

THAMESIDE NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2016

DEAR MEMBERS,

Some words from the chairman, Dennis Hammond

A warm welcome to renewing and new members who have joined since the May 2106 newsletter.

I hope you are enjoying good catches.

This newsletter contains some information already known to but is repeated for the benefit of late joiners.

Updates since the May newsletter are;

- A new 5 year licence is being negotiated for the Blue Lake effective from the 1st April 2017. Despite effects by the Committee, no information over the alleged development of the surrounding land has yet been made available.
- Licences for both Cobham, Inn on the Lake and Campanile Lake at Crossways are in place for at least the next 5 years and hopefully beyond that.
- Agreement has been reached with the Inn on the Lake management to fence the area being accessed by dog walkers, poachers and other forms of illegal entry. The fence will be from the Thong Lane bridle gate to the overflow at the deep bank on the front lake. Thanks to members for informing the bailiffs of this problem.
- An order has been placed for 300 each of Bream, Tench, Ide and Chub for the Campanile Lake. Delivery is expected later this year when water temperatures are right.
- The Committee are fully aware of the problem of "ageing" fish at both Blue Lake and Inn on the Lake. Several large carp have died at both venues and information and advice is being sort as to the best way forward.

Dates for your diary are:-

1. **The 3rd February 2017.** This is for the Thameside AGM at the Gravesend Rugby Club as last year. Further information to follow.
2. The **11th December 2016** for the Fur and Feather at Monk lakes. Details below.
3. Sunday **20th November** work party at Cobham 9am to 1pm
4. Thursday **1st December** 9am to 1pm at Shorne Woods Country Park. **Please TEXT ONLY to Dennis on 07957870245 if you can attend either or both, and for the Shorne one please supply vehicle registration number in order to arrange free parking!**

I wish you all tight lines and fair weather.

Dennis Hammond.

Secretary (Mick Mount)

- Nothing to report as no one writes to me. I get no emails, postcards, little slips of paper or post it notes either. I don't get any phone calls mobile or landline. Nobody loves me, only the wife.
- An important part of the proceedings at the AGM is the election of committee members. All too often this part of the proceedings is rushed through with what appears to be complacent voting on behalf of the members who attend. It is not a difficult or demanding role to be on the Committee. Providing you can give up a couple of hours **every month**, drive to the meeting, drink copious amounts of coffee, be able to read and voice an opinion, hold up an arm to vote with, you qualify as a Committee member.

At the AGM all Committee members have to step down as Committee members and then be re-elected again for the same or different positions. At this stage new members can also be elected to become a Committee member or to fill an official officer position. Currently Dennis Hammond and Jeff Buxton are filling two positions because we had no nominations from anyone in the Society to fill these positions i.e. Chairman, Head Bailiff, Membership Secretary or Treasurer. The role of Match Secretary will also become vacant as well.

If you would like to become a Committee member and help run the Society and we are always asking for new people to come on the Committee then you can do so by nominating any member **or** if you want to, nominate yourself. The procedure is as follows:

- Obtain Nomination forms from the Society Secretary Mick Mount (M. Mount, 4 Northridge Road, Gravesend, Kent, DA12 5AY. or email mickmount@btinternet.com who will send you a form together **with a short job description**.
- You can nominate any Society member for **any** of the Committee positions.
- All nominations should have a Proposer and a Secunder. If you would like to be on the Committee (or require further info) but don't have a proposer or seconder, don't worry just contact me Derek Graves by text on 07771528633 and I'll do what I can to help.
- If you are going to nominate anyone please make sure that they are willing to stand for nomination.
- Closing date for nominations is **18.00 hrs on Saturday 17th December, 2016**, and can either be sent by e-mail to, djangling@blueyonder.co.uk or by post to, Mick Mount (M. Mount, 4 Northridge Road, Gravesend, Kent, DA12 5AY. or email mickmount@btinternet.com

Treasurer (Jeff Buxton)

- Not much to report either apart from the fact that the club is financially sound but we can't but our own lakes yet and Derek Graves has spent five grand of the clubs money on fish for Campanile. Dennis Hammond has also been spending money on the new path at IOTL and repairing the water leak down the road at Cobham and various other little projects. This trend has got to stop. My off shore Bahamian account is already running low and needs topping up (I've got expensive tastes and women to support.)

