

THAMESIDE NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2019

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.

Several new notice boards have been installed, and I would urge you to take the time to look at them when visiting the Fisheries, as they include up to date information, e.g. Fishery closures, work parties, restricted access, etc...

It is disheartening to see the comments posted on Facebook, continually criticising the Committee and the work it does in running the Society. Constructive criticism is of course welcome, but the amount of "misinformation" posted is at times alarming, and just promotes the need to spend an inordinate amount of time in correcting such comments.

The website should contain all the basic information you need, however if you cannot find or need clarification on anything, please use the contact page and someone will respond ASAP.

Dennis Hammond, Chairman.

COMMITTEE NOMINATIONS FOR NEXT SEASON

- Our next AGM will be on Friday 7th February 2020, at the Inn on the Lake. Agenda details to follow later.
- This year several of the Committee will be up for re-election, as their 3-year term of office expires at the 2020 AGM.
- You can nominate any Society member for any of the Committee positions available.
- All nominations must have a Proposer and Seconder, and include a maximum 100-word reason why you wish to become a Committee Member and what you can offer the Society. You should also be prepared to stand on sub-committees as the need arises and participate in extra-curricular activities outside of the normal Committee Meetings. I.e. attending seminars and reporting back to Committee. You **must** also have access to email and mobile phone. Being a Committee member is not just about turning up for a chat and a cup of coffee once a month.
- Ensure that anyone you nominate is prepared to stand.
- Nomination forms available by request from the Society Secretary Mick Mount (address as below), together with a job description. Please enclose a Stamped addressed envelope.
- Closing date for nominations is Tuesday 31st December 2019, and can either be sent by e-mail to, djhangling@blueyonder.co.uk or by post to,

M. Mount, 4 Northridge Road, Gravesend, Kent. DA12 5AY.

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY (Derek Graves)

Greetings everyone. This year has been a very steep learning curve in the role of Membership Secretary having been dropped in at the deep end. There have been a few teething problems which have hopefully been sorted out. Next year should run a lot smoother now I know what I'm doing. Lol.

The renewals at the Inn on the lake earlier this year proved popular so it is intended to do the same again next year. Dates to be announced nearer the time. If you post your renewal to me then DO NOT put it in a signed for letter. If I'm not in obviously I can't sign for it and therefore it gets taken back to the sorting office where it sits gathering dust and growing old. I do not go and collect them. Therefore you do not get your membership.

Also, as some of you have found out I don't mind membership being posted through my letterbox if its more convenient, but please remember that even if I'm in doors, doesn't mean I'm available for a chat as technically "I'm at work" as I work from home. I'm not retired, as much as I would like to be.

There will be a new look membership card for next year as well, simplifying the old one regarding information required. Renewal procedure will still be the same format as in previous years. The code for the padlocks will still be on the card as normal.

On taking over the role there appeared to be some minor in discrepancies regarding types of membership, issuing of non-fishing permits, guest tickets etc. These have been discussed by the committee and what should be a more simplified membership procedure put into place for next year. Juniors now range from 5 to 11 inclusive, Intermediates from 12 to 17 inclusive, Adults from 18 upwards. This will also aid Bailiffs on the bank checking membership ID. All details will be on the website.

Unfortunately, due to the uncertainty of Brexit and not knowing what's going to happen, next year will see a rise in membership fees across all forms of membership and permits. I've been informed that the rents for the lakes are going up next year and also there was the matter this year regarding the parking rights at Campanile which has also involved a substantial fee to be paid each year to allow members to park in the Hotels car park.

I have also spoken to Ian Collier about the website Membership page which should be taking on a new streamlined look. Obviously, this

won't really be of interest to existing members, more for the benefit of new members wishing to join but hopefully will clarify membership application.

WEBSITE GURU (Ian Collier)

For those who don't know, the TWAPS website address is either <http://twaps.uk> or <http://twaps.co.uk>

The website is full of official TWAPS information and updated regularly. This is the first place to go to if you have any TWAPS related questions. If you haven't done so recently, why not take a look?

The Society Rules and Bye-Laws are available on the website and if you have a smartphone, or internet enabled device, with you whilst you are fishing, you do not need to have a copy of the Society's Rules and Bye-Laws with you, but you must be able to access the Rules and Bye-Laws from the TWAPS website 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 free of charge.

Note that you must have with you your ID card and Membership Card with you at all times whilst fishing or visiting any TWAPS water.

Also note that the Rules and Bye-Laws may be updated from time to time, and any revisions will be published on the website.

Don't forget you can submit pictures of your catches, any Society related amusing or scenic or other relevant pictures and videos too. Details of how to do this are on the website.

There are a number of unclaimed Society records. Any member claim any record if that member can verify that their catch is bigger than the current record, if any, for that species for that water. All species count from all TWAPS waters. Further details, and how to claim a record, can be found in the "Galleries" → "Society Records" section of the website.

