



CAPS News, Newsletter for the Annual General Meeting, February 2010

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Chairman's Opening Remarks

Good evening and welcome everyone to what promises to be a very important evening for the club. We have a very busy agenda so I will keep this to a minimum. I will start by thanking the Officers, Committee and Bailiffs for all the hard work that has gone on during the last year. We have had a very good year with fisheries performing well but also some worrying times as well, but more of that from the respective officers.

2010/11 Membership fees – for the coming season;

Adult - £85
H&W - £130
Senior Citizens & Disabled - £45
Intermediate - £60
U16 - £30
U13 - £15
Adult Guest Tickets £7.50
Concessionary Guest Tickets £5

Secretary's Report

Local Charities – The secretary stated that the society had all but adopted St Helena Hospice as our local charity and over the last few years had made several donations to this worthy cause on behalf of the members. Most recently the BBC donated £25, after the committee agreed to allow them access to Pebmarsh to film the closing of an episode of The Restaurant Series 3. This was followed by a short notice Tench Match on Bovi II to try and catch, then relocate some of the smaller Tench, but with so many specimens fish in the water the use of a net and Electro-fishing was ruled out, as the mortality rate of Tench after being electro-fished is very high, so a charity match was run with 16 anglers. Well the match was won by Wayne Clarke, the Fisheries Officer, come Carp Angler with 15lb 8ozs, whereas the Match Anglers, me included, weighed in ounces, the only winner on the day was St Helena's hospice who received a Cheque for £80.

The next donation was somewhat larger after three committee members, Steve Dormer – Secretary, Wayne Clarke – Fisheries Officer and Mark Castle – Head Bailiff at Houchins were recognised by the Executive Committee for the exceptionally hard and selfless work carried out during October which limited the fish kill at Houchins to less than 50lbs. All three thanked the committee for the recognition but asked that the money be put to better use, so the Society donated £300 to St Helena Hospice if you add these donations to the one that Andy Howard will be reporting on later then overall the society has donated just shy of £1750.00 to our local charity and long may it continue.

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Fisheries Officer's Report (Continued)

Pebmarsh - Members have reported the capture of

Treasurer's Report

Income and Expenditure Report - The treasurer stated that due to unforeseen circumstances he was unable to present the yearend financial report, but had come prepared with the final income and expenditure sheet. Tom then took the meeting through the details of the report pointing out specifics whilst doing so highlighting that the accounts showed a shortfall of £67,000 this is due to the Executive Committee bringing pre-planned works forward into the 2009/10 season as the banks are paying next to no interest on savings, and in the long term the overall costs would work out cheaper. Dave Ball asked the committee how this shortfall would be managed going forward the Tom that it would be managed as part of the current 5yr business plan. There being no more questions for the Treasurer, the Chairman asked the meeting is this income & Expenditure report were a true and accurate record and a proposal by Alan Wilson seconded by Reg Upsher was put to the meeting and the vote was unanimous.

CAPS PRESENTATION EVENING

Come and join us at the Annual CAPS Presentation Evening At 8pm in The Queens Head Public House in Coggeshall on Saturday 24th April 2010 – Tickets £8 per head (Inc Buffet) Contact Mick Turner 01376 323520 or Andy Howard 07818 214507

Fisheries Officer's Report

Inworth Grange – As previously reported a large percentage of the weed was removed this year to improve the dissolved oxygen levels. Bank side undergrowth was cut back to create more air movement on the surface of the water.

Layer Pit - In February 2009, 120 common carp were removed and transferred to other CAPS venues. In October 199 common carp were removed and sold to Quiet Sports (between 6lb and 20lb). All of these fish removals are part of the ongoing biomass reduction that we have been advised to carry out. 30 tonnes of Micro chalk was applied during the year; this is part of the ongoing water quality improvement works. The overflow pipe from Layer Pit to Abberton will be replaced. The area around the pipe will be out of bounds to all members whilst the work takes place. Digging of the Rye burrow pit will also commence in the coming weeks. Filtered water will be pumped into Layer Pit directly into the new overflow pipe and out to Abberton.

Rectory Pool Bradwell – 32 Carp were introduced in October from Houchins Back Pit. The overhead cables will be brought down and buried in the coming weeks.

Estate Officer's Report

The past year was exceptionally busy compounded by the problems suffered on two fisheries, increased membership and portfolio, legislation, Health & Safety and political correctness most of which was addressed by the committee.

