

THAMESIDE NEWSLETTER MAY 2015

DEAR MEMBERS,

SOME WORDS FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Welcome to you all, especially our new members.

This newsletter contains information already known to renewing members, but is repeated for the benefit of new members.

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 am pleased to announce the acquisition of a new stretch of the River Beult.

- This is at Stilebridge on the A229 Staplehurst Road, Sat Nav TN12 9BH, and is approximately 18 miles from the Inn on the Lake. It comprises of 900 metres on the left hand bank from the road bridge downstream. The Stilebridge Inn is on the corner of Stilebridge Lane and the A229.
- There is a gated car park in Stilebridge Lane which will have a combination lock fitted. The code will be the same as the one shown on your membership card for Inn on the Lake.
- Rules for this fishery are the same as on page 19 of your rule book. (A key is no longer required).
- The banks are in the main easily accessible, and not as our Chainhurst stretch!
- The first swim is about 15yds from the car park.
- This will be available from the 16th June 2015, although you can walk it beforehand as there is a public footpath along the whole stretch.
- The Committee would welcome feedback on your catches.

To all members, existing and new.

There have been some changes to the rule book since the reprint. Please note the following:-

- The **code** for any combination padlock where fitted is the **same for all fisheries**, and is shown on your membership card for Inn on the Lake. The words "Blue Lake and River Beult were unfortunately left off"
- **Page 18 Byelaw 5**; the £25 deposit for keys to the Blue Lake is no longer required as combination locks are now fitted to the road and bridge gates.
- **Page 17 Byelaw 1**; Night fishing on the Middle Lake is now permitted, but please do not allow lights to disturb Hotel residents.
- **Page 25 Byelaw 25** and **Page16 Bye-law 8**; Guest permits are no longer available, and instead a trial membership ticket can be obtained from the Membership Secretary. Each current member is entitled to 4 tickets per season at a cost of £10 per ticket. Should the trial membership be made up to a full membership, then **one only** of the £10 ticket charges will be deducted from the new membership fee. The trial membership is for a maximum of 24hrs per ticket.
- **Page 19 Bye-law 2**; key no longer required, as combination lock fitted. See first point above.
- **Map of Paddock Wood**; the Heron Lake is no longer available.
- **Page 19 Bye-law 2**; Keys also available from those listed below under **Paddock Wood**.

I wish you all fair weather and tight lines.

Dennis Hammond, Chairman.

Secretary (Mick Mount)

The Committee for the season 2015-2016 as elected at the 2015 AGM is as follows:-

Chairman	Dennis Hammond
Secretary	Michael "mick" Mount
Treasurer	Jeff Buxton
Membership Secretary	Jeff Buxton
Match Secretary	Derek Graves
Director General	Derek Graves
Dark Destroyer	Derek Graves
Website Administrator	Ian Collier
Head Bailiff	Dennis Hammond

Committee members:- Dave Shirley, Roy (I'll second that) Stedman, Philip Townsend, Jack Louth and Albert Murray. A warm welcome to Rupert (Choirboy) Garrett, who was co-opted on to the Committee at the March meeting. NB. See website for Committee "mug shots".

Treasurer (Jeff Buxton)

- Firstly I would like to apologise for not having a balance sheet ready at the last AGM. This was due to work related matters and my printer packing up on me that day.
- Secondly monies are coming in, monies are going out, the bills are getting paid and at the moment the Society is in the black so all's good. If you would like to pay by BACS or PAYPAL then please let me know your views.
- Thirdly if you have any comments and would like a copy of the balance sheet from the AGM then please email me.

Membership Secretary (Jeff Buxton)

- I would like to thank all members for bearing with me while I sorted out their memberships this year, new ones and renewals. Unfortunately as I am self employed I have to take the work where and when it occurs and unfortunately I had 3no. jobs all lasting 2 weeks, that all happened to be a long way from home which meant that I could only deal with memberships at the weekend., but I'm up to date now.
- Every year without fail I get the wrong amount of money sent to me for membership or a cheque bounces or it's the wrong sized S.A.E. This doesn't make the return of membership cards any quicker, so please make sure you send the right amount or email me beforehand.
- If you change your house address, your email address or your contact details or even when you become an OAP (this affects your membership fee) then can you please contact me, preferably by email. I get a lot of enquiries from members, wondering why they're not receiving anything by mail, or e-mail, and then when I ask them, I get the apology, "sorry forgot to tell you". For some members, I only have your mobile number, and if you subsequently give that phone to somebody else, that doesn't help either. So please keep me informed. 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.

