

**TAY DISTRICT SALMON FISHERIES BOARD**  
**BOARD MEMBER TRIENNIAL ELECTION CANDIDATES -**  
**PROPRIETORS**

**(in Alphabetical Order)**

There are to be Board positions for 5 Upper Board members and 2 Lower Board members. We have ten proposed candidates for Upper Proprietor positions and two candidates for Lower.

Please find below a list of names and resumes from all candidates. Please note, resumes have been copied directly from candidate responses and have not been doctored in any way (other than to remove contact details).

**UPPER PROPRIETOR CANDIDATES**

**SIMON FURNISS**

(Mandate for Dunkeld House Salmon Fishing)

*“My name is Simon Furniss. I am putting myself forward for re election for the Upper Tay, as a mandate for Dunkeld House and Delvine Burnbane. I have fished the Tay since 1985, been a Board member for 12 years, took on the lease in partnership of Dunkeld House in 2004-2017 and re-leased again in 2020, and also took on the lease of Delvine Burnbane in 2015, so very well aware of costs involved in running a fishery. I have also ghillied on the 2 beats so have a good understanding of clients’ hopes and expectations.*

*My reason for standing again is that I have a real belief that we MIGHT be getting somewhere with the bodies that control things regarding wild salmon, especially on stocking policy, which is a very contentious issue. The rewatering of the Garry took a long time to come about, but restocking is working up there.*

*The River Braan is crying out to be stocked but at the moment not permitted because of impassable falls, but when permitted proved very successful. If done, that tributary could produce a significant run. The idea that has been put forward along with a feasibility study, is to trap and truck the returning adult fish at Inver and put them above the falls and that would benefit the middle river. This was proved by the catch returns when trials were ongoing and we need to fully utilise our hatchery which has been made possible from many donations from the John Apthorp Trust. If we cannot get the authorities to move on their stance, the hatchery will become redundant and all the years of kelt reconditioning lost.*

*We are in difficult times with covid and the board has had to be very aware of the financial implications for the board and the riparian owners. It is a difficult juggling act but has been exceptionally well managed by our Clerk, to whom we are indebted to.”*

## **BOB MASON**

(Mandate for Perth and District Anglers Association )

**“Experience** *My working career comprised 12 years as a Officer in the Royal Air Force and 32 years in the UK Defence Industry. In the RAF I was a test pilot with tours in Oman during the Dhofar War and in the UK on Jaguar aircraft at Coltishall and Lossiemouth. In the Defence Industry I worked for most of the major players ending up as Vice President Business Development and Sales in Leonardo (ex Ferranti/BAE Systems) in Edinburgh. Leonardo in Edinburgh is a £500m business and specialises in Fire Control radars (Typhoon), Surveillance Radars (Royal Navy Lynx), Directed Infra-Red Countermeasures and high energy lasers.*

*My work experience has shown me the importance of leadership, teamwork, and communication in all its guises. Leadership does not always rely on one person. Good teams have many leaders – always one designated leader but other members stepping up to lead smaller tasks and act like leaders when interacting with other organisations. Communication is key within a team. Clear, concise communications within a team enable team members to function autonomously if necessary. Similarly, such communications to external stakeholders and organisations leave them in no doubt of the team’s intentions.*

**The Present** *I retired in 2015 and since then I have tried to catch up on all those activities I found impossible to fully enjoy when in the service and in industry. I joined Perth and District Anglers Association, becoming Association Secretary in 2017. I also joined the Tay Ghillies Association in January 2020 and became its representative on the Tay District Salmon Fisheries Board (TDSFB) in March. I also enjoy following Glasgow Warriors rugby, gardening and breeding and showing pedigree Anglo-Nubian goats.*

**TDSFB offering** *I will bring knowledge, skills and energy to the Board. I believe the Board must run more like a business with improved processes, much better communications to the public, angling clubs and, most important of all, the Tay system proprietors. The Board needs to show value for money. The Atlantic Salmon is in trouble – we can do nothing about issues at sea, but we CAN make every effort to improve any shortcomings in the Tay system itself. To do this we need close and effective working relationships with external organisations such as SEPA, Nature Scotland and Fisheries Management Scotland. I would also like to see closer ties with the Tay Rivers Trust which should be fundamental in raising funds to help improve the river.”*

## **IAIN McLAREN**

(Mandate for Kinnaird Estate)

*“ I have been a Board member since 2014, when I was co-opted as an angling representative, and latterly as Mandate for Kinnaird Estate.*

*My professional life saw me working for Marine Scotland at the Freshwater Laboratory for 34 years from 1978 to 2012. I have gained an extensive knowledge of the whole of the Tay catchment not only through my time at Marine Scotland but also through my interest in salmon angling. I have fished for salmon on the Tay and its tributaries since 1978.*

*I have been a member of Pitlochry Angling Club since 1978 and am currently a committee member. I'm also a member of Dunkeld and Birnam Angling Association and have been since 2000.*

