

# Amatola Fly Fishing Club

## Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at Gubu Dam

**Date:** Sunday, the 30th November 2025 @ 09h15.

### **1. Present & Apologies**

Present: Wayne Schoof, Barry Wade, Karin Opperman, Robbin Opperman (jr), Scott Blair, Edward Truter, David Stone, James Fortmann, Ian Gaylard.

Apologies: Brian Clark, Fraser Bruce, Rob Scott, Wouter de Lange, Devin Isemonger, Lester Opperman, Arnel van der Walt, Clint Du Plessis, Ryan Pickering, Brendan Cronney.

**2. Financial Report** AFFC treasurer, Scott Blair, reported the club's finances as of the end of the financial year on 2025/05/31, as follows (the previous year's numbers are included for comparison):

	<b>2025 / 05 / 31</b>	<b>2024 / 05 / 31</b>
FNB Current account	12 088,08	19 678,16
Money market account	112 854,00	91 568,35
Cash	6 556,13	3 265,04
Float	835,00	835,00
<b>TOTAL CLOSING (IN RANDS)</b>	<b><u>132 333,21</u></b>	<b><u>115 346,55</u></b>

### **3. Chairman's General Report and Report-back**

The chairman reported that the membership tally as calculated by Karin Opperman, who manages the membership admin, was, on the 30 November 2025, 62 paid-up memberships. Taking into account family and couples memberships, this brings the approximate number of active-member individuals to 89. Karin also reported that as typically happens, a number of established members had not renewed and it was likely that most of them would.

On the subject of the annual fundraiser, which had not been held during 2025, the chairman explained that the committee and previous team who had been involved with the planning of past events had all had to contend with changes at home and/or at work and had simply run out of 'bandwidth' to get the job done. The chairman further explained that there was a strategy in place to put together a task-specific, four-person (minimum) team, each of whom would have a specific task to plan an event for 2026, as the funds generated by the even were critical for the club's longterm survival.

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

**a.) Rainbow trout stocking:** the next stocking of rainbow fingerlings at Gubu is planned for the 2nd week of December 2025 with fish from the Glenara (Hogsback) Hatchery. Due to dry conditions in the Hogsback during the second half of 2025, the Glenara Hatchery has been experiencing some technical constraints regarding available water, and flow rate/temperature,

which has impacted the available fish supply. That said, there are enough rainbows available for Gubu, and 18000 fingerlings are planned. Not stocking Maden will also help with the budget given that 2026 is a brown-stocking year and that we had no 2025 fundraiser event.

**b.) Brown trout stocking:** as brown trout stockings are on a two-year rotation, the next brown stocking will only take place sometime around June/July 2026 with an estimated 3000 relatively large (20g/6") sized fish earmarked for Gubu, also coming from the Hogsback hatchery.

**c.) Gubu clubhouse, clubhouse maintenance, and clubhouse grounds improvements suggestions, etc.** (The status of previously proposed and actioned ideas, more recently proposed ideas and new ideas, in approximate order of priority, is as such):

