

THAMESIDE NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2015

DEAR MEMBERS,

SOME WORDS FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Hello and a warm welcome to you all.

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.

Good news.

I am pleased to announce a new fishery, The Campanile Lake at Crossways, which has been offered to and accepted by Thameside. This will be available to you from the **1st January 2016**.

Please do not attempt to fish it until then, as work is currently underway to clear reeds and repair swims.

Note;

- Parking is in the Hotel car park in the marked bays only. The Hotel facilities are available to you, but no dirty footwear.
- Night fishing is allowed, except on the Hotel bank of the Lake, and you may be asked, when fishing the other banks to close down bivvies during daylight hours,
- Bailiffing will be done by Crossway's Wardens as well as Thameside,
- It is anticipated that this fishery will be developed as a mixed species venue with more details later. There are rumours that there are still large carp and catfish left in the Lake by the previous tenant, but this has to be verified. A survey is to be done before any stocking takes place.
- Please report any catches to the Bailiffs or Committee members in order for a stocking policy to put in place. Your feedback is important.
- Access from the car park is only by the foot path, do not use the grassed areas.
- Address is, 1 Clipper Boulevard West, Crossways Business Park, Dartford, DA2 6QN.
- There is a KHV restriction order in place at the moment, so please take necessary precautions. E.g. drying nets, tackle, etc.

Secretary (Mick Mount)

At last I've got something to tell you, not a lot, but something non-the least. On the 29th January 2016 we will be having our AGM at the Gravesend Rugby Club. Please make a note of it but we will be reminding you again nearer the time anyway. We have learnt a few things based upon feedback from members who attended last year, one of those being, to ask Barry Sims to leave the heating on in the hall this time. Agenda details for the AGM to follow later along with all other information regarding directions and booking in etc.

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:

1. 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**.
2. You can nominate any Society member for **any** of the Committee positions.
3. 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 secunder, don't worry just contact me Derek Graves by text on 07771528633 and I'll do what I can to help.
4. If you are going to nominate anyone please make sure that they are willing to stand for nomination.
5. Closing date for nominations is **21.00 hrs on Friday 8th January 2016**, and can either be sent by e-mail to, djhangling@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](#)

Fellow members if you would like to become Treasurer for the following year then please nominate yourself or someone else as I'm only filling this position because no other bugger wanted to. At the present I am sitting on a load of cash. Kerchinggg! I have spent some coin throughout the year, not a lot of the folding stuff or coinage as most of the moolah went electronically. Some wonga did find its way into Dennis's hand in the form of large greenbacks and the odd score went to Philly-no-mates. Skin Divers have also been included in the expenses along with some Ayrton Sennas. I've also paid out a several buckets of sand in fishery rent. So if you want to feel some wedge or cock and hen and have got any idea what I'm talking about because I don't then please apply for the position.

[Membership Secretary \(Jeff Buxton\)](#)

- The renewal date for membership is by the 1st April 2016, **not at the AGM, or before the AGM, or during the AGM** on the 29th January 2016. 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 their 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 \(Derek Graves\)](#)

At the start of the season the matches were well supported then for some reason during the barbecue months numbers tailed off with some matches being cancelled due to poor or low attendance. Because of this I became concerned, yes I really did and felt that I would have to call an extraordinary match meeting to find out what was happening and the way forward. This was well attended by more non-matchmen than those that would normally fish the matches but some good feedback was given in able to move the matches forwards.

Now that was the good news. Here's the bad news. For every up there's a down, for every ying, there's a yang, and my yang is that I am stepping down as Match Secretary after 10 years but there is nobody to step into my shoes and fill the position. To that end I have to inform everyone that at this present moment in time there will be no match calendar which means no matches at all for next year **including** the fur and feather.

There is one more match to go before the end of the year and that is the eagerly awaited **Fur and Feather** on **Sunday, 13th** December. There will be limited places for this match 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)

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

We have a new web site! The site is now mobile friendly and therefore works better on whatever device you use to access the Internet including smart phones and iPhones, tablets and iPads, as well as your standard laptop and PC.

For those who don't know or have been living in a cave, the address of the TWAPS website is either <http://twaps.uk> or <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 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, preferably of you with your specimen, 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 also 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.

Talking of photos, I am looking for really good quality fish that have been caught on Society waters, together with the angler concerned, for the front page slide show. If you have any and would like to be featured, please use the photo submission form on the website, on the Photo Galleries page, under

the Club Info section. We have lots of carp pictures, **so any catches other than carp will be especially welcome.**

There is a very active and friendly TWAPS Facebook group, managed by Derek Graves and myself and is used for members to exchange tips, ideas, buy and sell stuff and generally communicate with each other. There is 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 to find this group.

If you have any suggestions you would like to see on the web site then please contact me via the website contact page.

Head Bailiff (Dennis Hammond)

- **IT STILL HAPPENS!** As mentioned in past newsletters, with the exception of Shorne Wood Country Park, members are not allowed to take, **or send**, friends, work colleagues, wives, civil partners to view the lakes on **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. The usual comment of, “you know me I have been a member for years” is no excuse. Apart from the fact that there is a large notice at the gates saying private, members only, do not enter, trespassers will be shot etc.
- On the front of your membership card are several contact phone no's and even inside are two more for Committee Members. 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 my 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.
- Cormorants. I have taken advice on how to deal with these birds and two mannequins have been placed around the middle pond at Cobham. Further plans include stringing across their flight path. Please immediately report any sightings of Cormorants to me on 07957 870245 or Assistant Head Bailiff, Dave Shirley on 07766 830482, or any other Committee member as these birds can eat their own weight in fish every day!

