

Dear Members

Please find enclosed the following papers;

- AGM Agenda for our meeting at 7:30 pm on Thursday 6th April 2017 at Copthorne Social Club
- Application form for membership 2017 / 18.

It is with great pleasure that I am writing to the Society's members this year, which has been a year of continuing progress & positive developments over the past 12 months. The past year has seen significant works undertaken on all our waters. I wish to place on record & on behalf of all members, the works undertaken on the Society's 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 continued our 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. Rowfant Mill Pond has seen improving catches, most noticeably of quality bream & tench featuring. Little Rowfant has also seen a general increase in the quality and size of carp caught, with an increasing 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, continue to produce specimen chub, barbel, perch, carp and pike with the latter two species featuring fish in the 30lbs class.

Pitdown 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+. Eels up to 5lbs have also been 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 further changes to the rules for the Society. Having continued to review the current set of rules we have in place, a number require amendment & also to reflect comments made by members at the previous AGM. 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 as we will be continuing to post regular updates & news.

For those members who participate in the Society's competitions, you will note some changes as to when pegged down as opposed to walk-offs will feature. Additionally, the 2 nets principle will be strictly enforced to protect the Society's valuable fish stocks.

On the admin front, I would request that all members please notify the Society if they change address for the following season AGM papers to be sent out – this can be done via an e-mail to the Society via the web-site, or a letter sent to the Membership Secretary.

I would also like record our thanks to Paul at the Carp Shop in Horley for his support. Members will note his sponsorship of our 2017 / 18 membership cards when they are issued, & also for supporting the Society by agreeing to issue Guest Permits. Members may wish to take advantage of the discount available upon production of membership cards

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.

Paul Whitfield, General Secretary
On behalf of the Committee