Match Secretary (Derek Graves)

- What can I say but a brilliant start to the season. We are getting an excellent number of members attending the matches averaging 16+ per match and if you turn it round, 61+ is their average age LOL. The first match this year was the Trophy match which I won. Yippee. Then I went straight down hill on the pretence of giving others a chance.
- I would like to thank those new members that have joined our group Brian Mad wick, Dean Milson, Richard Davidson and Terry Williamson. Mind you might have to kick Terry out as he keeps winning. lol. If you speak to any of these members they will tell you what a good time we have on the bank side, sitting there with the wind blowing in your face, rain lashing down on you, your brolly trying to turn itself inside out, bits of tackle blowing around the ground behind you, maggots climbing everywhere. yup, sure is a fantastic experience isn't it Mick Mount? If you would like to take part in this group bonding experience then text or email me for details.
- Last year Andy Stuart won, as a Prize, a book entitled "Fishing for Dummies". That year his fishing improved no end and he moved up the championship league to be in the top 10. He then had the idea of presenting it to a worthy recipient this year who was Jim Beaconsfield. Jim has been a staunch supporter of the matches and was a worthy winner of this book. Unfortunately for Andy it looks like his fishing powers were in the book as Jims fishing has now got better and Andy's fishing has got worse. Based upon this Ian Collier has asked if he can have the book for next year. ROFL.
- Later this year 5th July, there is a match at Claygate on Sophie's lake. Two angling giants will be battling it out on the bankside for supremacy of the lake. This match will be in the same league as the recent Mayweather v Pacquiao contest. The two anglers in question are Derek "the Dark Destroyer " Graves and Dean "The Cruisin' Carper" Warner. Bring it on Deano. Ha Ha Ha Ha. If you want to attend this epic event then please book in the normal way.

Website Administrator (Ian Collier)

- First of all I would like to thank the membership for re-electing me as the TWAPS Web Site Administrator at this year's AGM and for their on-going support. (The fact that you were the only one standing made it easier - Editor)
- For those who don't know, the address of the TWAPS website is <http://twaps.co.uk>
- The website is full of official TWAPS information and 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 and other events, it is highly likely that an answer to your question will be found there. The site is under continuous review and updated frequently. Please visit the site from time to time to see what's new.
- One of the uses of the website is to quickly notify the membership of any important news such as swim repairs or work parties. Therefore please check the site fairly regularly for updates.
- Don't forget to submit pictures of your catches, preferably of you with your specimen, (and I don't mean the one for your GP) including a very short description, (its was yellow and in a bottle m'lud) for inclusion in the gallery. We like to include other images of any Society

related, amusing, scenic or other relevant pictures or videos. You can use the Photo Submission Form or use the contact page to enquire about sending or linking videos. Please remember, I don't always get it right, (finally an admission - editor) so if you see any mistakes or omissions, please let me know.

- There is a very active TWAPS closed Facebook group, administrated by Derek Graves and myself. The group is very friendly and is used for members to exchange tips, ideas, buy and sell stuff and generally communicate with each other. There is quite a bit of light hearted non-offensive banter between the members, which can be very amusing at times. If you are a Facebook user and would like to join the group, simply log into Facebook and search for TWAPS.
- Every now and again Derek Graves (or Director General as he's been calling himself recently) comes up with a photo for the caption competition. The winner of the best caption will win a £25.00 postal order. Check out the Photo on the website in the galleries section, once you have thought of a caption, preferably something witty or amusing, please reply by email to twapsfishing@hotmail.co.uk. or text Derek on 07771528633

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

- It is to be expected that with a changing membership each year, situations arise which lead to 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.
- **Page 14 Bye-law 28 applies.** This is still happening particularly at Inn on the Lake. A non-fishing permit is available, contact the Membership Secretary for details.
- This season there are six new bailiffs added to the current team, go to the website for their photos. 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.
- Work parties will continue to be held at the various fisheries as required. Due notice will be given.
- Bailiffs have had to ask members to keep the paths clear of fishing tackle/trolleys on numerous occasions. Can you please ensure that clear access is maintained around the lakes.
- We allow juniors to be accompanied by adult members to our lakes. In return we expect the adult member to control the junior/s with how and where they fish. It is expected that the junior member will fish from an adjacent swim to the adult member, with the correct fishing tackle i.e. landing net etc. It's not safe, and can potentially annoy other members. Please don't let this matter escalate as we wouldn't want juniors to be restricted on how they fish and where.