Membership Secretary (Jeff Buxton)

- Membership numbers are comparable with the same as we had last year and I have closed the books and started a waiting list.
- The renewal date for membership is by the 1st April 2017, **not at the AGM, or before the AGM, or during the AGM** on the **3rd February, 2017**. Please do not send in your renewal slips too early because after the AGM as we have to wait for the new cards etc. to be printed and obviously this takes a little while. We did have quite a few members ringing myself and Derek Graves (Match Sec.) to find out where there membership cards had got to after they had applied. You will be reminded again nearer the time.
- Regarding the above and renewals, **if** you change your house address, **if** you change your email address, or **if** you change your contact details then please let me know. I get a lot of enquiries from members, wondering why they're not receiving anything by mail, or e-mail, and then when you ask them, you get the apology, "sorry forgot to tell you". For some members, we only have your mobile number, and if you subsequently change it without letting us know, that doesn't help either. So please keep me up to date.
- Please do not send any membership forms to the Secretary Mick Mount either. It will only delay your membership

[Match Secretary \(Derek Graves\)](#)

- Well the year got off to a blazing start with loads of people fishing the matches and then the number of people turning up dropped off considerably with sometimes only 6/7 people attending. Even the long term match anglers like Jack Louth, Dave Sampson, Gary Newton, Ian Collier, Rupert Garrett etc have hibernated for various reasons.
- There was supposed to be a Carp match at Blue Lake but that also got cancelled due to issues.
- Now for some bad news, after having been Match Secretary for the last 13 seasons I have decided to call it a day and step down from the role. I was going to do it last year but somehow ended up doing another year. The good news is that Terry Williamson will be taking over the role unless anyone else wants to do it. Good luck Terry.
- There are two more matches to go before the end of the year and the eagerly awaited **Fur and Feather** on **Sunday, 11th** December. There will be limited places for this match (30) so make sure you book your place quickly when the booking day arrives. **Details below**. The Fur and Feather is to be held on Monk Lake 4, nr Staplehurst. (www.monklakes.co.uk) This match is always over-subscribed so please make sure you get in quick

[Website Administrator \(Ian Collier\)](#)

- For any member, whether old or new, who has not visited the TWAPS website yet, it can be found at either <http://twaps.uk> or <http://twaps.co.uk>
- The website is full of official TWAPS information and updated on a regular basis. If you have any queries about the Society, it's fisheries, it's Committee Members and Bailiffs, the way the Society is run, upcoming matches, work parties, announcements and other events, it is highly likely that an answer to your question will be found there (check the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) found under "Club Info" → "FAQs").
- The Society Rules and Bye-Laws are also available on the website and if you have a Smartphone, or internet enabled device, with you whilst you are fishing, you do not need a paper copy of the Society's Rules and Bye-Laws with you, but you must be able to access the website to access the Rules and Bye-Laws whilst you are fishing. The Rules and Bye-Laws are PDF documents and can be downloaded onto your device if you prefer. Look under "Club Info" → "Rules and Bye-Laws". If you don't have internet access whilst fishing, or prefer to have a paper copy instead, simply use the website Contact Form to request a printed copy and one will be sent to you. Note that the Rules and Bye-Laws may be updated from time to time, and any revisions will be published on the website.
- The Society Constitution and Competition Rules will be published on the website in due course. One of the uses of the website is to notify the membership of any important news such as work parties or out of use swims, new waters etc. Therefore please check the site fairly regularly for updates.
- Don't forget to submit pictures of your catches, including a very short description, for inclusion in the gallery. We like to include other images too, not just of your catches, but also any Society related amusing or scenic or other relevant pictures are also very welcome. Videos are welcome too! You can use the Photo Submission Form to send us pictures, or use the contact page to enquire about sending or linking videos.
- For when the time comes, around the end of March, you will most likely want to renew your membership. Full instructions on how to do this are also on the website. Take a look at the Renewal section under "Club Info" → "TWAPS Membership".
- Details of the upcoming Annual General Meeting (AGM), which is due to take place at the beginning of February 2017, will also be published on the website in the next few weeks.
- Please remember, I don't always get it right, so if you see any mistakes, omissions or have any ideas, suggestions or even criticism, please let me know, via the website contact page or on the bank.

