

# ***GIRLING ANGLING SOCIETY***

**Jan 2018 AGM**

## **AOB item 1 Summary - Enquiry to buy the fishing rights to the island.**

### **Introduction;-**

Trevor Gladding the owner of Fladbury island is determined to make the island secure and in September 2017 requested the society to consider selling the fishing rights to the island allowing him the ability to fully secure the island, saying that he would “**guarantee exclusive legal access to GirlingAS full members**”. The owner did not make a financial offer but did confirm that **GirlingAS will manage access & that he would pay for reasonable legal fees.**

### **The Committee considered the request and concluded;-**

**Current position;-** We have had decades of hassle in securing access to the island and the owner is now experiencing similar, at present we have no access and have not fished the island for many years. Clearly the current situation requires a solution.

**If we decide not to sell;-** Will we be able to fish the island? What relationship will we have with the land owner after refusal? The likely conclusion is nothing will change.

**If we decide to sell;-** We get exclusive legal access to fish the island controlled by the society, financial security and an end to our problems of access.

**Conclusions;-** The committee considered all implications and concluded;- It is the committee’s task to preserve the Societies heritage although it is also the committee’s task to provide fishing opportunities for our members. We have a potential solution to the long term problem of accessing the island & nothing to lose in pursuing an agreement, we can pull out at any time if it becomes undesirable, if we can reach an agreement the members will decide.

The committee acting in the member’s best interests while attempting to solve a long term problem agreed to consider the sale of the fishing rights to the island. We agreed to determine the GirlingAS “terms of agreement” then seek agreement with the land owner. If we were able to reach a conclusion we would put the offer to the members at the 2018 AGM. To determine the value of the fishing rights to the island committee members visited the BAA office for advice.

### **The Committee then agreed the Societies “Terms of Agreement”;-**

Value;- £5000.

Access;- Exclusive legal access for full members seven days a week controlled by GirlingAS.

Parking;- Legal vehicle access allowing members to drive to the weir gate.

Legal Costs;- The buyer to be responsible for legal costs.

A legal agreement to be drawn up by both parties, to include exclusive fishing access and vehicle access with clauses against change of ownership of the island.

**Additionally;-** GirlingAS were advised by John Williams (BAA) that when we start the legal process to take the opportunity to register Fladbury fishery with the “Government Land Registry Office” resulting in legal security for the Society.

**Terms of Agreement;-** The Society’s “Terms” were supplied to Trevor Gladding late October 2017.

### **A Counter Proposal from the Land Owner 6/12/2017;-**

After a brief discussion with Trevor Gladding the Society received a counter offer;- The land owner offered to pay £5000 with no access & £2500 with exclusive access. Parking was not possible as the land is owned by LANT and used by emergency services. The land owner would pay for GirlingAS legal costs up to a maximum of £1000. No vehicle access was disappointing, the committee decided to put the resultant options to the AGM.

### **AGM Voting Options;-**

#### **Option 1 – Don’t sell the fishing rights to Fladbury island;-**

Resulting in accepting the current situation of ownership without access, we don’t register with the Land Registry Office and have no financial benefit.

#### **Option 2 - A membership decision to sell for £2500 would result in;-**

The land owner buying the fishing rights to the island and a legal agreement drawn up that guarantees the Society exclusive fishing access with a clause against land change of ownership, the buyer pays for legal costs, the fishing rights to Fladbury LB fishery is registered with the “Land Registry office” and we have a level of financial security, unfortunately no parking at the island.

#### **Option 3 - A membership decision to sell for £5000 would result in;-**

The Land Owner buying the fishing rights to Fladbury island and GirlingAS relinquishing all rights on the island. The buyer pays for legal costs, the fishing rights to Fladbury LB fishery is registered with the “Land Registry office” and significant financial security.

**Voting;-** All full members present are asked to vote, a decision to accept options 2 or 3 will start the legal process.