



NEWSLETTER

2020

Chairmans Report. ~ Chris Yarham

Hi everyone, what a testing year, but every member got to go fishing and exercise within guidelines, thanks to the committee, bailiffs, and supporters. The whole saga ongoing,



Plans for the future and present have happened with no person or family left out. The bigger picture throughout the year was restocking and maintenance which I must say went well.



On the whitewater absolute great effort opened swims and at that point do not forget the fly fishing for a little extra on the permit cost, have a go great experience for all.

We will endeavour to keep work parties ongoing where possible, they are always needed, and we do need members support even if it for an hour or two. A massive thankyou to The lily pad removal crews I cannot thank enough for the tool maker the muscle persons and the water crew, keep safe everyone.

All the best and tight lines,

Chris Yarham.

Secretaries Report. ~ Luke Cutting

This year has brought some challenges within the club, COVID-19 meant the gates had to shut for a while, but once we were given the green light to re-open we put in place a booking system so all of our members could return safety and enjoy their fishing.



August rolled around and with that a problem with an oxygen crash at Shawfields, in particular one Saturday morning we had oxygen readings of between 3.9% - 9.2% it was apparent that action needed to be taken straight away, unfortunately at the time the club did not own any substantial aerators, so I made a call to the Environment Agency and within a few hours they had loaned us a couple of generators and aerators and these helped massively. in the days after this I sourced some

new generators, aerators, water pump and an oxygen meter of our own, thankfully after installing all the equipment the levels began to steadily rise and we did not have any major fish losses, like other local lakes. The club now owns enough equipment that if in the future this happens again we are fully prepared. I would like to thank the bailiffs that reacted quickly to visual changes of the water, to everyone that gave up their time to re fill the generators while they were working overnight, and a thank you to Terry at Willow Park for lending us his oxygen meter.



In the background I managed to work with Surrey Heath County Council and get extension on our current lease of the River Blackwater, so we have gone from a yearly contract to now having a three yearly agreement, we are incredibly pleased to have secured this stretch for a longer period, if you have not already take yourself down there as it is producing some great fish!

Also I contacted the highways agency to discuss having more access over the Blackwater Valley road, and I am again pleased to say the conversations went well and we are now granted more access, this means we can arrange for a toilet to be placed at Shawfields which I am sure there will be many happy members to hear this.



Towards the end of the year we stocked the little lake again with 22 fish from VS fisheries ranging in size between 8lb-10lb, the fish were great looking, and we look forward to seeing them in a couple of year's time, thank you to everyone that help on the day and a big thank you to Karl for getting in the cold December water to ensure the fish arrived in the lake safety.



Lastly I would like to thank again the Committee, Bailiffs and all the members that have helped out in the past year with work parties and during the oxygen crash, it is great to see so many people pulling together for the benefit of the club.

Stay safe and well, I Look forward to seeing you all on the bank soon.

Luke Cutting

Membership secretary and treasurer. ~ Andy Nichols

Hi Everyone, well it has been a very tough year with many obstacles to overcome, I would first of all like to thank the committee and the Bailiffs for all their hard work over the last year, the majority of you will not know the commitment shown by members of the committee and some anglers, this includes staying over Shawfields and filling up generators every 2 hours, by doing this the fish were saved.



I would also like to thank all our members for sticking to the COVID-19 rules we could not have got through these tough times without you. And as a way of thanking you, we will be extending the current season to the 31st of May. We will also cover membership during this change so all members will get permits, so just to clarify the season is from the 1st of June and will run until the 31st of May, this will be ongoing.



As the treasurer it has also been an unusual year with the amount of money spent, you will be aware of the oxygen problems we suffered during the very dry summer at Shawfields, as a consequence, we have had to spend a sufficient amount of money on pumps, Aerators, oxygen testers and much more, having done this, we as a club are in a much better position than a year ago and are now self-sufficient and can call on the equipment when needed.



We have continued the stocking of the small lake and have added 22 more Carp between 8lbs and 10lbs, with trout to be stocked in the whitewater by the end of March.

Yours Faithfully

Andy Nichols.

Vice President. ~ Ken Joslin

Kept at home with Covid travel restrictions and no end in sight, I have concluded that it will be a long time before I can travel to my Farnborough and District Club waters, where I am Vice President, driving fifteen miles from my home not considered a reasonable distance to travel for exercise.

As a fly fisherman, I was first attracted to the Club to fish the tiny Hampshire chalk stream, that is the River Whitewater. Only seven miles in length, the club has the final 3 miles to where it joins the confluence of the River Blackwater, and is classed as a mixed fishery, with wild brown trout on fly fishing gear from 1st April until 30th September, with a crossover of methods with coarse fishing from the 16th of June, until 15th March.



When the first Lockdown ended in mid-May, I drove to the River Whitewater with my fly rod to take advantage of the annual Mayfly hatch and was fortunate to find a large over wintered brownie smacking into a hatch of green Mayfly. Being early in the season, the flies were hatching intermittently, and this trout was making the most of those on the surface. I waded up along the bank until I was within casting range, a gusting upstream wind making placing the fly difficult, but after several casts, the fly drifted onto the surface just above the trout's nose and it took. The 7 ft No 3WT rod bent double on the take and after a ten minute fight, the 22 inch trout was on the bank.



In early June I booked into fish Shawfield Fishery, the Club restricting numbers to 15 people a day due to the Covid regulations. Opting to fish the small lake with the pole and the bread punch, I fed a heavy mix of liquidised bread and ground carp pellets in balls 7 to 10 metres out, plus a couple more in close alongside a bed of lilies. Small rudd were a nuisance, but tench moved into the swim and I landed four between 3lb and 4lb 8oz, my 12 – 18 red elastic coping well with the hard fighting tench. This was the biggest of the afternoon.

During August, just as we were beginning to think that life was returning to normal, the Club carried out a much needed work party on the badly overgrown bottom stretch of the River Whitewater at Ford Lane, opening up several swims for coarse fishing. A few weeks later I travelled light with just a rod and a landing net to try one of the new swims, catching roach on the bread punch, until a pike took one of my fish, the pike finally snagging me in some roots. Trotting worms on the stick float brought a succession of perch, while a switch back to the punch put more roach and some chub in the net, before the pike returned to fish off the day.



The River Blackwater at Camberley club stretch has proved a perfect venue for bread punch roach on the stick float, but this Autumn after the second Lockdown, I found that the chub are growing on quickly, taking five hard fighting chub and some quality roach on the stick float with punched bread on the hook.

Now in 2021 the year ahead beyond the third Lockdown looks to be one of continuing restrictions, which I hope will be lifted enough to allow wider travel to some of my favourite fishing haunts.

Ken Joslin.



MEMBERS CATCH

REPORTS

2020



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