- TWAPS members are increasingly using Facebook, even whilst fishing! There is an active TWAPS closed Facebook group, currently managed by Derek Graves, Terry Williamson, Billy Hargreaves and myself. The group is very friendly and is used for members to exchange tips, ideas, ask questions, buy and sell stuff, foster healthy debate and generally communicate with each other. There is also quite a bit of light-hearted non-offensive banter between the members, which can be very amusing at times, making a good social group to belong to.

Note: you must be a current Member of TWAPS to be accepted as a member of the TWAPS Facebook group.

Head Bailiff (Dennis Hammond)

To all members,

- Bailiffs are unpaid volunteers and are there to protect your fisheries, so please take the time to talk to them if you have any concerns about the fisheries or need advice on rules/byelaws. Abuse from either a member to a bailiff or a bailiff to a member will not be tolerated. **One member has been banned for life for abusing a Bailiff, and two others suspended until January 2017 for blatant rule breaking. Another member was suspended for a period for rule breaking.**
- I would also remind all members old and new that ALCOHOL IS STILL BANNED ON ALL CLUB WATERS along with barbecues. Controlled small camping style gas burners are acceptable.
- The sacking of fish on any Thameside fishery is against Society rules, but the use of a flotation retaining sling is permitted. Please use extra care during low water levels especially at Inn on the Lake.
- It has been noticed as well that some anglers are using inappropriate landing nets for the size of the fish they are catching. i.e. 36inch carp net for a 1lb carp or bream. They don't cost a lot to buy so please consider using the correct size net. If needs be have 2 set up which would be the better option.

Shorne Country Park.

- Fishing reasonably well considering the low water level.
- The weekend and bank holiday car park cost has been increased to £3, weekday charge remains at £2. Please note that Blue Badge holders must now register with KCC, who will issue a yearly parking permit at a cost of £3. The phone number is 0300 041 7272.

Cobham Hall.

- To all new and old members, just to reiterate, the track opposite the Gate House is a **DRY WEATHER ACCESS ONLY**. I have been asked by the Estate Manager for Cobham to tell members not to drive up the track opposite the Gate House when the grass is wet. Please keep to the track in dry weather not on the grass. **N.B. This access is now closed until further notice.**
- The middle lake has been fishing extremely well and lots of people have done well catching the various fish in there. Light tactics are still giving the best results. Some anglers are still however using their carp gear that they would normally use on the top lake. Please don't for the sake of the fish.
- If any cormorants are spotted up at Cobham can you let the Head Bailiff know asap or any one of the other Committee members or Bailiffs.
- Despite requests not to leave rubbish in the car park it is still being left behind by members. It is being bagged up and hung from the gate or left on the ground in the car park or behind the swims. Unfortunately when it is left on the ground, foxes or other wildlife are attacking the bags and ripping them open strewing the rubbish all over the place. Once again **PLEASE TAKE YOUR RUBBISH HOME!** Bailiffs are not paid rubbish collectors. If you don't want to take it home then don't take it up there in the first place! If this trend continues then the lake may be closed and anyone caught doing so will be immediately suspended from the club. You have been advised.

Inn on the Lake.

- “Three (3) rods are now allowed on the front Lake only at Inn on the Lake, from the 1st October to the 31st March each year”. This rule will be immediately withdrawn if abused.
- Members still have the use of the Hotel facilities, e.g. toilets, bar, etc. but must carry their membership card with them. The access is via the first entrance on the left as you enter the Hotel.
- Recently there has been unauthorised fishing and access by members of the Public to IOTL. Unfortunately some members chose not to report the matter and chose to turn a blind eye to the intruders. Remember these are your waters and your waters alone as members of the club. You don't have to get involved and have confrontation if you don't want to but just ring one of the numbers on the front of your membership card so the matter can be dealt with as quickly as possible by others.
- The Hotel management have asked that;
No bright clothing to be worn when fishing in sight of the hotel, and members must be fully clothed at all times, no bare chests to be seen as this shows on wedding photos!!
Breaking of the above request may result in the Lakes being closed on wedding days.