Keep an eye out for the occasional competition (which may or may not involve prizes), announcements or survey form, all of which appear on the website from time to time.

If you see any mistakes or omissions on the TWAPS website, please let me know, via the website contact page.

TWAPS has an active closed Facebook group, currently managed by Derek Graves (Membership Secretary), Billy Hargreaves (Match Secretary) and myself.

The group is very friendly and is used for members to exchange tips, ideas, buy and sell stuff, foster healthy debate and generally communicate with each other. There is also quite a bit of light hearted non-offensive, often amusing, banter between members, making it a good social group to belong to. 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. Click the "Join" button to request to join the group. Note you must be a current TWAPS member to be accepted as a member of the TWAPS Facebook group and you will be asked for your current membership number.

TWAPS also likes to keep members informed or ask for help or information on various TWAPS related topics. We do this by sending out email reminders and you have probably received some already. These announcements tend to be posted in the Facebook group and on the website too.

If you have any suggestions you would like to see on the website then please contact me via the website contact page, Facebook group, or have a chat with me on the bank.

HEAD BAILIFF (Dennis Hammond)

- **IT STILL HAPPENS!** As mentioned in past newsletters, with the exception of Shorne Wood Country Park and Campanile, members are not allowed to take, **or send**, friends, work colleagues, wives, civil partners, etc, 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 nos' 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. Please immediately report any sightings of Cormorants to me on 07957 870245 or Assistant Head Bailiff, Dave Shirley on 07766 830482, as these birds can eat their own weight in fish every day!
- **Note the change to rule9! Which now reads, “alcohol in any form and any other illegal substances”.** One member had been suspended and others warned so far.
- If you have any queries regarding any aspects of the Society then please email the Committee rather than post on facebook. At least that way you will get the correct answer not an assumed one. If you want to know whos fishing at IOTL that’s fine, if you want to know about fish stocks then please email.

Cobham Hall.

- Bottom Pond; the good news is that the various “stumbling blocks” e.g. planning consent, silt disposal, etc, have now been resolved. Thanks to Derek Graves for his efforts over the possible planning issues.
- However due to the time in receiving various permissions, work will not now start until early 2020. (WEATHER PERMITTING!).
- Due to a massive algae bloom during early November, resulting in the loss of several carp from the Top Pond and a change in the water colour, the Environment Agency (EA) took water readings which showed a dangerously low Dissolved Oxygen (DO) level and an extremely high Ammonia level. The advice was to aerate the water, and so our three aerators were put into the Top Pond early Monday morning, 18TH November, and will be run for three days continuously. The EA will take further readings until they reach a satisfactory level.
- Most of the damaged swims have been replaced and so far, have met with member’s approval.
- Despite the early fish kill, the Middle Pond is producing some reasonable catches of Tench and Ide, although few Bream are being caught. The intention is to have both the Middle and Top Ponds surveyed during 2020 to assess the fish stocks, with the view to adjusting the level of stock as required.
- A new notice board has been installed opposite the small fishery entrance gate.

Inn on the Lake.

- The extension to the “reed swim” has been completed, and a new notice board installed by the main fishery entrance. Thanks to Phil Townsend for making this.
- The issue of the fallen Oak tree along from the Jetty swim will be dealt with early next year.

Blue Lake.

- There has been a lot of correspondence over the start date for the “chalk fall rectification” but no confirmed date has been received.

Various studies are being carried out by the Landowners, e.g. water quality, wildlife, etc, but the reasons for them are as yet unknown.

- The point and pipe swims have now been opened, but unfortunately excessive rain since the access was improved, means the point swim is again difficult to access.

Tight Lines one and all from your Committee.

FUR AND FEATHER COMPETITION

LONG LAKE, DARENTH FISHING COMPLEX

SATURDAY 14TH DECEMBER

Draw 8.30

Fish 9.15 a.m. until 12.15 p.m.

Fishing is limited to 30 places, So please, either **ring/text Billy Hargreaves on 07423 196402** with your name and membership number, **no later than Thursday 5th December 9pm.** Should you however say you wish to fish the match and then don't turn up you may be liable for the cost of the Christmas dinner and charged accordingly.

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

Please note that, as the match is open to any member, if it is over-subscribed, a draw will have to take place to fairly allocate the number of places available. The draw, should it happen, will take place immediately after the closing date, and the successful entries will be notified.

Main points for you to note:

- 1. Free Parking** at the lakeside.
- 2. Free Fishing** - the Society will be picking up the tab for Day tickets
- 3. After match function** will be at the Questor Café.
- 4. Free Food** - Traditional Xmas Dinner. You do have to buy your own drinks at the bar.
- 5. Lots of Prizes, Raffle, Banter, Ribaldry and Raucous Behaviour.**

Directions to Lake and Pub

VENUE; Darenth Fishing Complex, Darenth Hill, Darent, Kent. DA2 7QY.

**MEAL VENUE; Questor Café, Questor Industrial Estate, Dartford,
Kent. DA1 1JS**