

# RLAC Minutes 2021

The Chairman welcomed the 23 members who attended and gave a brief statement.

Pete Wilson has left his position as Club Secretary and members were asked if anyone wanted to put their name forward as replacement. Brian McGlashan nominated Sandy Arnott. John Shaw seconded. Sandy Arnott confirmed as Club Secretary

Bob McKenzie read out the Financial Statement for the Season 2021. This will be posted on the Club Facebook Page for members to download if they wish to do so. Chairman's Statement was read out. The points covered are discussed below.

## Issues

1. It was suggested that prices be reduced by £5.

Although the clubs finances are healthy it was decided not to proceed with this on two grounds

- a) Money will be needed to improve the river when COVID restrictions allow us to recommence work parties
  - b) Members felt that the present prices represented excellent value for money and so could safely be kept at the present level.
2. Day Tickets will only be sold via a PayPal payment to Bob as was the case this season. Jamie Henderson offered to sell season tickets in his area due to the lack of an outlet. He was given a few season tickets as stock
  3. Riverside Rumours and Accusations

- a) Finances.

It has been said that the committee were pocketing the money. The club's financial statement was read out and approved by the members who were present. A pdf copy of the financial statement is available on request to the committee.

- b) The Committee Does Nothing

The Chairman gave the meeting a summary of the major undertakings of the committee so far this year. These included

- A major pollution incident on the River Ore was resolved. This problem arose every Saturday morning and so committee members aided by members were on the river early every weekend. SEPA were brought in to enforce the findings and despite the party involved denying responsibility and SEPA being unwilling to take the matter further the pollution did cease. Thanks were extended to Colin, Kirky and others.
- Meetings with the Railways Supervisor and Contractors regarding work at the Viaduct. The work was completed on schedule and the site satisfactorily reinstated.

- Meetings with the Railways Supervisor and Contractors regarding the large pipes in the river. The large pipes which were washed downstream during flooding earlier in the year have all been removed. Various members confirmed that the pipes had been removed from below the bridge at the viaduct, the Turbine Hall at Balgonie and the Meetings at Balgonie Castle.
- Calls from members regarding poachers were noted. However, unfortunately there is little we can do. The Police should be called but it is unlikely that they will actually take any action. John Shaw pointed out that when he called and said that he had been threatened with violence by poachers, the Police did eventually turn up.

#### 4. New developments on the river

- a) A new River Development Officer, Grace Wilding has been appointed. We hope to be able to post an interview with Grace in an upcoming newsletter.
  - b) The new river initiative want to flatten the weirs on the river. The River Board along with other bodies deems them to be man made and therefore they should be removed. SEPA disagree but this seems to be going ahead over the next few years. The main problem for this plan is the sewer pipe running under the Kirkland Weir.
  - c) It would appear that a video made by another person showing kayaking encouraged other people to try this type of watersport on the river.
  - d) Meetings were held with regarding other local initiatives. We have been assured that access will continue downstream from the distillery when the station for the new railway line is built.
  - e) A new lease was signed adding other parts of the river. See below for more details.
5. New SEPA gauge at the Distillery. We hope that this will be installed relatively soon. Any members who have thoughts on where other gauges could/should be installed should contact the committee as Brian has some ready to use
  6. Town Park Fishing, The Town parking Fishings have been added to the lease. Other areas will flow in the next few years. It appears that we may have the rights to the stretch at Smith Anderson near Cabbagehall as this is showing on the maps. Access will NOT be permitted on the Right Bank (Glenrothes side) as this is the back garden of the large house.
  7. Good contacts have been found with and made at Fife Council with the help of The Friends of Riverside Park. We will have access to the fishings at Tullis Russell although this will not happen for a few years. The new house will NOT go right down to the river. The stretch of the river which is at present underground will be expose offering still more opportunities for fishing. The stretch at the bottom of the river towards the mouth where we do not have access appears to still belong to Tullis Russell. It is thought that in the early years of last century they used it for a netting station to help feed their workers. We hope to be able to add this stretch to our lease at some future date.
  8. Thanks were given to Friends of Riverside Park for their help in the above. It was proposed to give them a donation of £100 and the motion was passed.

9. Signs are to be put up in Park. The work will need to be cleared with the authorities on Health and Safety grounds but should be done by next season.
10. Trees are to be removed from river at various places on the river. This will entail the hire of a digger. The committee will deal with this as an ongoing matter. It was pointed out that living trees can only be removed after consultation with the authorities but that under certain circumstances this may be permitted. This matter is still being discussed with the River Board, Fife Council etc.
11. Creation of Work Party Team Coordinator. It was proposed that this post be created however no one put their name forward. This means that we will have to do work on the river on an ad hoc basis. Some members in the past have incurred costs due to damage to their own tools whilst carrying out work on the river. Members are encouraged to ask for and use the club's tools. We have an adequate supply of these and are able to cope with the costs of replacements to damaged items.
12. It was proposed that we start posting a Quarterly Newsletter. This will be done by Sandy Arnott the incoming Club Secretary. Sandy indicated to the meeting that he is willing to produce it on a more frequent basis if there is a call for it and sufficient contributions from members.
13. Members language on Facebook Page. Members were asked to watch out for their language when posting on Facebook. There are some members who log on to Facebook with their families and people posting should bear this in mind.
14. It was pointed out that Pete Wilson had carried out the duties of Club Secretary for seven years. It was proposed to give him an Honorary Membership as a thank you for all his work. The motion was carried