*In addition, I am a part time ghillie on Kinnaird Fishings.*

*I feel I can continue to give the Board the benefit of my experience in fisheries management, whilst understanding the requirements of riparian owners, anglers and ghillies. As all of us know, the past couple of years have seen a fall in salmon numbers and I would like to see the river unite as a team to pave the way for a brighter future for Atlantic salmon in the Tay catchment.”*

## **CLAIRE MERCER NAIRNE**

(Meikleour Fishings)

*“Claire joined the TDSFB in December 2014 and was re-elected in 2017. She has been managing Upper Islamouth and Meikleour beat since its set-up in 2013. She is also heavily involved in the running and development of a tourism business in Perthshire.*

*Being very keen to introduce salmon fishing to youngsters and women, Claire has volunteered with several charities and schools to successfully promote family angling and Atlantic salmon conservation. During her 6 years on the Board, Claire has always tried to work constructively with all stakeholders involved and when required didn't hesitate to build relationships with Governmental decision makers. For example during the 2015 Wild Fisheries Review, Claire organised a beginner ladies fishing day at Meikleour which was attended by the then Scottish Environment Minister and led to further positive meetings with Dr Summers.*

*Claire is passionate about promoting the Tay and has put a lot of effort and dedication into organising a well-publicised Opening Day Ceremony in conjunction with Perth and Kinross Council. Through work and volunteering she has built a valuable network of contacts with local and national journalists.*

*Before moving to Scotland, Claire worked for a semiconductor manufacturer in Asia Pacific, with successive management positions in Marketing and Business Development. With a degree in physics, Claire is fairly comfortable with scientific papers and IT. She hasn't managed to get rid of the French accent and indeed the Scottish one is creeping in more and more!”*

## **TOBY METCALFE**

(Mandate for Crown Estates)

*“ Born and raised in Scotland I have worked as a Land Agent north of the border for the last 38 years. I am a Director with Savills working out of their Perth office.*

*My professional work has provided me with a depth and breadth of experience in land management which includes riparian management and salmon fishing. I have an appreciation of and commitment to the integrated nature of land management with an understanding of the complimentary and competing interests that exist. In large part my professional life is spent trying to find ways through these issues so that purpose and momentum can be maintained.*

*The challenges facing the wild Atlantic salmon are complex and Fishery Boards across Scotland carry a huge responsibility to ensure that locally the health and habitats in and around their river is in the best possible condition and nationally there is a strong and clear voice setting out the cause of the wild Atlantic salmon when its lifecycle takes it beyond our shores.*

*I am Mandated by Crown Estate Scotland who hold extensive salmon fishing rights in the upper reaches and the smaller rivers within the Tay Board catchment. I am a Tweed Commissioner and also sit on the Spey Board.*

*My wife and I farm in East Lothian so my interest in the health and wellbeing of the rural sector is both professional and personal.”*

## **JOE O'DONNELL B.A., M. Sc.**

(Mandate for Taymount Timeshare)

*“ Graduate of Glasgow College of Technology (now Caledonian University) and the Scottish Business School at the University of Strathclyde.*

*Business specialist and entrepreneur with specific skills in business creation, restructuring, turnarounds, acquisitions, disposals, advisory and organisational development.*

*Specialist in the development of stable management teams creating long term profitability, employment and contribution.*

*Mediocre fly fisherman of 25 years standing!*

*Supporter and sponsor of Salmon and Trout Conservation Scotland*

*Long term interest in the preservation, management and conservation of wild Atlantic salmon.”*

## **JIM PERRETT**

(Mandate for the Drummond Foundation)

*“My primary task would be to ensure the Earn doesn’t become the poor cousin.*

*I can bring 40 years as a Hydrologist working on the Tay Catchment firstly with Scottish Government and latterly with SEPA and as such have an intimate knowledge of both the Tay Catchment and the workings of SEPA.*

*Over thirty five years as an active and past office bearer of River Earn Improvement Association.*

*Since retiring I have worked alongside Board staff in both Juvenile surveys and brood stock fishing and during my career as the local Hydrologist worked closely, on occasion, with them.”*

## **MICHAEL A W SMITH**

(Mandate for Burnmouth)

*“As a stakeholder with very much skin in the game as to the success or failure on the Tay System for salmon runs, I intend on standing for nomination in the upcoming elections.*

*My businesses are pretty much exposed to salmon anglers:*

*Tay Sporting Lodge (accommodation), Dunkeld Smoked Salmon (sale of farmed salmon and occasional smoking of wild), Dunkeld Fine Foods (retail), Burnmouth Salmon Fishing.*

*Having spent 17 years in finance down in London, (Citigroup, Credit Suisse and Canaccord) I am now and have been for 12 months, full time in Dunkeld.*