Rectory Pool Bradwell - Last year the landowner's solicitors negotiated with EDF Energy on our behalf to allow the overhead cables currently passing through the fishery to be

several upper 20lb carp and at least one 30lb. Match weights continue to be very impressive.

Oliver's - 4 tonnes of Micro chalk was applied in November. A fish health survey was also carried out earlier in the year. No problems were discovered.

Bovington Lakes - Continues to be very busy throughout the summer months with Carp and Tench being the main target for most anglers. Significant work has taken place on repairing the access track and the drainage system. Both lakes were chalked in November.

Snake Pit - The big common has been caught again this season at a weight of 47lb+ by Jim Shelley. It is also known to have been 'lost' several times. The actions of some anglers are continuing to cause concern to other members and the committee. Measures to ensure the continued health of all of the fish in this lake are currently being considered. Suggestions are also welcome from members. Swim improvements and other maintenance works are planned for this year.

Great Oakley - The match lake is the most popular and gives any angler whatever his style or capability a fish or two, ranging from small silvers to bream and the odd Carp ranging from 3-6lb range, with the occasional fish into double figures. Match weights are consistent with 15-30 lb's needed to get in the frame and the anglers have yet to work out which method is best as good weights have been taken on the whip through to pellet on the waggler. The specimen lake is perhaps the hardest of the three waters but double figure carp are caught on most days with some well into the twenties. The lake also holds a reasonable head of small Roach and Rudd which have been taken in nets to around 15lb on match days. The top lake holds mainly carp from 5-12lb with the odd bigger fish and should be a runs water but you need to know what you are doing for consistent results.

Houchins - The Back Lake suffered another massive oxygen crash in September. Thanks to the prompt action of member Wayne Ebner and sheer hard work from various members of the committee another disaster was averted. Due to continued concerns regarding the unstable Dissolved Oxygen levels the majority of the carp have been removed and re-homed in Rectory Pool. 5 carp and 1 catfish were moved to the Front Lake. **Both lakes are currently closed due to extremely high water levels.** The **TOTAL PELLET BAN** remains in force.

St Osyth - 75 mirror carp between 10lb & 20lb and 90 oxygen carp to mid 20's from Layer Pit were also stocked in February. Multiple captures of carp are common and the biggest reported so far has been 27lb+. Low water levels are being monitored. Swim improvements and planting will be carried out in the coming year subject to the subsidence and planning issues being resolved.

West Mersea - Carp from Rockingham's were moved to here in the spring of last year. The fishing platforms will be replaced on both lakes in March.

Estate Officer's Report (Continued)

Layer Pit - Having secured three agreements to cover before, during and after the completion of the works at Abberton Reservoir, as from 4th January 2010 the

buried underground, which was part of the terms of our lease, and I am pleased to report at long last that the necessary legal paperwork is complete. Our next step is to invite tenders for the trench work and the new transformer base required by EDF to site the transformers on the ground. When complete we will then carry out the remaining works required to open the remaining swims on the water.

Great Oakley - Last year work to improve swims on the Match Lake, extend the car park and install an extra overflow pipe from the Match Lake into the Specimen Lake was carried out and a toilet is now on site. Our probationary period successfully expired last October and we have plans for further improvements on the other waters to take place in 2011/12. On two occasions last year the swan rescue service was called out to remove angler's tackle from the birds. Apart from the cost and the owner's displeasure, it is quite sad that we should find this necessary and the members responsible should be ashamed of their inconsiderate actions. Members should also be aware that the owner has placed a number of traps around the waters to catch some of the moorhens and they should not under any circumstances release the birds.

St Osyth - The water opened in the spring and it proved very popular throughout the summer. Unfortunately, due to the dry summer and irrigation requirements of the owner the level dropped considerably exposing the lake bed and during the rains in the autumn, some swims proved difficult to fish. This problem along with a number of other issues including the repair of the slipped bank has been discussed with the owner and we have agreed to meet again when we have a date from the contractor to repair the bank.

West Mersea - At the end of February the lease was finally signed and the water opened the car park is now open in place. We are making the necessary arrangements for the platforms to be repaired or replaced. The litter at present on these waters is causing major concern and if there is no significant improvement we will be forced to take action. **TAKE YOUR LITTER HOME.** Members are also advised not to use the old access from the lay-by and should they do so it is entirely at their own risk.

Houchins Farm - Due to the variation in water level and other problems encountered over the past year, various concerns have been raised which are currently being reviewed by the committee and any change will be published on the website. www.colchesteraps.org

Open League - The individual open league has been well supported by members and non-members alike and with still 2 matches to go it is still fairly close at the top.

