

A very warm welcome to all SPS Members, old and new, to this the **Sussex Piscatorial Society AGM of 2017**.

Our AGM marks the culmination of one year and the start of a new year, and thank you for attending, what is in essence, our business Meeting. The Trout Section and the Coarse Section activities are now in full swing and the aspirations of this new year for the Society are there to be realised and enjoyed.

You will be very aware that much has happened over the past year, in both Sections, and tonight we will hear of their progress. More of the news from both Sections will be announced at this AGM. It is perhaps not realised by the Membership that each Section Committee meets roughly every four weeks for a business meeting, but having said that, they are 'on duty' every day of every week. Much of the work of the Section Committees goes on in the background and during the wee small hours. It almost goes unnoticed by the majority of us, but without this work, the Society would not be in the position it is at present, surviving and thriving. Traditionally this AGM Report gives the Chairman the opportunity to highlight activities of the Members that make things happen for the benefit of the rest of us, even if I don't mention them all by name. So our thanks should go to the Section Committees and Section Waterkeepers for all their hard and unselfish work in the day to day activities, the planning and the management of the waters of each Section. The Section Committees are truly the heartbeat and the powerhouse of the Society and they can often be the route for Members who wish to become more involved within the management of the Society. A good mix of wise heads and youthful enthusiasm is the perfect balance for our continued success.

I urge you to support the Section Committees and all that they do on our behalf. Both Sections have risen to the challenges on their own waters, and more of the news from both Sections will be presented at the AGM with the Officers from each Section giving their end of year statements and answering questions from the floor. Details of the Society's Juniors Day in June will also be given by the Coarse Section Officers.

The Society would not function or remain solvent if its financial affairs were not competently managed. It is a huge responsibility, very ably carried out by our Treasurer who will be presenting the Accounts of the Society at this AGM and answering questions.

And finally, I must also thank all the SPS Members who go the extra mile and freely give of their time on work parties and the many other tasks that keep the Society in good running order. I must also thank the amazing team of Directors who make up the Main Committee or Board of the Society. The Board is responsible for strategic and forward planning and for the overall budget responsibility of the Society. They all have an amazing drive and energy for all things SPS, qualities that are often unseen and unsung, but which play a major role in the wellbeing of the Society.

We should all be deservedly proud to be Members of the Sussex Piscatorial Society and we should remember that we are all ambassadors and representatives of the Society. The Society will be judged on the behaviour of its Members, so let us give no cause for concern to anyone, and let us hope that we can continue to enjoy our fishing according to our long standing ethos and tradition.

I wish you all well for the coming year in your own piscatorial aspirations. If it turns out to be a red letter year for you, perhaps share your success with your fellow Members on the website. Tight lines for 2017.

Nic Stenhouse - Chairman of the Sussex Piscatorial Society Ltd.