



55th Annual General Meeting, 15th October 2024

NOTICE TO ALL MEMBERS

The fifty fifth Annual General Meeting of the Institute of Fisheries Management was held on Tuesday 15th October 2023 at 17.30 at the Chester Racecourse, Chester.

There were 29 members present, including 5 by Zoom. As there should be at least 20 members present to be quorate, the AGM was valid and could continue.

The meeting was chaired by the President, and Chair of the Board of Trustees, Chris Mills.

A recording of the meeting, papers and the presented slides are available [here](#)

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence.

- Apologies were received from: David Bunt, Adrian Saunders, Graeme Storey, Adrian Smith, Si Smith, Guy Mawle, Heidi Stone, Ben Marshall

2. To confirm the Minutes of the fifty fourth Annual General Meeting held on Wednesday 18 October 2023

- The AGM minutes of 2023 were approved.
- Proposed by Heidi Stone, seconded by Steve Axford and all were in favour.

3. The Annual Report of the Board of Trustees.

- Chris Mills, President and Chair of the Board of Trustees presented the annual report of the Trustees.
- Chris reported that three new Trustees had recently joined the Board. Melissa Moore, Simon Johnson and Richard Noble.
- Chris reported that the working group looking at charitable status for the Institute had reached a decision on whether to progress the application further or not. It has been decided to not progress the application further at this point and to hold the application in abeyance for the next three years.

4. The Annual Report of the Executive Team.

- Paul Coulson, the Acting Chief Executive Officer, presented the annual report of the Executive team

5. The financial report and accounts.

- Nicola Teague, Finance Director, presented the Financial Report and Accounts for 2023.

6. Election of President:

President (for one year): Chris Mills

- Richard Noble, Trustee, took the chair temporarily whilst the election of President took place.
- There were no other nominees, and Chris Mills was duly elected to serve for another year.
- Proposed by Steve Colclough, seconded by Brian Shields and all were in favour.

7. Election of Trustees

For one year: Richard Noble

- Proposed by Jim Lyons, seconded by Valerie Holt and all were in favour.

For two years: Melissa Moore

- Proposed by Steve Colclough, seconded by Brian Shields and all were in favour.

For three years: Simon Johnson

- Proposed by Lawrence Talks, seconded by Noel Hulmston and all were in favour.

For three years: Ben Marshall

- Proposed by Val Holt, seconded by Richard Noble and all were in favour.

8. Subscriptions

Fees have been held at their current level since 2019. For 2025 the Board has recommended that subscriptions are increased by 6%.

The changes in fees are set out below

	Over 65
Full £75 > £80	£37.50 > £40
Associate £65 > £69	£32.50 > £35
Subscriber £40 > £42	£20 > £21
Students: £15 > No change	

- Proposed by Katy Lewis, seconded by Steve Colclough and all were in favour.

9. Appointment of an Independent Examiner

The IFM Board recommends that Girling & Company Chartered Accountants are appointed as auditors for 2025.

- The IFM Board had recommended that Girling & Company Chartered Accountants are appointed as auditors for 2025
- This was approved by members. Proposed by Paul Coulson; seconded by Valerie Holt and all were in favour.

10. Any other business (AOB)

Ash Girdler raised the issue that the Institute has become disconnected with the membership, and we need to involve the members more in the decisions, especially at a high level with the election of Board members and senior positions.

He also suggested that there may be some merit in the management of the IFM being dealt with under two separate but connected entities. There could be a Limited company or non-charitable Trust that deals with the day to day running of the IFM and IFM Trading Ltd, a wholly owned trading subsidiary of the IFM.

It is suggested that the above would provide the foundation of an operating structure that would allow the IFM to put its membership back to being a priority and to rebuild its membership numbers based on a value offer for those seeking membership. It would also allow the commercial element to grow in both terms of influence, delivery opportunities and commercial yield back into the IFM.

The trading arm would be the vehicle through which all commercial activity is administered and from which all profits are directed to the trust.

The Chair responded as follows:

He summarised and responded to the 2 main points being raised,

- i) That the membership should have a more active role in the nomination and election of senior positions and that Board members should be elected by the membership rather than simply being ratified by them.**

As a CLBG, Directors were and will be appointed according to our Memorandum of Association as recommended by Gov.Uk Model Articles for Private companies Limited by Guarantee. This states that:

“any person who is willing to act as a Director and is permitted by law to do so may be appointed

- a) By ordinary resolution (on a show of hands at a general meeting by a simple majority)
- b) By the decision of Directors

The recent recruitment of Directors was by means of an open advert to the membership and more broadly. All applicants were interviewed by a subset of the existing Board. The recommendation was put back to a final decision by the full Board. Three candidates were co-opted as Board members and have now just been elected by the membership by ordinary resolution.

- ii) That the management of the IFM is dealt with under 2 separate but connected entities. One responsible for the day to day running of the IFM, the other as a separate trading arm**

In determining the best way forward for the IFM, this has been considered. However, priority was given first to applying for charitable status and latterly becoming a CLBG.

Prior to this meeting the Board was consulted about this proposal and the consensus is that now is not the right time for further structural change. We need a period of stability to allow a new CEO to settle in, to embed our new financial systems and to make further progress on delivering recently developed services to our membership. There were also reservations concerning how practical this model would be given the small size of the IFM.

This does not mean that this cannot be further considered as an option for the future, but the Board does not support this suggestion at the present time.

Ash also raised a question about the role of the President. Chris explained that this has changed over time and agreed that now was an opportune time to revisit what this role should be going forward and would be discussed at a Board meeting in the near future.

Ian Welby asked the question as to whether members of the Board are Directors, Board members or Trustees and that the inconsistent use of these titles was confusing. Chris agreed and confirmed that as a CLBG members of the IFM Board would be Directors. As a consequence, we need to find an alternative title for those members of the Executive who are also titled Directors ACTION: CEO