

# Annual General Meeting (AGM) Minutes

**Organisation:** Durness & Kinlochbervie Angling Club

**Date:** 2<sup>nd</sup> April AGM

**Location:** Harbour Offices

**Chair:** Andy Johnson acting Chair during meeting:

**Minutes taken by:** Angela Johnson acting as Secretary during meeting

**Attendees:** Andy Johnson, Chris Ambler, Phil Shaw, PC Allan Cameron, Morvan Mackenzie, Alex Schneideman

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## 1. Welcome & Introductions

- Meeting opened with informal introductions.
  - New member **Alex** introduced himself:
    - Recently joined the club.
    - Member of Scourie Angling Association.
    - Background in salmon fishing further south.
    - Expressed appreciation for the welcoming nature of the club.
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## 2. Approval of Previous AGM Minutes

- Minutes from the previous AGM were reviewed.
  - **Proposed:** Chris Ambler
  - **Seconded:** Phil Shaw
  - **Outcome:** Approved unanimously.
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## 3. Club Waters

- No changes to club waters from last year.
- Key agreements:
  - **MOD waters:** Continuing in Year 2 of a 2-year agreement.
  - **John Muir Trust:** Rolling agreement; action to re-establish contact due to staff changes.
  - **Kinlochbervie & Rhiconich Estates:** Confirmed unchanged.

### Additional Access

- Continued reduced-rate access to **Durness Limestone Lochs**.
- Members eligible for discounts via booking system.

### Action

- Reconnect with John Muir Trust to confirm ongoing arrangements – Andy/Phil
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## 4. Fishing Methods

- Proposal to allow **spinning and worm fishing** on Loch Innis to encourage youth and adult local participation.

### Key Points:

- Fly fishing seen as a barrier for beginners.
- Spinning/worming considered a better entry point.
- Supports recruitment of younger anglers.

### Agreed:

- Trial allowing spinning/worming on Loch Innis.
- Conditions:
  - Barbless hooks only.
  - Single hooks for spinning.

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- Bank fishing preferred (no boats unless supervised by Adult Member).
- Migratory fish must be returned.

## Action:

- Trial scheme to be implemented for 2026 season and reviewed in October 2026.
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## 5. Conservation & Catch Practices

- General consensus:
    - Catch-and-release is standard practice.
    - Limited retention (e.g., for personal consumption) acceptable.
  - No evidence of over-harvesting by members.
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## 6. Membership Fees

### Current:

- Local membership: £30
- Visitors : £70 season £40 week £10 day tickets

### Proposal:

- Reduce Local Resident Membership only to **£10** to:
  - Increase participation.
  - Align with Scourie Angling Club.
  - Reduce financial barrier.
- Visitor Tickets remain the same

### Financial Impact:

- Estimated short-term loss: £250–£300 per annum
- Expected increase in membership numbers.

### Decision:

- Agreed in principle.

### Implementation Options:

- Attempt refunds for current members who have paid already if feasible (7 have paid).
- If not, implement from October (next membership cycle).

### Actions:

- Investigate refund process via Clubmate system.
  - Communicate changes directly to members.
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## 7. Boat Usage

- Proposal to introduce boat hire system.

### Key Points:

- Charge approx. £10 per day (aligned with Scourie).
- Booking via Clubmate online system.
- Access via combination locks.

### Rules:

- Members may use boats after ~4pm if not booked.
- Strong recommendation to wear buoyancy aids.
- Safety concerns noted (especially remote lochs like Sandwood).

### Decision:

- Proceed with boat hire system (excluding high-risk waters like Sandwood initially).

### Actions:

- Confirm insurance/liability coverage.

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- Add safety guidance to booking system.
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## 8. Constitution Update

- Amendment required for funding compliance:
  - Office bearers to serve **3-year terms**.
  - Positions subject to re-election thereafter.

### Committee Structure Proposed:

- Chair: Chris Ambler
- Club Secretary: Andrew Johnson
- Treasurer: Angela Johnson
- Committee Members: Phil, Michael (TBC), Ian McDonald (TBC)

### Decision:

- Approved.
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## 9. Finance Report

Presented by Treasurer.

### Summary:

- Income: £1,059 25/26 Season
  - Membership: £574
  - Visitor tickets: £485
- Expenses:
  - Software: £144
  - Equipment: £83
  - Hall hire: £30
  - Insurance: £227
- **Net surplus: £575**

### Bank Balance:

- £2,870 (includes £750 ringfenced for boat purchase)

### Issues:

- £1,100 held in legacy account (access unresolved).

### Actions:

- Continue efforts to recover legacy funds- Chris Ambler to follow up.
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## 10. Booking System & Website

- Current system (Clubmate) working adequately.

### Improvements Proposed:

- Introduce catch return reporting.
- Add:
  - Clear fishing area guidance.
  - Range activity information (MOD).
  - Named lochs for restrictions (e.g., nesting birds).
  - Possibly integrate What3Words for navigation.

### Actions:

- Implement catch return prompts.
  - Improve website clarity.
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## 11. Projects – Oldshoremore Steps

- Project has:
  - Planning approval.
  - ~£29,000 funding secured.
  - Contractor identified.

### Issue:

- Requires ownership by a constituted body (e.g., community company).
- Angling club cannot assume liability.

### Status:

- Discussions to handover to Kinlochbervie Community Company.
- Outcome uncertain (approx. 50/50 likelihood) as no clear ownership or point of contact.

### Actions:

- Attend council meeting.
  - Explore alternative ownership options if required.
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## 12. Community & Development Initiatives

### a) Kids / Community Engagement

- Proposal for youth fishing days.
  - Barriers:
    - Liability concerns.
  - Suggested solution:
    - Require parental supervision.
    - Check liability coverage
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### b) Buglife - Riverfly Monitoring (Citizen Science)

- Proposal to join national monitoring scheme:
  - Monthly/seasonal sampling of invertebrates.
  - Data contributes to environmental monitoring.

### Decision:

- Positive interest; further exploration required.
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### c) Guiding Opportunities

- Discussion on offering paid/local guiding services.
  - No formal scheme currently.
  - Potential opportunity identified but requires structure.
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## 13. Police & Security Update

- Local officer advised:
  - Report all incidents (e.g., boat damage).
  - Unauthorised use of boats may constitute an offence – report it.

### Action:

- Encourage reporting of all incidents.
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## 14. Any Other Business

- Clarification on access to Grudie water via Durness system.
- Additional boat available for placement – proposal for Loch Sgeir a Chadha –

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- **Action:** - Estate Owner to be contacted.
  - Continued collaboration with estates and local organisations encouraged.
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## 15. Meeting Close

- Meeting concluded with general discussion on:
    - Fishing trends.
    - Increased participation post-COVID.
    - Opportunities for future growth.
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## Summary of Key Actions

1	Contact John Muir Trust.	Andy
2	Trial spinning/worming access – change details on clubmate - Trial scheme to be implemented for 2026 season and reviewed in October 2026.	Andy
3	Investigate membership fee reduction implementation.	Angela
4	Develop boat booking system.	Andy
5	Improve website and catch return system.	Andy
6	Pursue recovery of legacy funds.	Chris
7	Progress Oldshoremore steps project.	Angela /Andy
8	Explore youth engagement and Riverfly scheme.	Morven
9	Additional boat available for placement – proposal for Loch Sgeir a Chadha – Estate Owner to be contacted.	Andy