

THAMESIDE NEWSLETTER MAY 2014

DEAR MEMBERS,

SOME WORDS FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Hello and a warm welcome to you all, renewing and new members.

A lot of work has been carried out since the last newsletter, so please read thoroughly and make note of various updates/comments since then. A lot of information is being repeated for the sake of our new members.

I have already met many of you at the various fisheries and hope that you are continuing to enjoy the facilities on offer. Feel free to contact me if you have any comments to make about Thameside and the way it manages your fisheries. Committee meetings are held once a month, where any enquiries received are fully discussed and resolved where possible.

Please look at the various notice boards in place at the fisheries (along with the website), as from time to time, important messages are posted on them, e.g., bye-law changes, closure of a fishery for emergency/maintenance work, etc.

I wish you all fair weather and tight lines.

Dennis Hammond, Chairman.

Secretary (Mick Mount)

Firstly I must apologise for the delay in getting this newsletter to you but hopefully it will give you more to read. The AGM was well attended again this year at the Gravesend Rugby Club and thank you for those that made the effort to turn up. Feedback was given to the Committee which was taken on board and we will endeavour to act on throughout the course of the year.

The Committee for the following season 2014-2015 as elected at the AGM is as follows:-

Chairman	Dennis Hammond
Secretary	Michael "mick" Mount
Treasurer	Jeff Buxton
Membership Secretary	Jeff Buxton
Competition Secretary	Derek Graves
Website Administrator	Ian Collier
Head Bailiff	Dennis Hammond
Assistant Head Bailiff	Dave Shirley

Committee members:- Roy Stedman, Terry Stedman, Philip Townsend, Jack Louth and Albert Murray.

NB. See website for Committee "mug shots".

I must also offer apologies to Ian Coulter on behalf of the Committee. Ian wanted to stand as a Committee member but unfortunately he was not notified of the date of the AGM by email or phone. Therefore at the AGM when his name was called out to make his presence known prior to voting it gave the wrong impression to members who were present at the AGM. On speaking to Ian afterwards to find out what had happened it was then it came to light about the error in not contacting him and he accepted our apologies and the offer to stand next year if he still wanted to. So sorry Ian, will try harder next time.

Treasurer (Jeff Buxton)

Monies are coming in, monies are going out, all's good. If you would like to pay by BACS or PAYPAL then please let me know your views.

Membership Secretary (Jeff Buxton)

- If you change your house address, your email address or your contact details then can you please contact me. We 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 give that phone to your child, that doesn't help either. So please let me know. Those who receive information by post may like to find a family member or friend who will allow you to use their email address, as this is the fastest way to get urgent information to them, closure of water, etc. Information will of course still be posted to members as required.
- A total reprint of the current rule book is being done and should be substituted for the old one by members on receipt. (PLEASE DESTROY OLD PAGES / RECYCLE)

Match Secretary (Derek Graves)

- What a excellent start to the match season. I would like to extend a warm welcome to the following who have joined our little group:- Terry Williamson, Andy Stuart, Russell Austin (not Watson as I keep calling him), and our Website Administrator/Manager/Overseer/Executive/Supervisor as he likes to be known, Ian (I won't kiss a fish) Collier. You could tell everyone was chomping at the bit to get out and fish their first match of the season.
- The support for the matches has been superb, with 14 attending the first match at Chequertree and 18 attending the second match at Stones. Both of these matches were fished in the rain/drizzle but I think people still enjoyed themselves. I can't remember the last time I fished Chequertree when it hasn't rained. Doesn't seem to matter when I book the venue it always rains. I broke my No. 2 section of my pole on a rather large Sturgeon (they go to over 14lb in this water) right at the end of the match, then the hook pulled out. Why it couldn't have been the other way round....? To make up for it though I won the match at Stones. Yippee!
- Last year two members who fished the matches won 5 trophies between them. They were Mike (Baldy Bloke) Stirling and Jack Louth. Both of them fished the feeder, which just goes to prove you don't need a pole to fish the matches with. In fact when Jack uses a pole he's rubbish, (allegedly, according to others).
- This year on the 1st June there is an **Adult + Junior match** to be held at Shorne Country Park. This is something new I'm trying out. One or other of the pair must be a club member and any non-member on the day doesn't have to pay for a day ticket. Also if you would like to fish but haven't got any one to fish with, then still please contact me with your details and I will try to pair you with someone accordingly in the same position. For instance if I wanted to fish the match I would need a junior to fish with. So if there are any junior members that need a fishing superstar (ex-3 times Club Champion) to partner them, then let me know. The definition of a junior is as club rules up to the age of and including 17. Also could any juniors make sure they have permission from their parents to fish the match, written proof will be required, unless actually fishing with their parent. The winning pair and runners up will receive a Trophy on the day. The closing date for the match unlike other matches is the 23rd May.