- Clubhouse grounds: following on from the significant amount of general trimming, brush cutting, scrub/bracken removal, grass cutting, and general grounds maintenance, etc. that was undertaken at the Gubu clubhouse grounds during the previous year, initiated by John Rance (sr), David Stone of Yonder Lea Timber with their crack team, under project manager, Glen Winterton, have continued to keep the large-scale maintenance (e.g. lawn mowing and brush cutting) going. Beyond this, they've also done controlled burns around the clubhouse zone, which makes an enormous positive difference from not just a fire security context but also re alien plant management (with implications for water quality) and general accessibility. Further to this subject, the Yonder Lea team has transformed the western half of the clubhouse grounds waterfront by clearing part of the expanding copse of alien *Acacia melanoxylon* (Australian blackwood) and hopefully the rest of the waterfront stand of blackwood and wattle west of the clubhouse can be chipped away at in the coming time. Sincere appreciation was extended to the Yonder Lea team.
- Clubhouse cleaning: due to many clubhouse users still being lazy-bastards and less than reasonable humans re cleaning up after themselves, and/or trying to have 'the other group' pay for the cleaning service by departing before them instead of sharing costs (WT!%^\$ is wrong with people I ask you with tears in my eyes!), it was decided that ... 1. Anyone wanting the in-house cleaning service had to pay up front for it when signing-in. And 2. Following the weekly Monday morning inspection, if it could be safely determined that the same person/party was responsible for repeated (to a max of three time) and unreasonable uncleanliness, said person/party would be asked to leave the club. Put in another way, 3-strikes and you're out!
- Braai area: The final phase of the upgraded braai area, which is to remove the old braai structures in their entirety and place two large, wooden picnic-bench type tables in the same space is still in the pipeline.
- Gear-drying hooks: Scott Blair reported that he had acquired the necessary set of hooks required for piecing together the installation of the wet gear (e.g. waders, nets, rain jackets, etc.) drying hooks against the outside wall of the clubhouse under the roofed braai area.
- Clubhouse main (bricked-in) fireplace: A new, used fireplace to replace the old one is already at Gubu, but the services of a bricklayer are sought in order to undertake the bricklaying for the encasing brickwork.
- 'Picnic Site' Braai area: If budget constraints allow, at the time of the brickwork being done for the above mentioned fireplace, a concrete and brick braai can be installed on the concrete slab

that has already been built for this purpose in the picnic/camping area under the pine trees, on the east side of the clubhouse.

- Fly tying table with overhead lighting: the construction of a long table for fly tying and tackle tinkering against the southern wall of the main lounge area was completed some time ago. Scott Blair and his team have upgraded the lighting (to super-bright tying size 32 midge level) and added high chairs.
- Jetty/fishing dock on the clubhouse grounds: Team Family-Scott-Blair have constructed a jetty/fishing platform in a prime location for fishing and chilling. A classic case of less talking and just getting the job done with some clever thinking and hard labour. This wonderful asset (now referred to as Scott's Dock) will be enjoyed by many and everyone who sets their grubby feet upon it should extend their thank yous to Scott, Ryan and Barry.
- Solar electricity appraisal: it was proposed that given the enormous advancements in solar electricity system technologies, that the club should take a serious look at what it would require and cost to go off-grid i.e. change the bathroom hot water system to gas driven, and replace the current electrical kitchen appliances with updated, ultra low energy-consumption appliances. (If any of our members reading this are solar system experts and can lend a hand undertaking this appraisal, please WhatsApp Edward on 0781141669).
- Additional private bedroom: plans have been drawn up for a fourth private bedroom but it has not been able to secure sponsored timber for the build yet.
- Windows: the clubhouse windows are in need of a re-putty, which will take a lot of manpower. A quote will be obtained to do it via 'normal' channels but an alternative idea was pitched which holds merit, which is to have club members (especially the regulars) adopt a panel of windows, starting on the north side, and thus be responsible for getting it done this way. No final plan was concluded.
- Waste pipe for the kitchen: in order to reduce the damp and smelly conditions caused by the kitchen sink drain emptying directly adjacent to the kitchen, it was decided to carry the waste water further away into the yard via a suitable pipe, which was placed on the 'things to do' list.
- Signage: it was decided that some new, updated and conspicuous signage is required in and around the clubhouse to remind the forgetful and hard of hearing re the various dos/dont's etc., e.g. take your rubbish home with you (including you empty wood bags), keep the gate closed/locked, nothing to go in the ash pit whatsoever other than ONLY ash.

**d.) Maden and Mnyameni Dams:** members present who had visited these two dams recently continue to report good catches when they do try them, and even though Maden is becoming more encroached upon by emergent aquatic vegetation, it still produces some fine fishing days. And Mnyameni often offers up some nice browns to the few who fish it. On the subject of Mnyameni, it is with sadness that it was reported of the passing of Mr. Mdledle who was a wonderful, old-school, Xhosa gentleman, and the club's main liaison person with the Mnyameni community. But contact is to be established with the Mnyameni Traditional Council's new chairperson, Zukile Nyokana in order to continue the relationship with the community and its water.

