

MINUTES of 2025 AGM
THE DEVERON, BOGIE and ISLA RIVERS CHARITABLE TRUST
OPEN ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
at the Banff Springs Hotel, Banff on Thursday, 25th SEPTEMBER 2025, 5pm
Following the RDDSBF Annual Meeting

Present: **Trust Officers:** J Cruickshank, A Allwood, R Shields, R Cooper, F Henderson, S Mackison
In attendance: R Miller (River Director); M Walters (River Operations Manager), Mrs S Roebuck (administrator); Board Members of The River Deveron District Salmon Fishery Board; proprietors and members of the public

Apologies for Absence: David Borthwick.

Chairman: Mr Cruickshank welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Minutes of last Annual Meeting: Having circulated the minutes in advance for the last meeting held on 5th September 2024, Mr Cruickshank proposed that they be taken as read and this was unanimously approved.

Financial Report & Presentation of Accounts: Mr. Cruickshank, Chair of the Trust, provided an update on the Trust's operations. He began by acknowledging the dedication and resilience of the staff, trustees, and volunteers who had continued to deliver high-quality work despite a series of challenging conditions, including sustained low river levels and associated ecological pressures.

Mr. Cruickshank highlighted that the Trust's core objective—to protect, enhance, and conserve the River Deveron and its catchment—had continued to guide all operations. Key focus areas during the year included habitat restoration, water quality improvement, invasive species control, and community engagement. He commended the successful completion of multiple conservation projects, which delivered measurable benefits for fish passage, bank stability, and biodiversity restoration.

The financial report demonstrated a healthy position. Costs had been carefully managed and were under budget, while fundraising efforts had exceeded expectations. Notably, the annual charitable dinner and auction raised over £32,000. The Trust ended the year with a modest surplus, having initially budgeted for a deficit.

A new trustee, Mr. Steve Mackison, was welcomed to the Board. His expertise in farming and land management was considered invaluable to the Trust's forthcoming projects.

Jim concluded by thanking all supporters, donors, and staff for their continued commitment to the Trust's mission. He emphasised that, despite ongoing environmental challenges, the Trust remains resilient and forward-looking, committed to safeguarding the River Deveron for future generations.

Mr. Cruickshank welcomed any questions. None were forthcoming.

Re-election of Officers/Chairman: R Shields, F Henderson, J Cruickshank, D Borthwick, R Cooper and A Allwood being eligible put themselves forward for re-election. Mr Cruickshank proposed that they be re-elected en bloc. This was approved and carried.

The appointment of Mr. Steve Mackison as a new trustee was formally announced. Mr. Mackison brings substantial experience in farming, land management, and rural policy, and his insight will be invaluable in developing future conservation partnerships and land-use discussions.

**Re-election of
Accountant:**

Mr Cruickshank proposed that The Long Partnership be re-elected as Accountant for the ensuing year. This was approved.

Meeting closed

At 5.30pm to be followed by a presentation from Mr Marcus Walters, River Operations Manager of the Deveron, Bogie, and Isla Rivers Charitable Trust and a presentation from Jamie Gordon, Project Deveron Catchment Restoration Manager (AST).