*I hope to bring new energy to the board, fresh ideas and be held accountable by being transparent and making it operate more like a business, reflecting the budget it receives.”*

## **ALASTAIR JAMES RIDDELL**

(North Chesthill)

*“Long Serving TDSFB Member.*

*Born in Scotland, he is the longest serving member on the current Board. As a native of Glen Lyon, he returned to his roots and birthplace full time in 1997. Since then he has turned his farm around financially as well as becoming a successful local business man, bringing much employment and financial benefit to the County. At heart a countryman, he learned his conservation work from a young age, engaging with wildlife of all sorts, including salmon.*

*It is since his return to Perthshire that he has been able to actively give of his experience to salmon. His Board work and contribution has been from seeking efficiency, enthusiasm and effectiveness. His particular interests are the hatchery, looking after wider issues of the financial aspects of riparian fee payers, allied to conservation work that could make significant differences to salmon survival and return to the Tay.*

*He is a sponsor of the Tay Western Catchments Report, most of which remains valid today, has helped and sponsored a recent Tay Foundation initiative to assess salmon populations through DNA analysis, something which could be repeatable on other Tay headwaters (and across Scotland) to the overall benefit of the Tay River System.*

*The follow on from the DNA study should mean a further research project to feed on and help wild parr (who live in hostile chemically altered headwaters), to help strengthen them sufficiently to survive and return in great numbers.*

*A former Chairman of Breadalbane Deer Management Group, he over saw the negotiations and plan to implement and manage a Section 7 Deer Control Order with SNH (Now NatureScot). As a result, he has significant experience in the wider issues of the political environment and its transition and handling to the issues faced by the Board.*

*If elected he will continue to work to assist in the development of research and projects for roll out across the Tay as well as working to invigorate the Board's work on behalf of owners and riparian interests."*

### **ROBERT WHITE**

*(Mandate for Stanley Fishings)*

*" I am the mandate for Stanley Fishings, we have 4 beats on the Lower Tay – Catholes, Pitlochrie, Benchil and Luncarty. I am the sole ghillie on these beats and manage them, including the bookings.*

*I have been a ghillie on the river for 18 years and have fished the Tay for 40 plus years therefore know the river very well. I am passionate about salmon fishing and this mighty river that has given me so much pleasure.*

*I was a Board member for 9 years back in the mid 2000's and have also written weekly reports for some years but would love to stand again to give something back and help to improve the river for everyone's benefit.*

*I am currently on the Scottish Gamekeepers Association committee and have been driving a petition for a general consultation on salmon stocking in Scotland through the fishing section. This has certainly been noticed and we have a seat at the table following a positive hearing in Parliament recently. Our hatchery at Almondbank is a key asset for the Tay and its existence has to be resolutely defended. I also have a monthly column in the Trout and Salmon running into next year.*

*It is common knowledge that the last 3 years have been turbulent times at Board level with little progress, however we need to put that behind us and all on this river come together and move things forward especially in these difficult times. All Board members should be fighting for the river and not their own beats and I certainly understand that and will pursue that should I get elected."*

## **LOWER PROPRIETOR CANDIDATES**

### **DAVID GODFREY**

(Mandate for Tay Salmon Fisheries Company Ltd.)

*“ Head ghillie and operations manager for Tay Salmon Fisheries Company, 38 years salmon fishing experience, 20 years working on the River Tay, board member for 12 years, ex Chairman of Tay Ghillies Association.*

*Firearms and shotgun certificate holder for 32 years. Active with all conservation and improvement regarding salmonoids in the Tay District.”*

### **COUNCILLOR ANDREW PARROTT**

(Representing Perth and Kinross Council)

*“Born in London, he graduated from Aberdeen University before starting a career in the British Army.*

*As an officer in the Royal Corps of Transport and later the Royal Logistic Corps he spent much of his career abroad, serving with the Brigade of Gurkhas in Hong Kong, the British Army of the Rhine and the Belize Garrison. He saw operational service in Northern Ireland and the Gulf. In Scotland he served with the Territorial Army as Adjutant of the Lowland Transport Regiment in Glasgow and later as Commanding Officer of the Scottish Transport Regiment in Dunfermline.*

*From 1999 to 2003 he served at the Baltic Defence College in Estonia assisting with the training of officers for the armed forces of the newly independent Baltic States, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.*

*In his final appointment in the Army he headed up the movements planning team within the armed forces staff responsible for global movements and logistics.*

*After 36 years service he retired from the Army in summer 2012 and, with his partner, took up full time residence in Perth, having owned property in the city since 1999.*

*Since then he has become actively involved with local politics, having joined the SNP just prior to the 2011 Scottish Election. He played an active part in the European Election and the Independence Referendum campaigns in 2014. He has previously worked as a volunteer with the John Muir Trust and the Royal Scottish Geographical Society and now volunteers with the Perth and Kinross Credit Union.*

*His other interests include military history and railway history.”*