Website Administrator (Ian "I won't kiss a fish" Collier)

- First of all I would like to thank the membership for electing me as the TWAPS Web Site Administrator at this year's AGM. I would also like to thank Derek Graves (the previous incumbent) for doing a great job in setting up the site, maintaining it, for the smooth handover and his continuing support.

- For those who don't know, the address of the TWAPS website is <http://twaps.co.uk>
- Since taking over the site, I have added some new features such as the news ticker/banner on the home page, weather widget on every page, (right hand column) and more up to date content. The site is under continuous review and updated frequently. Please visit the site from time to time to see what's new.
- Don't forget to submit pictures of your catches, preferably of you with your specimen, including a very short description, for inclusion in the gallery. You can use the Photo Submission Form to do this, but as has been said in the past, the pictures must be of reasonable quality and composition and pass the David Shirley, sorry I mean the David Bailey acceptance test.
- TWAPS members are increasingly using social media, especially Facebook. There is a TWAPS Facebook page and a TWAPS closed Facebook group, both set up by Derek Graves, who also controls the Facebook group. Simply log into Facebook and search for TWAPS to find this page and group. TWAPS also has a Twitter account (nothing to do with bird watching) (@twapsfishing) which is currently dormant (like a hibernating bear in the winter). At some point, this account will be active.
- Finally, if you have any suggestions you would like to see on the web site then please contact me via the website contact page. I don't always get it right, (according to his wife, most of the time) so if you see any mistakes or omissions, please let me know, via the website contact page.

[Head Bailiff \(Dennis Hammond\)](#)

- It is to be expected that with a changing membership each year, situations arise which cause some rule breaking. As mentioned in the previous newsletter, with the exception of Shorne Wood Country Park, members are not allowed to take, **or send**, friends, work colleagues, wives, civil partners to view **any** Thameside fishery without the written permission of the Head or Assistant Head Bailiff. The licence for Cobham, for example, stipulates all members must carry a current valid ID at ALL TIMES even if not fishing.
- On the front of your membership card are several contact phone No's. These are there for your use should you spot any abuse or rule breaking on the Lakes, or even if you just require advice. It's no good reporting a matter to bailiffs several hours or days after the event. The numbers on the front can be used for general information regarding the fisheries as well, so please ring us. We are there to help.
- Two new bailiffs have been appointed, Darren Frickey and Stuart Fritter (see website for mug shots). 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.
- Please note cormorants have been spotted on our Lakes at Shorne, Cobham and Inn on the Lake. We are taking advice on how to deal with these birds (pests) Please immediately report any sightings to Dennis Hammond on 07957 870245 or Assistant Head Bailiff, Dave Shirley on 07766 830482.
- Work parties will be held at the various fisheries as required. If you have given your name to Derek Graves then you will be notified by email or text. Alternatively please see the website or notice boards for information and come and do your bit.
- Areas between swims are due to be planted and seeded, so please do not walk on or lay fishing gear on marked areas.
- A plea to new members, please read rule 12 page 8, as bailiffs have reported that many of you are only carrying your id card when fishing.

[Shorne Country Park.](#)

- A new bye-law has been introduced, in that any junior is only permitted to fish with one rod at a time.
- The removal of excess stocks of Carp from both Lakes has been completed, with 300lbs of 1-3lb put into Blue Lake and 100lb of 1-3lb into the Front Lake at Inn on the Lake.
- A survey is also to be carried out at Cobham later on this year, to assess growth rate, bio-mass (Quantity of fish) and health.

- Good catches of silver fish and Crucians being reported, including a catch of Tench from 4"–12", (34 in all).

Cobham Hall.

- The Middle Pond is starting to fish well now that the water is warming up, although the Barbel are proving elusive. The fish are starting to put on weight and will continue to do so the more people fish it. A visiting cormorant has been reported at this pond, so it is important for members to keep us informed of catches in order that we can estimate the damage done.
- In the last newsletter you were asked to park **between** the yellow markers. In this news letter yet again, you are also being asked to park straight, and not at an angle between the yellow markers on the post and fence boards. Members will be made to move incorrectly parked vehicles. This is a very popular fishery and the car park is capable of holding 24 vehicles when correctly parked.
- 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. The grass has been seriously chewed up, and despite it being taped off during excessive rain, earlier in the year, members were driving around the tape. If you are caught doing this or your vehicle registration number is taken by a member of the school and reported to us, you may end up with your membership being suspended. Alternatively the track access may be disallowed all together. Please use common sense.
- Extensive path and bank work has been carried out with more to do, primarily reinstatement of the collapsed bank from T14-T19 on the Top Pond. The approach road will also be resurfaced as necessary. (see website for updates). **commencing week the 12th May**
- Boilies are not permitted as free offerings, member no. 53 take note.