Shorne Country Park.

- A huge amount of weed removal, path clearing and swim repairs has been carried out since the last newsletter. Due to Council cut backs the Park have very little funds so Thameside again funded the work.
- Regarding the fishing at Shorne there have been a lot more catches of Tench and Crucians this year which is obviously a good thing and it shows that thinning out the large head of carp we had in there was the right thing to do. Progress will still be monitored but catch reports are still welcome from anyone fishing at Shorne.

Cobham Hall.

- The Middle Pond is fishing well with a lot more members fishing it now.
- The fish are continuing to put on weight and will continue to do so the more people that fish it and put feed in and YES, Barbel and chub are being caught.

- We have also been asked by the Estate Manager for Cobham not to drive on the path opposite the Gate House. **This is a DRY WEATHER ACCESS ONLY. Please use your common sense.** The grass has been seriously chewed up and despite it being recently taped off members are still driving around the tape. If you are caught doing this or your vehicle registration number is taken by a member of the estate staff and reported to us, you may end up with your membership being suspended. Alternatively the track access may be disallowed all together.
- New metal gates have been fitted to replace the worn out wooden ones, and must be kept bolted shut after use at all times. Cattle got into the fishery due to the irresponsible action of a member leaving the main car park gate open and the inner gate open as well! My sincere thanks to the members who got the cattle out before any damage was done to the fishery and vehicles. New notices are in place re bolting gates after use, please read them!

Inn on the Lake.

- Good catches reported including Pike up to 18lb so far. A junior caught a 7lb-8oz Bream from the "stock pond". Well done.

Blue Lake.

- Please note that the code for the locks have been changed at the request of Tarmac/Lafarge due to third party abuse (not members). Contact myself or Phil Townsend for new code.

Paddock Wood.

- The Medway. Thameside only have the fishing right on the bank adjacent to the car park field. Members must not cross the river via the conveyer foot bridge.
- Feed back is poor as to how both the Lakes and River are fishing.

Tight Lines one and all from your Committee.

JUST FOR FUN

Rupert whilst waiting to be served at Codfathers fish 'n' chip shop marvelled at the owner's quick wit and intelligence.

"Tell me, Derek, what makes you so smart?"

"I wouldn't share my secret with just anyone, "Derek replies, lowering his voice so the other shoppers won't hear." But since you're a good and faithful customer, I'll let you in on it. Fish heads. You eat enough of them, you'll be positively brilliant."

"You sell them here?" Rupert asks.

"Only £2 a piece", says Derek.

So Rupert buys three. A week later, he's back in the store complaining that the fish heads were disgusting and he isn't any smarter.

"You didn't eat enough, "says Derek. So Rupert goes home with 20 more fish heads. Two weeks later, he's back and this time he's really angry.

"Hey, Derek, "he complains, "you're selling me fish heads for £2 a piece when I can buy the whole fish for £1. you're ripping me off!"

"You see?' says Derek, 'you're smarter already."

FUR AND FEATHER COMPETITION

**Monk Lake 4,
Staplehurst Rd, Marden, Kent. TN12 9BS**

SUNDAY 13TH 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, either ring Derek Graves on : **01634 221445 (answer phone), text only 07771528633 (please do not ring), or email twapsfishing@hotmail.co.uk**. with your name and membership number **no later than 2100 hrs on 30th November 2014.**

You must book your place in order that sufficient notice can be given to the P.H. 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**
- 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.)

A change of Venue was decided upon because of the feedback given upon the quality of the meal at the Stilebridge PH last year. Lashings is on the route home and can also accommodate 30 plus people. If for any reason you wish to fish the match but not go to Lashings afterwards then please let me know.

JUST FOR FUN

Top 20 Reasons WHY FISHING IS BETTER THAN SEX.

- 20 - No matter how much drink you've had, you can still Fish.
- 19 - A limp rod is still useful while Fishing.
- 18 - You don't have to hide your Fishing magazines.
- 17 - It is perfectly acceptable to pay a professional to Fish with you once in a while.
- 16 - The Ten Commandments don't say anything against Fishing.
- 15 - If your partner takes pictures or videotapes of you Fishing, you don't have to worry about them showing up on the Internet if you become famous.
- 14 - Your Fishing partner doesn't get upset about people you Fished with long ago.
- 13 - It's perfectly respectable to Fish with a total stranger.
- 12 - When you see a really good Fishing person, you don't have to feel guilty about imagining the two of you Fishing together.
- 11 - If your regular Fishing partner isn't available, he/she won't object if you Fish with someone else.
- 10 - Nobody will ever tell you that you will go blind if you Fish by yourself.
- 9 - When dealing with a Fishing pro, you never have to wonder if they are really an undercover cop.
- 8 - You don't have to go to a sleazy shop in a seedy neighbourhood to buy Fishing stuff.
- 7 - You can have a Fishing calendar on your wall at the office, tell Fishing jokes, and invite co-workers to Fish with you without getting sued for harassment.
- 6 - There are no Fishing-transmitted diseases.
- 5 - If you want to watch Fishing on television, you don't have to subscribe to the Playboy channel.
- 4 - Nobody expects you to Fish with the same partner for the rest of your life.
- 3 - Nobody expects you to give up Fishing if your partner loses interest in it.
- 2 - You don't have to be a newlywed to plan a vacation primarily to enjoy your favourite activity.
- 1 - Your Fishing partner will never say, "Not again? We just Fished last week! Is Fishing all you ever think about?"