



Colchester APS Ltd Newsletter  
for the Annual General Meeting,  
6<sup>th</sup> February 2017  
[www.colchesteraps.org](http://www.colchesteraps.org)

Well here we are once more, another season has passed and I have to say without much fuss REALLY. And yet I still haven't worked out how to pass this Newsletter jobbie on to Wayne as I'm sure it's his turn. Still Enjoy, Steve.

**Chairman Reg Upsher** - It is difficult to report without duplicating the content of my fellow Directors in summing up another years activities and achievements. You're Directors, bailiffs and a small number of our members have yet again given up many hours of their time, for little or no reward, during the past twelve months seeking to maintain our position as a leading angling provider and therefore I, on behalf of you all, give them a special mention and a big thank you. Without your support we would not be in the sound and competitive position we currently enjoy having a good number of fine waters offering a full range of fishing. On a sad note and very unexpectedly, last April Richard Kowalczyk passed away and express our sincere condolences to all his family and friends whom he had many. He was better known to us as Riki our hard working Senior Bailiff at Oliver's who, without doubt, made the water into the fine venue it is today. We have embarked on a programme of installing Otter fencing to protect our fish stocks. We have also built in a budget for purchases of new fish stocks. This is being achieved by keeping costs down where possible. In planning for the fencing we have however delayed a number other improvements we would like to carryout but having to face the huge cost to install the fencing feel sure this is the correct way forward at present. At the AGM three new Directors were appointed subject to final clearance from Companies House, Dave Stainforth, Chris Southernwood and Michael Clarke, and three members were granted life membership based upon a number of factors including the number of years served and the outstanding amount of work they have done supporting the society. These are Bill Norman, Ian Hearsum and Steve Dormer we congratulate them for receiving this award.

**Membership Secretary Mick Turner** - Membership figures for the season were very good with an increase overall of 62 with the majority being adults, we also had a healthy increase in Juniors especially the under 10's. Layer upgrades continue to get a lot of interest which helps to generate very good income for the club. We finished with a total of 1506 members, hopefully this upward trend will continue as the more we raise from membership etc gives Fisheries and Maintenance a bigger budget to spend thus improving our facilities. The increase in numbers coupled with Layer fees has given us a healthy income for the season therefore your Directors have decided not to increase fees for the coming season. Membership should be available from all the usual outlets towards the End of February. If you are renewing by post please do not forget a stamped self addressed envelope for a speedy return of your card and rulebook.

**Treasurer Tom Baker** – "Copies of the 2015/16 accounts are available by contacting the club Treasurer.

**Estates Officer Daniel Jarman** - 2016 turned out to be a busy year for Estates. I will start with the new lake at Inworth. During the spring we are able to get several swims open and the lake stocked. As noted before, due to the cost of fencing other waters this

is a work in progress but it has produced some good days fishing already and is expected to develop nicely in the coming years. The trial year of the Gosfield lake ended for the club at the end of August. In conclusion, whilst a lovely lake to look at and one that's part of local angling history, the predation issues along with access concerns were simply too great to be ignored. Due to the good relationship with the Snake Pit landowner, we were able to move quickly in getting Snake Pit fenced. Wayne I imagine will talk more about this, but as you may imagine, the cost of the fence and fitting it are not the only hurdles. Contractual issues and consent also need to be overcome in many instances and we are lucky to have the supportive landowners that we have. For around 18 months we have been in discussions with the landowners of Layer Pit regarding the renewal of our contract. These discussions have now been concluded and long term contracts signed. What was great about this process was seeing how much the water company cared about the environment around the pit and ensuring we are all on the same page in preserving this resource is of paramount importance. We have also upgraded the toilet facilities at Layer which were in much need of repair. These are now set to serve the clubs members for years to come. This has been the first season for many decades that CAPS has not leased a stretch of the River Stour. Whilst missed by some, this has turned out to be a beneficial decision for the club as a whole. With fencing and stocking programmes necessary on lakes this sort of tough decision allows us to allocate the necessary capital to these other extremely important programmes. Overall, we have a great portfolio of lakes and river access and the future is looking bright for the club.

**Fisheries Officer Wayne Clarke** - The 2016 season has seen a few highs and lows on the fishery side of things. As we are all aware, the Snake Pit Common was unfortunately found dead one afternoon at the end of June. The Board has always had an informal policy in place regarding the introduction of new fish into Snake Pit, which was that we would not do so, whilst the big common was alive. Now that this fish has passed on, we had an ideal opportunity to introduce a new blood line of carp. Therefore, after several discussions with Viv Shears & Simon Scott at VS Fisheries, it was decided that we would purchase 24 of their C5 fish, with weights between 11lb and 16lb. On the morning of the 27th October, at the crazy time of 04.30 in the morning, I left home, picked up Dan Jarman and begun the long drive down to VS Fisheries. The fish farm has to be seen to be believed. A superb set up, very professionally run. Dozens of huge tanks, full of stunning carp situated in a new barn and as Daniel and I moved from tank to tank, staring at these awesome fish, Viv & Simon showed us the tank that we would be choosing our new fish from, immediately we were both smiling from ear to ear. So many stunning fish to choose from. We eventually settled down and handpicked 24 fish that we thought would be suitable for Snake Pit. We choose a mixture of heavily scaled, lightly scaled, leathers and linier's. I'd ask any member that fishes Snake in the coming years and are lucky enough to catch any of these new fish, to please weigh them and send me a photo. This will enable me to keep an accurate record of their growth rates, which I'd also like to feedback to VS Fisheries. As a consequence of this stocking, we also decided to purchase some C4 fish for St Osyth from VS Fisheries. These were stocked into the lake on the 9th February. Same applies for these fish if you catch them please report weights and photos to me.



