

Cophthorne & District Angling Society - Newsletter for Season 2021 / 22

Dear Members

Please find attached your application form for membership 2021 / 22 which will need to be printed out. I will be arranging for supplies of application forms to be placed into local tackle shops for those unable to print out the application form. In view of the current COVID-19 restrictions we will not be holding an AGM in April 2021, but are hopeful of hosting one in April 2022.

***** PLEASE NOTE THAT A PASSPORT SIZE PHOTOGRAPH WILL BE REQUIRED FOR ALL CDAS FULL MEMBERS NEXT SEASON TO BE APPLIED TO MEMBERSHIP CARDS. PLEASE INCLUDE WHEN RETURNING YOUR COMPLETED APPLICATION FORM *****

We have continued with our on-going improvement works. Little Rowfant has seen the front bank of the Road Lake reconstructed where it had become dangerously undercut, and we have undertaken major preparatory work on the Third Lake pending further works to improve this lake. At the same time we have opened up the Stock Pond & will be reinstating the 5 swims on the front bank having removed a significant number of trees. A new pathway will in due course be added to improve access from the car park right up to the Stock Pond as part of the works. Members to note that for the time being no access is available to the Third Lake or Stock Pond. Special thanks are due to our Fisheries Officer, Les Eggleton for his tremendous efforts in driving this project forward, and the Environment Agency for the support they have provided with our Fisheries Improvement Programme grant being approved for these works. We continue to build upon this relationship in the hope of a further successful grant application to part-finance the works on the Third Lake.

At Rowfant Mill Pond, Gavin Hobbs & his team have continued to gradually improve the swims & access throughout the year. This remains a labour intensive task given the restricted access to the banks, but the results are excellent. We aim to further focus upon this fishery, especially reducing the lilies which need regular work to keep them in check & all the swims open. Carp in excess of 20lbs have been caught on a regular basis from this fishery along with good catches of tench and bream, with some large pike being caught in the recent winter months.

I am pleased to report that 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.

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 continue to liaise with the owners, to see improvements undertaken on this fishery which continues to prove popular.

This year the annual communication has been primarily undertaken by way of e-mail at a significant cost & time saving. To this end, can I please request that all members clearly insert an e-mail address onto all future membership applications so that we can build up our database. If you do not have a personal e-mail address, a family member or other person in your household or family whose e-mail you could access will suffice.

I would also like to record our thanks to Steve at Jack Frost Tackle in Crawley for his support. Members will note his sponsorship of our 2021 / 22 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 upon production of membership cards. Guest Permits can also be obtained from The Tackle Warehouse in Crawley.

As I write this newsletter, we remain in lockdown, with restricted travel & local pleasure angling permitted only. Let us hope that the roadmap outlined out of these measures will be successful and we can all get back to full fishing soon. Your Committee will look to provide updates & news items on the Society's web-site, www.cophthorneangling.co.uk, and I encourage all members to review this on a regular basis.

On behalf of the Committee may I finish by saying we look forward to seeing as many of you as possible on the bank-side throughout the next season.

Paul Whitfield, General Secretary on behalf of the Committee