**e.) Wolf River Project:** following a meeting with a local representative, Mr. Mbete, in September 2023 to discuss options on moving forward with stream rehab work on the Wolf., Mr. Mbete presented a practical and reasonable budget to have a team undertake alien tree clearing work, managed by him, which is a very feasible approach, but the stumbling block remains that no-one is forthcoming in the club who has the time and/or background and/or general capacity to canvass and coordinate the fundraising and oversee the project. If anyone does however wish to take this on, please contact the chairman.

**f.) Club boats launching area improvement:** it was decided to wait until Gubu was at a lower level again to make it easier to carry out some work to the club-boat launching zone to move the larger larger rocks and stones so as to avoid accelerated wear and tear and damage to the boat hulls being dragged over them.

**g.) Fire risk:** it was noted, and due thanks and appreciation given, that Yonder Lea Timber under the directorship of David Stone, had carried out the previously proposed measure to undertake annual fire risk mitigation measures on the DWS land behind the clubhouse. David Stone of Yonder Lea Timber proposed that their enterprise undertake annual fire risk mitigation measures on the DWS land behind the clubhouse.

**h.) Annual competition fundraiser:** the annual event did not take place in 2025 due to a shortfall in human capital. But a number of folks have put themselves forward to make up a committee for planning an event in 2026, for the moment set for 2 October. (Please note: Anyone reading this who wishes to be part of the planning team, or wishing to contribute, please Whatsapp Edward on 0781141669).

**i.) DWS Leases for AFFC waters:** further to The Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) request that the AFFC has to enter into formalised lease agreements with DWS in order to continue our activities on Gubu and Mnyameni Dams (Maden is municipal), and the required paperwork being originally submitted in August 2023 and again in August 2024, no feedback has been received on this matter thus far. However it is reported that a DWS appraisal team did visit the Gubu dam infrastructure and facilities in late 2025 as part of the process. The Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) who manage most state-owned dams in S.A., informing us that we have to enter into formalised lease agreements with DWS in order to continue our activities on Gubu and Mnyameni Dams (Maden is municipal).

**j.) Ideas for increasing funds flowing into the club:** while the club is in a satisfactory position regarding its finances, there is little margin for covering any expenses beyond what is absolutely necessary (e.g. stocking costs, electricity, etc.). In other words there is little room for extra projects or covering emergency or untoward-event circumstances, and so ideas for increasing club revenues are always under discussion. Feasible ideas that were discussed and deemed worth a test-try included: completing the braai site at the caravan electrical/camping point under the big pine trees, which could then be provided to non-member, day visitors at a rate of R200 per vehicle. 2. Creating a 'leisure members' category of club membership for folks who wished to join the club for outdoor leisure reasons other than fishing, but which activities are compatible with the the club's general ethos and typical members profile, e.g. canoeists, trail runners, birders, etc. In the new membership year this latter idea will be tested but with a caveat to all new 'leisure members' that the concept is under a long-term test period and could be revoked at the end of any financial year in the event of the concept not working out as envisaged and/or it significantly altering the nature of the club.

## 5. Committee for 2024/25

See below the members who will make up the executive committee for 2025/26.

<b>Executive Committee</b>	
Chairman (and half-secretary)	Edward Tuter
Vice chairman (and chicken farmer)	Devin Isemonger
Treasurer (and other half-secretary)	Scott Blair
<b>General Committee</b>	
Records clerk & membership admin	Karin Opperman
IT, IT admin & website	Scott Blair
IT back-up	Justin Thackeray
Maintenance co-ordinator	Ian Gaylard
Media & advertising co-ordinator	unfilled
Events committee: overall coordinator	in discussion/planning
Events committee: local sponsors	in discussion/planning
Events committee: non-local sponsors	in discussion/planning
Without portfolio: catering & services	in discussion/planning

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