[Shorne Country Park.](#)

- Good catches of silver fish and Crucians are improving all the time, particularly Tench from 4"to12" and Crucians to 2lb 8oz. The good news is that the larger Carp are starting to be caught again and are in good condition. Hopefully this is as a result of the thinning out of the small underweight carp which it was grossly over stocked with.

- The weekend and bank holiday car park cost has been increased to £3, weekday charge remains at £2. Unfortunately we cannot do anything about this charge even though we have tried on many occasions.

Cobham Hall.

- In the last newsletter you were asked to park **between** the **yellow markers**, yet incorrect parking still takes place. In this news letter **yet again**, you are also being asked to park between the markers squarely and **not** at an angle. It's very frustrating when members say "what markers" and then when its pointed out the standard reply is "didn't see them". We can't make them too big because they are supposed to blend in with the country side and we don't want the car park to look like a Supermarket car park. These marks are on posts on one side of the car park and the fence rail on the other side. 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. Please use your common sense.
- 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.
- Areas between swims T14 to T19 were planted and seeded last year when the bank restoration was done, so please do not walk on or lay fishing gear on marked areas. Further planting and seeding is to take place between the rest of the swims on all three ponds, and the same request applies to these newly to be seeded/planted areas.
- **Cormorants** - unfortunately these "lovely" birds have been nesting/roosting over on the IOTL main lake for over a year now and we believe they have been responsible for the fish loss on the middle lake at Cobham. We have consulted with various Experts in dealing with these birds and will be putting measures in place later this year to prevent any further loss of fish stocks prior to restocking the lakes. Some of the measures will be colourful but needs must if we are to preserve our fish.
- **The area between T1 and T19 is strictly out of bounds to all members for any reason. Only Bailiffs are allowed to walk between these two swims. If any member is caught on this section of bank for any reason they will be instantly suspended pending disciplinary action by the Committee.**

- **Results of Cobham Top & Bottom Pond survey by Hadlow College, Friday 27th March 2015.**

Top Pond

Carp 192lb, Crucian Carp 24lb, Perch 22lb, Roach 325lb. Total = 583lb.

Bottom Pond

Carp 250lb, Roach 202lb, Tench 1 only about 1lb 8oz. Total = 453lb 8oz.

Total weight netted and electro fished = 1036lb 8oz.

Unfortunately many more fish lost due to net snagging on sunken logs, which were removed, in Top Pond.

Talking to several Committee members and Bailiffs, it was accepted that at the present time the two Ponds are predominately two species fisheries, namely Carp and Roach, although a small number of good Perch and Crucian were netted.

A suggested solution is to thin out the roach population and introduce species such as Rudd, Perch, Bream and Ide. Size and quantity needs to be carefully considered. The question is “do Thameside stock a large quantity of small fish or a small quantity of larger fish?” A large quantity of small fish can sustain an initial loss due to predation or natural causes, but would not necessarily be of a hookable size for the first year. A smaller number of larger fish could result in immediate catches, but would mean any loss reduces the initial sport available.

Thameside would receive a much greater number of small fish than the larger alternative for the same cost.

The prices below are a **sample only** of the prices, plus VAT and delivery, currently being shown by fish suppliers;

Bream (4"-6")	per 100,	£110 .
Bream (8"-10")	per 100,	£460
Bream (10" +)		£9.95 per lb.
Rudd (4"-6")	per 100,	£65
Rudd (8"-10")	per 100,	£350
Tench (4"-6")	per 100,	£230
Tench (8"-10")	per 100,	£580
Tench (10" +)		£13.95 per lb.

It is obvious that to do nothing is out of the question and expert advice will be required to make the right decision. Thameside must accept that, despite using an accredited supplier with health certification, there is always a risk when introducing new stock into an existing fishery.

[Inn on the Lake.](#)

- A car parking permit is now required and is available, free of charge, by taking your registration number and membership card to the Hotel reception where it will be issued. You only need to register your vehicle once, as the permit is valid until you are no longer a Thameside member. The permit must be displayed clearly any time you visit the Fishery, whether fishing or just looking round. A non-refundable penalty notice will be issued by the company controlling the parking, for not displaying a valid permit.
- Good news is that this fishery is producing some excellent catches. (see website photos). Members have the use of the Hotel facilities, e.g. toilets, bar, etc. Please show membership card if required.
- **LITTER! LITTER! LITTER!** Members are still leaving litter on the banks, with several verbal warnings having been issued as well as one written warning to a member. Dean Warner (the carp cruiser) and Keanu Reeves lookalike Todd Miller spent a Sunday at IOTL picking up litter on behalf of the club. So you can imagine how disheartening it is to go back later and find it left there again. Litter is offensive take it home! See notice posted on the notice board inside the main gate.

