

Dear Members

Please find enclosed the following papers;

- AGM Agenda for our meeting at 7:30 pm Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> April 2016 at Copthorne Social Club
- Application form for membership 2016 / 17. Please note your Committee are proposing to retain the existing subscription rates for next season.

It is with great pleasure that I am writing to the Society's members this year, which has seen many positive developments over the past 12 months. The Society has acquired the freehold ownership to Little Rowfant lakes. This places the long-term future of the Society very much in our own hands. We have also secured a further long lease on Rowfant Mill Pond. Completion of both these negotiations saw your Committee commence much needed maintenance works at both venues, with significant tree work completed. Further works will be undertaken during the early months of the year, with the intention of seeing both venues in excellent condition as the weather improves. I wish to place on record & on behalf of all members, the works undertaken on both venues by the small group of officials & members, without which we would not be able to enjoy such marvellous surroundings & quality fishing. If any members wish to become further involved with the Society, whether this be on the administrative or maintenance side, all offers of help will be greatly received – please either contact one of the Committee Members or other officials.

In addition to the above, we have commenced upon a re-stocking of both Rowfant Mill Pond and selectively at Little Rowfant lakes. Your Committee have sought to replenish some of the older fish which over the years decline in numbers. Early signs, especially at Rowfant Mill Pond have been encouraging, with recent catches of quality bream & tench featuring. Little Rowfant has also seen a general increase in the quality and size of carp caught, with a number in excess of 20lbs being reported.

Our long-standing relationship with the Ouse Angling Preservation Society (OAPS) continues. This gives our members access to all OAPS waters on the River Ouse at no extra cost. This river, particularly the tidal stretch below Barcombe Mills, continues to produce specimen chub, barbel, perch, carp and pike with the latter two species both featuring fish in the 30lbs+ class.

Piltown Pond continues to provide consistent and excellent sport on all baits and methods. Carp to 25lbs, pike to 18lbs, tench to 5lbs, bream to 5lbs and notably a resurgence of perch to 4lbs+.

There was also a 5.5lbs eel reported. If you haven't fished this water – it is well worth a visit.

Turning to the AGM, I would encourage as many members as possible to attend. Your Committee will be updating you further on the above developments, and some of our plans for the future. For all those who can attend, we will be running the usual raffle, & any prizes you are able to donate will be gratefully received on the night. At the AGM your Committee will be presenting a revised set of rules for the Society. Having reviewed the current set of rules we have in place, a number were out-dated, & in many cases redundant. Once the revised rules have been accepted, a full set will be placed on the Society's web-site. Moving forward, your Committee encourage all members to regularly review the Society's web-site [www.copthorneangling.co.uk](http://www.copthorneangling.co.uk) as we will be posting regular updates & news.

On behalf of the Committee may I finish by saying we look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the AGM, but if not, then on the bank-side throughout the next season.

Roy Hurley, Chairman

On behalf of the Committee