

Dear Members

Please find enclosed the following papers;

- AGM Agenda for our meeting at 7:30 pm on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> April 2018 at Copthorne Social Club
- Application form for membership 2018 / 19. Please note the new address for completed applications to be sent.

Following on from my mid-season newsletter posted on the C&DAS web-site in August 2017, it gives me great pleasure to report that the Society continues to invest in its waters, with significant improvement works undertaken & remaining in course at our freehold Little Rowfant Lakes fishery, along with continuing maintenance of our other waters. We have also undertaken selective stocking of our fisheries with a view to improving catches for all. I wish to express my thanks on behalf of all Members to the small group of people whose tireless efforts see these works completed in an extremely cost efficient manner for the benefit of the Society. Les Eggleton, Maintenance Secretary & his team are always keen to accept offers of support – please contact Les directly on 07746 960209 if you are able to help, even if only some occasional grass-cutting or bush clipping – it all helps to keep the waters in good condition. If any members have access to paving slabs, shingle, gravel, bricks, etc no matter how small in number / amount, feel free to place them in our car parks for use around the lakes. Both Little Rowfant Lakes & Rowfant Mill Pond have seen excellent catches reported throughout the season, with notable carp, tench, bream & perch featuring. Competition weights have also seen an improvement on recent seasons, with good winning weights supported by improving backing weights for all competitors. Full details are viewable on the Society's web-site.

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 featuring fish in the 30lbs class.

Pitldown Pond continues to provide consistent and excellent sport on all baits and methods. Carp to 25lbs, pike to 20lbs, tench and bream to 5lbs and notably a resurgence of perch to 4lbs+. Eels up to 5lbs have also been reported. We have also run some informal competitions & seen winning weights in excess of 50lbs with again good backing weights recorded. 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. Moving forward, your Committee encourage all members to regularly review the Society's web-site [www.copthorneangling.co.uk](http://www.copthorneangling.co.uk) for updates & news.

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. We have also formalised the appointed officials for the Society, with photo ID provided as they undertake duties on our waters, including the checking of membership cards. Members are requested to always carry membership cards & to co-operate when requested to produce the same.

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 2018 / 19 membership cards when they are issued, & also for supporting the Society by agreeing to issue Guest Permits. Please ensure Guest Permits are purchased in advance of fishing. Members may wish to take advantage of the discount available at the Carp Shop upon production of there membership cards.

You will note on the 2018 – 19 membership application form enclosed that moving forward Dave Whitehouse has handed over the reins to Alan Eggleton who has volunteered to undertake the membership renewals for the coming season. My thanks on behalf of the Members for the many years Dave undertook this duty & to Alan for stepping forward. 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