Going forward, the Board have now put an annual budget in place for fish stocking. The funds have been allocated but the final details of fish numbers and waters have not yet been confirmed. However, the waters that are likely to receive VS fish are Layer Pit, Bovington 1 & 2, Pebmarsh and Inworth. These stockings will be carried out annually providing the funds are available. You will also be aware that Embryo completed the fencing of Snake Pit last year. Unfortunately, two days after we paid the invoice, the big common passed away. However, we now have a lake that is protected from otter predation and has allowed us to introduce these new fish. Funds have now been made available to fence Oliver's and Bovington 1 & 2. I'm currently waiting for Embryo to confirm their availability but would hope we can complete at least one of these waters before the end of the year. Other waters will be fenced annually as funds allow, but rest assured we have plans in place to fence all of our waters that circumstances allow. Last Winter, we netted Bovi 1 on a very wet and cold day, to remove all fish apart from carp. The first net was pretty much empty but the second pull came up trumps, we in excess of 900lb in the net. This mainly consisted of Silvers, Skimmers, a few larger Bream, Tench, small Pike and one big Crucian. These fish were all transferred to Inworth 2 Lake. We intend to repeat this exercise next winter. During the coming weeks, we will be carrying out a stock survey at Brookhall. There have been concerns raised from various members and match anglers regarding the dwindling catch rates in the last two years. All in all, it has been a busy season, with lots of work going on in the background, that members don't get to see. All of the above takes a lot of planning and time but it is all very worthwhile once we have completed each task. The club are looking for large predators to stock some lakes with (Pike & Perch), but these are very hard to locate. If any of you know of clubs, syndicates etc. that no longer want these fish in their waters, please let me know so that I can contact them. The Board are also actively looking for a stock pond, local to the Colchester area. If anyone knows of anything suitable, please get in touch with us.

**Health & Safety Officer Ian Hearsom** - Another season passes when we review 2016. Firstly A Big Thank You to our Bailiff Team & supporting members who assist the club greatly on all our clubs waters What a fantastic job they do swim repairs tidying up improving our waters putting something back in the hobby we all enjoy. Layer has its newly refurbished toilets Thanks Sean and the team, plus an improved view from the car park across the pit looks great lads. Snake Pit is the start of some exciting re stocking programs going on with VS Fisheries Scaley Carp this is going to put Snake on the map well done Board Members. Keep the Gate shut on the Otter fence protect our

investment. Many new future projects are planned in over the next few years by the Board with many of our waters exciting times. Pebmarsh, Oliver's, Bovey, St Oysth look really good, Mersea could do with more anglers. Tree falls on lakes have been many this season costly to address. In our Rule book - Fish care Unhooking mats ensure you are always fully prepared to handle our fish protect them for the future. My Pet Hate Litter one or two spoil it on our waters for the majority our rule book is very clear on the action we will take enough said. Many tracks have been repaired Pot holes will always take large chunks out of the budget. Porta loos are on a lot of our waters now 24/7 with lakes open all year for fishing how times change from the old close season. Waters will be closed By Head Bailiffs when fish are spawning updates will be on our Web site when this occurs. Rodent control will always have its seasonal problems I know a lot of you use your own traps we can help ourselves by not leaving free offerings on the Bank for them. Have a good 2017 look forward to seeing you all on the bank again, Tight Lines.

**Match secretary Andy Howard** – The Match fishermen had a reasonably successful season; our Open matches were fairly well attended and most Club matches were well supported. Oliver's again produced some very good weights of Skimmers, Tench and some big Carp were caught. Brookhall continues to be a hard nut to crack, winning weights were usually pretty good but unfortunately the backup weights were pretty poor at times. Pebmarsh continues to give us good matches although the Bream are proving pretty elusive at times. The away matches at various commercial venues provided some interesting sport with some pretty big weights. There will be the normal program of matches this coming season all are welcome, for the away matches and team events please ring Andy Howard or Mick Turner for details.

**Bailiff Officer Mark Castle** – Firstly I would like to thank all the bailiffs for their hard work during the last year as the majority of them give up their free time to ensure you have a clean and tidy fishery. A special mention has to go to Sean and the Layer Bailiffs as they are also having to looking after the toilet block. Our Pet Hate is Litter; fortunately we have been luckier than most clubs this season. But it goes without saying get caught Littering you will lose your ticket for Life. Also whilst I have your attention; Gates and Locks if you unlock a gate please ensure you close and lock it behind you. If there seems to be a problem with a lock can you inform the club so that we can rectify it rather than taking a hammer to it first. We have had a couple of bans this season due to individuals thinking it was clever to issue us rubber cheques. Apart from that it's been fairly quiet. Thanks again to the bailiffs for their help and assistance throughout the season.

**Club Secretary Steve Dormer** – It was a great sadness to lose Riki from Oliver's, this larger than life character will be very sadly missed. Riki's funeral was very well attended; his coffin was wrapped and depicted a scene from Blue Bell Wood in full bloom. This was a reflection of his life in later years as he was the Game Keeper for a local shoot as well as Bailiff for the society. I have been in contact with Riki's family regarding the placement of a commemorative bench at Oliver's, unfortunately this work has been delayed as Riki's wife passed away just before Christmas. The ground work will commence in the spring and it is expected that the bench will be sited soon after and will commemorate Riki and his good lady. Life Membership, well that came out of the blue, wasn't expecting that, but thanks to the chairman who obviously thought it was merited. On a personal note I have retired from work, and are planning to sell up and move away, so this may well be my last year as your secretary. Now that I have more time, I plan to spend some of this on the bank, Tight Lines One and All.