Blue Lake.

- Please note that a key is still required for the gate to the inner fence. Phil Townsend on **07879 854030** is your contact for this key. There is no charge for this.
- Good size double carp being caught and Perch to 5lb. No reports of any catches of the large numbers of bream that were in there.

Paddock Wood.

- A few reports of good fish from the canal lake but little information received from members fishing the River. Please let us know how you get on.

Campanile

- As mentioned above fish have been ordered for Campanile lake and will be delivered as when they are available and the weather conditions are correct so as not to stress the fish and cause any deaths.
- Fishing has been slow with the odd fish being caught, but hopefully this will change when it is stocked. Any feedback or pictures of fish caught will be greatly appreciated.

Tight Lines to one and all from your Committee.

JUST FOR FUN

My Great Grandad had his tongue shot off in the 1st world war, but he never talked about it.

Visited the wife's grave today , she thinks I'm digging a fishpond.

A man died after falling into a vat of coffee, it was instant.

I can hear music coming out of my printer. I think the paper's jammin' again.

My next door neighbour worships exhaust pipes, he's a catholic converter.

Batman came up to me & he hit me over the head with a vase & he went T'PAU! I said "Don't you mean KAPOW?? He said "No, I've got china in my hand."

My great grandmother died after completing a half marathon, can't really complain though she did have a good run.

I brought some new aftershave it smells just like bread crumbs, the birds love it.

Working in a mirror factory is something I can totally see myself doing.

I was reading in the paper today about this dwarf that got pick pocketed. How could anyone stoop so low?

FUR AND FEATHER COMPETITION

**Monk Lake Fishery, Lake 4,
Staplehurst Rd, Marden, Kent. TN12 9BS
SUNDAY 11TH DECEMBER**

Draw 8.15, Fish 9.00 a.m. until 1.00 p.m.

The prize presentation, raffle and sit down Christmas dinner will be held at:-

LASHINGS, 81-83 Upper Stone St, Maidstone, ME15 6HE

Fishing is limited to 30 places, excepted in order of booking, so please, **text only, Derek Graves on 07771528633.** with your name and membership number. Bookings will **only be accepted after midnight on the 13th November 2016.** PLEASE DO NOT RING IF YOU DON'T LIKE ABUSE. Closing date is midnight on the **27th September 2016.**

You must book your place in order that sufficient notice can be given to the restaurant for the Xmas Dinners and for Derek to arrange the necessary competition and raffle prizes.

Main points for you to note:

1. **Free Parking** at the lakeside.
2. **Free Fishing** – the Club will be picking up the tab for Day tickets
3. **After match function** will be at **LASHINGS** in **MAIDSTONE (Same as last year)**
4. **Free Food** – Traditional Xmas Dinner including mince pie and crackers. You do have to buy your own drinks at the bar.
5. **Lots of Prizes, Raffle, Banter, Ribaldry and Raucous Behavior.**

Directions to Lake

From Maidstone take the A229 towards Staplehurst, passing through Loose and Linton and down Linton Hill. The lakes are on the left approx. 3.3 miles from Linton Crossroads. You will pass past the Stilebridge Inn on your right just before you reach the entrance to Monk Lakes. On entering the fishery you can drive up to and park close to the lake. Do not park on the grass!

Directions to Lashings

From Staplehurst take the A229 back towards Maidstone, going up Linton Hill over the crossroads and back through Loose. Go back down into Maidstone heading towards the town centre but stay on the one way system and follow the road all the way round past the Police Station along Palace Avenue. and back up Stone St. **Lashings** is 250 yds up on the left hand side just past the traffic lights at knight rider street. Directly opposite Lashings is George St where there is a huge open air car park (checking out on Google maps beforehand would be a good idea if unsure.) Also make sure you have change for the car park if needed. Funnily for some reason last year some members were surprised that they had to pay to park. Really?