numbers, new membership, and capping membership: The chairman stated that there had been record growth in club membership during the last two years and that at some point the very tranquil nature for which Gubu Dam and clubhouse are known might be at risk of being lost due to high traffic. A vote was taken and it was decided that for the moment all was well and that it was not necessary to cap membership numbers. It was reiterated though that bad and/or inconsiderate behaviour would not be tolerated and could result in immediate termination of membership.

j.) CCTV camera: The idea of a CCTV camera overlooking the Gubu clubhouse and entrance gate was proposed in order to trace and monitor any wrong-doing, illegal non-member visitors, bad behaviour, etc. It was agreed that if there was a feasible technology to allow for this it would be seriously considered.

k.) Club Communication: It was decided that as e-mails were becoming a less and less effective means of communication, club members would be entered into a WhatsApp Group, which group would be only for one-way, occasional notifications and important announcements

l.) Gubu Dam riparian zone improvements: The suggestion to plant indigenous trees around Gubu Dam was rekindled. Suitable indigenous trees along the water's edge will increase shade, organic nutrient inputs, terrestrial insect habitat, biodiversity and biomass, etc. It was noted that Rob Scott is an expert in indigenous trees and could advise and manage accordingly. Similarly it was suggested to explore ways to fast track the rehabilitation to indigenous grassland of the recently cleared pine areas around Doctor's Creek and The Drift. The more indigenous grassland in the riparian zone, the better the overall ecology and productivity of Gubu Dam would be. The concept of using hay/lucerne bales to boost aquatic productivity in Gubu Dam was also rekindled, but no conclusion of actually getting it done was arrived at.

5. Committee for 2021/22

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
IT admin & website	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	Christian Bordeaux
