



NEWS LETTER

MARCH 2021

VOLUME NO. 23

SECRETARY'S REPORT

It has come round to this time of year again where I have to put pen to paper.

This year has been a really frustrating year due to the coronavirus. We have had our ups and downs with fishing. I have worked really hard with the Angling Trust to keep fishing open most of the year. We did lose some weeks at the beginning but, since then, everything has been okay. As you can imagine lots of projects are on hold because of the coronavirus. Hopefully these will be resuming again in June where I can get back into talks regarding new waters. At the moment that is all I have to say on this subject because you all know how whispers go round the pond.

As you will all see when you receive your Application Form the Club have put up the membership fees. This is so that we can carry on with some work at Brittens Pond to keep the pond looking good. The Committee have also decided that they are capping the membership this year so I would just like to point out that it will be first come first served and, once the membership is full, that will be it.

I would like to thank Steve Thornhill for all his hard work in running the matches over the last few years. His successor has been appointed and it is Mark Edwards-Longhurst. Application Forms for the matches will go out once you have joined the Club and not before. They will all be numbered.

I would like to thank Clive Inman and Carl for all their hard work and time bailiffing the river last season. We have earned more on the river than we did for the last seven years. This is tremendous work. Thanks to Clive and Carl. Keep up the good work.

TIGHT LINES.

**ALAN TANNER
SECRETARY/CHAIRMAN**

FISHERY OFFICER'S REPORT

After a good season for record fish being caught, I can report that only 3 carp have been reported dead this season. This leads me to the conclusion that Brittens Pond is in rude health.

Oxygen levels have been good most of the season except when it had a blue algae bloom that gave some concern at the time.

SIMON HOLLAND

HEAD BAILIFF'S REPORT

The year has not been too bad. We have carried out rig checks and all has been ok. We will be carrying out more next season to keep on top of it at the pond as some people just don't learn their lesson. We have had to send some people away as they did not have nets or unhooking mats. We have had to have words with others as the mats were not big enough but we did get there in the end. We still have a few anglers we need to talk to as there still seems to be some problems at the pond but this is being dealt with all the time.

The lockdown has not been easy and we have been having to make sure anglers are doing what they are meant to be doing. We are also keeping an eye on the public as well. Let's hope next season will be better.

We have had some nice anglers at the pond this season and hope to get some back for the next one.

RIVER BAILIFF

This year has seen a rise in angler use. The river is continuing to attract more fishermen to its banks. We have had a few situations on the river. I have had a few heated words with Eastern European's but still removed them from the river and Carl has had the same. Carl has also had a few heated words with a club member on the river for not having his permit on him. I have had issues with English teenagers and older people but have dealt with it in an appropriate manner.

I have found a bag full of stolen jewellery etc which I reported to the police and waited with the item for the police.

I have, to date, destroyed approx. 11 crayfish traps that have been set from various sections of the river.

When there has been issues with fallen trees I have reported it to Alan with photos and Alan has contacted the relevant people and had them removed.

Now the river is being run as it always should have been I believe it is a viable asset to the club and will continue to grow in popularity

I have had the following fish sizes caught and reported to me:-

Chub to 6lb. Perch to 4.1lb. Barble to 5.2lb. Carp to 24lb. Bream to 3lb. Pike to 22lb. Trout to a 1 lb (I saw that one too). Small ruff and the usual roach, dace and a couple of grayling.

I fully believe we need bolder signs on the lock areas of the river highlighting that we as a Club control those sections. The ones we have are so small compared to other signs people don't see them. That is part of the issue when dealing with annoyed people saying there are no signs. There should be a sign that is prominent stating it's our river not a small dark green sign that blurs into the background.

Overall a good year on the river

MATCH SECRETARY'S REPORT 2020-2021 SEASON

Junior Carp Match: Great turn out this year, 17 juniors turned out in total. The match fished very hard and was won this year by **Harrison Jones** with a winning weight of **56lb 3oz**. The runner was **Joe Longhurst** with a weight of **46.01oz**. A very big thank you to all those that took part and to the Dad's and seniors for their invaluable help in making this a safe and comfortable event for everyone. Special shout out as always to **Rob Kinge** of **Hampshire Tackle** and **Gardner Tackle** who generously donated the prizes for the junior match. A very Special thank you to **Simon Holland & Graham Norton** for helping out in what was a very difficult time for me.

Senior Carp Cup:

After many attempts **Graham Attwell** became the Senior Carp Cup Champion. Graham fished consistently well over the series, and finished with 30 points overall. Well done Graham. **Rob Baughurst** finished 2nd on 30 points.

Please remember that places are limited and allocated on a 1st come 1st served basis. Once you have your 2021 permit number get your booking in, along with the £45.00 entry fee as soon as possible to secure your place in the 2021 series.

Senior & Junior pairs night match:

This match involves a Senior and junior member joining forces as a pair. The match is decided by the pair with best weight combined. This year's match was won by **Lucas & John Gales** and runners up were **Ruby & Sean Smith**. This fixture has proved to be extremely popular and was fully booked again. Places are limited so get your bookings in for 2021 as early as you can.

Christmas Match:

Fully booked again this year. Fish were very hard to come by and in fact only one fish got caught. Well done to **John Brenton** who had a 22lb 9oz Mirror in the first hour of the competition. The annual Christmas match always signals the arrival of the festive season and, weather permitting, is always a welcome festive and social gathering.

The Charlie White Memorial Trophy:

Is awarded to biggest carp caught in all matches. This year the trophy goes to **Graham Attwell** with a stunning Mirror of **29lb 0oz**.

The Roy Herbert Memorial Trophy

Due to the Pandemic this match had to be cancelled.

As most of you are aware, I have decided to step down as Match Secretary. It's time for some fresh blood and a fresh input of ideas. It's been an amazing journey. I have met some amazing anglers and made some amazing friends. I would like to thank each and everyone of you for your support, patience & friendship.

Mark Longhurst will be taking over from me for the coming season. I wish Mark every success and will be around to help with the transition and offer all the support he may need.

Best Wishes and wishing you all tight lines for the coming season.

Thank you Again

Warmest Regards

STEVE THORNHILL