

Copthorne & District Angling Society - Newsletter for Season 2022 / 23

Please find attached your application form for membership 2022 / 23 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. COVID-19 restrictions permitting, we intend to hold our AGM on Thursday 7th April and please find attached the AGM Agenda. We encourage all members to attend the AGM, & this year we hope to attract new officials to the Committee, being conscious that the existing Committee has a number of people within the retired aged group. For the long-term success of the club it is important to attract new younger officials who can refresh the thinking of the Committee & drive the club forward.

***** 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 *****

Over the past year we have continued the on-going works at Little Rowfant Lakes. The Third Lake has now been fully excavated, with an average depth of about 7 feet. The swims have all been constructed along with the path up to & around the lake. Selective planting in the margins & the banks has been completed. Stocking will be commencing shortly in line with our Environment Agency licence. Your Committee's aim is for this lake to be slightly different to the other lakes at Little Rowfant in that it will not be stocked with traditional carp. The aim being to try & develop a fishery that has greater appeal all year round, with a head of fish that will feed throughout the colder months which the increased depth will support. We will also be undertaking some further stocking of carp into the other lakes at Little Rowfant to keep the stock levels maintained as well as completing various repairs to the swims, pathways & clearing unwanted trees & vegetation. I would like to take this opportunity to place on record the tremendous support I have had from our Fisheries Officer, Les Eggleton in driving these works forward. Catches have remained good throughout the season, with match weights exceeding 100lbs.

At Rowfant Mill Pond, as some of you may be aware, one of the owners, Mr Peter Mumford sadly passed away in late 2020. Our existing leases at this fishery continue, & it is the aim of your Committee to build a strong relationship & work with the new owners. Gavin Hobbs & his team have continued to gradually improve the swims & access throughout the year, which is primarily a manual task given the inability to gain access for heavy machinery along the banks. We have also undertaken some further tree work utilising outside contractors to ensure the safety of members whilst fishing this lake. The fishing has been excellent this season, with the carp fishing a particular feature seeing specimens exceeding 20lbs regularly.

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 very popular.

This is the second year where the annual communication has primarily been 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 personal access to the Internet or an 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 2022 / 23 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.

I would encourage all members to regularly view the club's web-site where your Committee will look to provide updates & news items - www.copthorneangling.co.uk.

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

