

Dear Members

Please find enclosed the following papers;

- AGM Agenda for our meeting at 7:30 pm on Thursday 4th April 2019 at Copthorne Social Club
- Application form for membership 2019 / 20.

Following the notice placed on the C&DAS web-site during the season, I am delighted to report that phase 1 of the planned works at Little Rowfant lakes was successfully completed. We have commenced preparatory work for phase 2 which will likely be undertaken in late spring /early summer. This will entail completion of the de-silting of the Wilderness Lake adjacent to the car park & installing new swims. We will also widen & deepen the cut forming peg 6, replace the last remaining wooden bridge leading round to peg 6 with a clay bank & pipe, repair the undercut Road Lake front bank & de-silt the corner of the Road Lake adjacent to the wooden gate entrance. The C&DAS web-site will be updated once these works have been scheduled to take place. The tireless efforts of a small number of members & officials forming Les Eggleton's team should rightly receive the thanks of all members – these works would not have happened without them. On behalf of the members our thanks must also go to Greg Ansell for his work at Rowfant Mill Pond which he maintains in excellent condition.

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 continued to see excellent catches reported throughout the season, with notable carp, tench, bream & perch featuring. Competition weights have also seen a further 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.

Piltown 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. This lake has also seen significant maintenance & improvement works during recent months.

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 for updates & news.

I would also like record our thanks to Paul at the Carp Shop in Horley for his support. Members will note his continued sponsorship of our 2019 / 20 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 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