Essex Inter Club League - CAPS A Team came 3rd whilst CAPS B Team came 6th out of ten teams with Andy Howard winning the individual Knockout.

Dad's & Lad's Day - In July we ran our first Dad's & Lad's teach in event at Great Oakley, which was followed by a short 2hr match which was won by Justin Chesson's son, the prizes were donated by Clacton Angling. A repeat of this event is planned for the coming season.

Charity Match - The teams of 4 charity match at Pebmarsh on August Bank Holiday Monday was a resound success, and I would like to thank all of those who not just donated money and prizes but their time and effort to run the raffle, and feed the many hungry anglers from the BBQ. This year the event raised **£1,343.90** for St Helena Hospice in Colchester.

second agreement commenced and will remain in place for a period of three years subject to the reservoir being completed on time. During this period the fisheries officer and I will meet regularly with the engineer's to monitor progress and any matters that may arise affecting the pit.

Pebmarsh - Our existing lease expires next month and a new lease for a period of ten years should be signed off in a week or two. We have also agreed to purchase materials to improve the slope at either end of the slipway and anticipate that the work will be carried out in the spring. A matter of concern raised by the owner is that member's vehicles are being driven over the field on the left of the track from the entrance and he is currently looking to stop this by forming a barrier alongside the field. Members are therefore requested to keep to the track provided.

New Waters - We continue to seek new waters and I am pleased to report that a new lake will be opened to members later in the year and members will be kept informed via our website. The water has been in existence for several years although it has not been available until now as a fishery and hence is very lightly stocked. It also needs some groundwork to allow fishing to commence and hopefully a car park can be established close to the water.

Finally - In addition to my normal duties as Estates Officer much of my time during the last year was spent preparing the Articles forming part of the proposal under Item 11 of the agenda, which will be fully discussed and presented to you by the society's solicitor, Mr. Tony Fisher later.

Mineral Extraction at Oliver's Farm Witham – The Secretary reported that he had been contacted by Witham Town Council during September to advise him that the owner of Oliver's Nursery had requested permission to extract minerals (Sand & Ballast) from a 10.6 acre meadow adjacent to Oliver's Lake, for the purposes of digging a reservoir. In the Estate Officers absence the Secretary and two head bailiffs had attended a public meeting to see a presentation from Essex County Council, who stated that pressure was being brought to bear upon the county council by the government to secure an additional 39.25 million tonnes of Sand and Ballast to develop the Affordable Housing Scheme for the East of England. The secretary took the meeting through various slides and advised the members that the society as a landowner directly affected by this scheme had made our views known to the planning authorities. As soon as any further information becomes available the committee will advise the members accordingly via the society website.

Match Secretary's Report –

Angling Times Super Cup - At the beginning of 2009 the CAPS Match Team made it to the 2nd round of the Angling Times Super Cup only to be beaten away to BARDAG (Barking & Dagenham) at Slough House Lake.

Rule Changes (Continued)

The adoption of no more than two additional Directors to comply with clause 24.1 of the Articles included in 11 above. Position one – Prop by Wayne Clarke and Sec by Steve Dormer that Mr. Simon Hales, Head Bailiff at St. Osyth. Position two – Prop by Chris Cade and Sec

CAPS Matchman for 2009/10 – It looks certain that although the season is not yet complete, (Mr Whippy) Ian Carter will almost certainly take top honours.

Finally – I would like to thank all of those individuals who have helped with the matches this year, as I have not always been able to attend due to work and family commitments many thanks to you one and all.

Bailiff Report – Chris Cade stated that he would like to thank all of the lads who had bailiffed this year and those who had put themselves forward to bailiff next.

Working Parties – The Layer upgrade will be available this year, you need to complete four work parties at any society water other than Layer Pit and pay £30 for the upgrade. All layer upgrades had to come through the membership secretary the members were advised that when sending off for their upgrade to include a stamped, self addressed envelope.

