

## **Copthorne and District Angling Society (CDAS)**

### **Health and Safety (H&S) Information**

**All Members (and their guests) are requested to read and ensure they understand the following Health and Safety (H&S) information;**

**Risk of electrocution** – although there are not nay pylons crossing our lakes they do cross the River Ouse at Goldbridge near Newick. Anglers must exercise great care when fishing these areas as cables carry high voltages and will deliver a potentially fatal shock is touched or approached too closely.

**Discarded tackle** – tackle must not be discarded at any fishery but should be taken home and disposed of appropriately to prevent injury to humans, livestock and wildlife.

**Wells disease (Leptospirosis)** – this is a bacterial infection transmitted in rats urine and causes a very serious disease in humans. All anglers should take sensible precautions including;

- I. Covering any cuts, sores and scratches with waterproof plasters,
- II. Disinfecting any wounds occurring at the waterside.
- III. Washing hands of covering food with a wrapper before eating.
- IV. Avoid putting wet hands, bait and line in your mouth,
- V. Do not touch dead animals (especially rats).

If flu like symptoms persist tell your doctor you may have been exposed to Leptospirosis so that this may be considered in the diagnosis.

**Rabies** – if you catch a bat avoid touching it with bare hands and if you think you may have been bitten or scratched then wash the wound with soap (do not scrub the wound) and contact your doctor.

**Unhooking fish** – pike and perch have sharp teeth and gill covers which can cause injury. Use forceps to unhook (especially pike) and if you are an inexperienced pike angler fish with a more experienced pike angler to learn how to handle fish.

**Cattle and Deer** – cattle and deer are often in the field s bordering the river and lakes. Young and newly stocked cattle are often inquisitive and it is generally better to detour around a herd than attempt to walk through them. Special case should be taken with regard to deer in the autumn (rutting season).

**Parking** – exercise great caution on leaving all CDAS car parks as the exits lead on to busy farm roads and oncoming traffic may not always be immediately obvious or visible. Always park sensibly so that access for emergency vehicles is not obstructed.

**Falling (drowning and risk of injury)** – Members should exercise care when approaching swims after rainfall and where steep banks are present. This applies especially to the north side of the Wilderness at Little Rowfant and also some pegs at Rowfant Mill Pond. Note that tree roots are a hazard on the pathways surrounding all the fisheries.

**Wading** – Members are not permitted to wade on CDAS waters, even to retrieve lost tackle.

**Remote Fisheries** – much of all the CDAS fisheries are remote, so it is essential that members inform family & friend(s) of where they are going and when they are likely to return home. Members are strongly recommended to carry a mobile phone. Map references (starting with TQ and then a number) are shown on all maps to enable rapid location by the emergency services if necessary. Bailiffs in particular should be mindful of the risks of their jobs and should act in a way that whilst reflecting the interest of CDAS, does not endanger themselves and they should use a mobile phone to seek police assistance if necessary.

**Night Fishing** – this is not permitted at Little Rowfant. At other fisheries members are allowed to night fish and are strongly advised to follow the recommendations and advice given in the previous paragraph concerning 'remote fisheries'.

**Other Risks –**

- I. Members are reminded that they have a duty of care to other anglers on the fisheries and are asked to take care in casting and not to leave equipment on pathways.
- II. All lakes have man-made outflows, which are normally covered with strong wire mesh, and members are advised to exercise extreme caution when near these outflows and to note that no unauthorised access to these outflows is permitted. Two persons must be present if any maintenance or repair work is carried out on these outflows.
- III. Juniors (under 16 years old) are always at risk near water and all Juniors fishing CDAS waters must be accompanied by a Senior Member at all times. Members are asked to ensure this ruling is strictly adhered to at all times and to notify an Official or the Society or Bailiff of any infringements.

**Fishing Rivers** – detailed H&S information for the River Ouse is given in the Ouse Angling Preservation Society section of the CDAS web-site. Please see [www.cophorneangling.co.uk](http://www.cophorneangling.co.uk). All members are encouraged to read this information.

If whilst fishing on CDAS waters you meet any hazards not mentioned above, please report them immediately to an Official of the Society.