Inn on the Lake.

- The maximum line size has been increased to 15lbs, and Juniors (with an adult) are permitted to fish 2 rods on all **three** waters at I.O.T. Lake.
- A combination lock has now been fitted to the main gate. The lock code is on the front of your membership card. Byelaw 18, page 13 applies.
- The fence between the main access gate and the Hotel has been cut open several times, to gain access and pass fishing gear through. Members found damaging any Hotel property will immediately suspended from the Society, pending investigation. They may also have action taken against them by the Hotel management.
- I am aware of the rat problem which is partially caused by the amount of partly empty bait tins, ground bait, pellet bags, sandwich wrappers, etc, being thrown into the undergrowth. I have half filled a black dustbin bag with these items from just the path area between the Front and Middle Lakes.
THE RATS LOVE THEM, TAKE YOUR LITTER HOME!
- Good news is that that this fishery is producing some excellent catches. (see website photos)

Blue Lake.

- Water level still high, but good size fish being caught. A meeting has been held with the Management to discuss the issues. Details as available later on.

Paddock Wood.

- As this is a working quarry we have no alternative but to issue keys for the fishery as outside of working hours the quarry is locked. Keys are obtainable to loan, free of charge, from:- Phil Townsend (Northfleet) on 07879 854030, Roy Stedman (Gravesend) on 0797 4030630, Mick Mount (Gravesend)

on 07974 776999, Derek Graves (Cliffe Woods) on 01634 221445 or Jeff Buxton (Herne Bay) on 07712 837996.

Due to the restriction on the number of keys available, any key is only issued for a maximum of 14 (fourteen days) however this time period can be extended by contacting the key holder you obtained the key from. **Overdue keys and lost keys will incur a charge of £30.00. A member locked in without a key will incur a call out charge relevant to mileage involved.**

- You can also fish this fishery without a key providing you do so during the quarry operating hours. hours but if you get locked in see above.
- Reference the River Medway, Thameside only have the fishing rights on the bank adjacent to the car park field. Members must not cross the river via the conveyer foot bridge. You can fish up and downstream from the conveyor belt/bridge.
- Good fish being taken from the Canal Lake (se website gallery page), but still more feedback from members that have fished it would be appreciated. Remember the River is closed for fishing until June 16th.
- The other two Lakes have been named and are now known as Heron for the larger Lake and Otters for the smaller one over the back.

Tight Lines to one and all from your Committee.

Fishy Facts?

1. Starfish are not fish. nor are jellyfish or jelly babies
2. Although the Fangtooth fish is only a few inches long, it has teeth about the size of a human's.
3. Catfish have over 27,000 taste buds, humans have around 7,000.
4. Most brands of lipstick contain fish scales.
5. Since a fish's jaw is not attached to its skull, many fishes can shoot their mouths forward like a spring to catch startled prey.
6. Sharks are the only fish that have eyelids.
7. Electric eels and electric rays have enough electricity to kill a horse (but only when it's swimming).
8. An estimated one third of male fish in British waters are changing sex due to pollution in human sewage (does this apply to humans as well?).
9. Saltwater fish need to drink more water than freshwater fish. Since seawater is saltier than the liquids in a fish's body, water inside the fish is constantly flowing out. If they didn't drink to replace the lost water, saltwater fish would dry up like prunes. (ha ha like some of our members Lol.)
10. The oldest fishhook ever found dates back to about 42,000 years ago. (still being used by Dave Shirley)
11. A ship has a heavy keel in the lower part to keep it from capsizing. Fish, on the other hand, have the keel on top. If the paired fins stop functioning to keep the fish balanced, the fish turns over because its heaviest part tends to sink, which happens when it dies (that's why you don't see one finned fish).
12. The fish in the middle of a school control the school. The fish on the outside are guided by those in the middle. Only bony fish can swim in highly co-ordinated groups. (rules out Rupert Garrett then. lol)
13. There are approximately 32,000 different kinds of fish in the world today, which is more than all the other kinds of vertebrates combined. Scientists are discovering new species all the time.
14. Lampreys and hagfish are the most primitive form of fish still living today.
15. The term "fish" is used when referring to one species of fish (e.g., 10 salmon are 10 fish). The term "fishes" is used when referring to more than one species (e.g., 10 salmon, 3 trout, and 1 angel fish are 14 fishes).