RULE CHANGES

Committee Proposal - The members in attendance at the 2010 AGM are requested to vote on a resolution to dispose of the assets and undertaking of the society to a newly formed company limited by guarantee, in accordance with the draft memorandum and articles of association available at this meeting and as published on the Society Web Site. All existing members of the club would, if the resolution is passed, become members of the new undertaking. At this point of the meeting the Estates Officer introduced Tony Fisher the Society's Solicitor to the members. Tony gave a general overview of the proposal of going from a fishing club to a Company Limited by Guarantee and highlighted the benefits of employing a corporate vehicle to manage the day to day running of the society rather than having individual trustees taking on the responsibility of 15 individual leases. The members were then invited to ask questions after which the chairman called for a straight vote, for all of those in favour 57 against 16, the committee proposal is agreed and approved by the members present

Litter Offenders – Proven Litter Offenders will receive an automatic Life Ban. **Proposal Accepted by Unanimous Vote in Favour.**

Bait Ban at Layer – The ban in the use of Bird Seed Type Particle Baits to be applicable to Layer Pit Only. **Proposal Accepted by Unanimous Vote in Favour.**

Spodding at Layer - Spodding at Layer to be permitted for the introduction of boilies ONLY. Any member found to be introducing any other form of bait with a spod will have their Layer upgrade removed. After a lengthy debate the chairman stated that if the view of the members was so strong against Spodding at this time, then the committee would withdraw the proposal, this was agreed by the members present. **Therefore the existing SPODDING BAN Remains Active, for the Foreseeable Future.**

Drugs & Alcohol – The consumption of Alcohol and use of illegal drugs is banned on all Society Waters. This was debated at length and Dave Ball proposed that the society adopted the following: “Bailiffs are authorised to confiscate the membership card and permit of any permit holder who is considered to be endangering their own, or other person's safety, by being under the influence of alcohol, drugs, solvents, etc., and to remove them from the fishery” **Proposal Accepted by Unanimous Vote in Favour of the**

by Shaun Taylor that Mr. Sean Fretwell, Bailiff at West Mersey. The chairman asked the members to vote on the two proposals as one if possible as no other individuals had been put forward. **Proposal accepted by Unanimous Vote in Favour.**

As proposal 11 was accepted by the members present proposal 12, 12.1 and 14 are withdrawn

General Rule - Rule 3 is amendment to include a Health & Safety Officer and Webmaster. The post of Publicity Officer will no longer apply.

Prop by M. Turner and sec by W. Clarke that Mr. I. Hearsom is adopted as the Health and Safety Officer. Prop by S. Dormer and sec by R. Upsher that Mr. J. Buttle is adopted as the Webmaster. The Chairman stated that these two individuals had been appointed to their respective positions during the last year by the committee and would the members vote to agree their appointment, **Proposal accepted by Unanimous Vote in Favour.**

Proposed Rule Changes by the Committee –

General Rule – Members are allowed to fish for 3 consecutive days (72hrs) **on any of the society's waters. They then must not return to that particular water to fish for a further 4 days (96hrs).** The purpose of this rule is to stop the continuing complaint of swim rotation. After various amendments were put to the committee from the members all of which were defeated. **The proposal was Defeated.**

Vacating Swims – Any member vacating a swim for longer than 90 minutes must remove all their tackle allowing the swim to become vacant and available to other members. **Proposal Accepted by Unanimous Vote in Favour.**

Fish Welfare – Amend Rule 9a to include an unhooking mat of a minimum size being 100cms x 70cms x 7cms. After some debate from the floor the proposal was amended by Jack Buttle seconded by Steve Dormer that the minimum size should be **100cms x 70cms x 5cms. Proposal Accepted by Unanimous Vote in Favour.**

Guest Tickets – In the best interests of the members No Guest Tickets will be permitted on Snake Pit. **Proposal Accepted by Unanimous Vote in Favour.**

Fish Welfare – All Society Officers are empowered to check the rigs and tackle being used by any member to ensure that they are fish friendly and safe. It is a mandatory obligation for all members to comply with such requests. **Proposal Accepted by Unanimous Vote in Favour.**

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amendment.

Proposed by N. Randall and Seconded by M. Miller - Spodding at Layer –The Chairman stated that this proposal was withdrawn as the issue of re-introducing Spodding had previously been defeated.

Proposed by K. Crisell and Seconded by D. Whittaker – The chairman stated that this proposal was withdrawn as the members have voted unanimously to take the society in to a company limited by guarantee;

AOB - Richard Kowalczyk (Riki) the bailiff from Oliver's approached the head table and gave the chairman £40 to be donated to a local cancer care charity, The chairman announced this to the AGM and Riki received an ovation from all those present.

Rivers - Robert Stancombe – Asked the committee to look into the state of the society's rivers and stated that the EA had surveyed the Stour and Colne and the results were dreadful. The Fisheries Officer stated that he would address this. Rob also asked the committee to stock more predators in our waters; again the Fisheries Officer stated that this was being addressed.

As there was no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 22.15hrs.

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