- Bait boats are not permitted at this lake. Anyone caught or reported to be using one will be immediately suspended from the club pending an investigation.
- Rats/ large wood mice - have decided to make IOTL there home. Now some members don't mind them but then some do, so the Committee are employing the services of a rat catcher P.I.E.D. Piper and Sons from Hamelin, Kent to thin out there numbers. So don't be alarmed if you see someone skipping around IOTL in green tights playing a flute, its only Dean Warner. Lol

Blue Lake.

- Combination padlock locks have been put onto both main entrance gates in place of the old key type padlocks. **This code is shown on your membership card.** Please note however 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 perception from members that this is a Syndicate water. This is not the case. It is open to all members of the club. Yes it is a large water, yes it is deep, yes it can be hard to fish, yes there are limited swims due to rise and fall of water levels but if you persevere then the rewards are great. There are large carp and Perch in here along with huge shoals of Bream, so don't be scared give it a try, who knows what you might catch.

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) **07879 854030**, Roy Stedman (Gravesend) **0797 4030630**, Mick Mount (Gravesend) **07974 776999**, Derek Graves (Cliffe Woods) **01634 221445** and Jeff Buxton (Herne Bay) **07712 837996**.
Due to the restriction on the number of keys available, a key is generally only issued for a maximum of 14 (fourteen days). However should other keys be available, this time period can be extended by contacting the key holder you obtained the key from. **However unauthorised, overdue or 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 fish this fishery without a key, providing you do so during the quarry operating hours.
But if you get locked in see above!
- **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 catches of Bream, Roach and Perch, have been reported.
- Good fish are being taken from the Canal Lake (see website gallery page), but still more feedback from members that have fished it would be appreciated. The Heron Lake is no longer available to us, but it is anticipated that the overgrown Lake adjacent to the Canal Lake will be cleared out in the future and made available to us. Due to the loss of the Heron Lake a substantial rent discount has been agreed for season 2015/16.

River Beult

- A new combination padlock lock has been put onto the entrance gate. The combination code is the same as for the Blue Lake and Inn on the Lake. This code is shown on your membership card.
- The existing key type padlock has been removed.

Well you finally got here, the end of the news letter. I hope it's been informative, enlightening and amusing, and should you have any questions please let us know through the usual channels.

Tight Lines to one and all from your Committee.

Fishy Fun

Why are gold fish orange?...The water makes them rusty
What day of the week do fish hate?...Frydays
What do you call a dangerous fish who drinks too much?...A beer-a-cuda
What kind of fish will help you hear better?...A herring aid
What do romantic fish sing to each other?...Salmon-chanted evening
What fish do road-menders use?...Pneumatic krill
What do frogs do with paper?...Rip-it, Rip-it.
Which sea creatures come calling at Christmas?...Coral singers
Where do fish put their rubbish?...In a Whaleie bin
What is a mermaid?...A deep-she fish.
Where do you weigh whales?...At a whale weigh station
What is a dolphin's favorite TV show?...Whale of fortune
How do I avoid infection from biting insects?...That's easy – don't bite them

A guy starts a new job at the zoo and is given 3 tasks. The first task is to clear the exotic fish pool of weeds. As he does this a huge fish jumps out and bites him. To show him whose boss he beats it to death with a spade. Realising his employer won't be too pleased he disposes of the fish by feeding it to the lions as they'll eat anything.

Moving onto his second task of cleaning out the chimp house, he is attacked by the chimps that pelt him with coconuts. He swipes at the chimps with the spade killing two of them. Not wanting to be caught by his boss again he feeds the chimps to the lions as they'll eat anything.

He moves onto his last task which is to collect honey from the South American Bees. As soon as he starts to collect the honey he is attacked by the bees, so he grabs the spade again and smashes them to a pulp. By now he knows what to do and throws them to the lions as they'll eat anything.

Later that day a new lion arrives at the zoo. He wanders up to another lion and asks "what the food like here?", The lion says "absolutely brilliant, today we had Fish and Chimps with Mushy Bees"

