

# THE BULLETIN OF THE CIVIL SERVICE ANGLING SOCIETY

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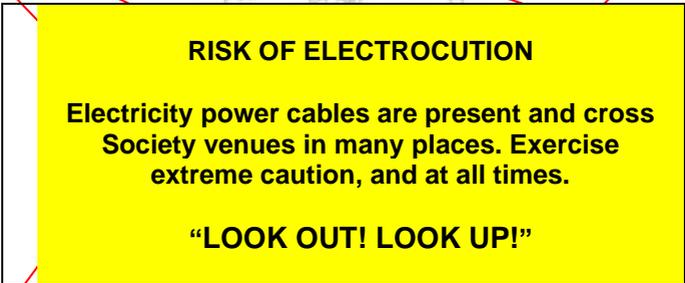
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## **RISK OF ELECTROCUTION**

**Electricity power cables are present and cross Society venues in many places. Exercise extreme caution, and at all times.**

**“LOOK OUT! LOOK UP!”**

**PLEASE OBSERVE THE  
'COUNTRY CODE'**

**CLOSE GATES BEHIND YOU, AND DON'T LEAVE  
ANY LITTER.**

## **EDITORIAL**

This issue is packed with news from the Angling Trust, CSAS News and general fishing topics. I've tried to keep it interesting and as such I've applied my editorial skills to select that which is most interesting and pertinent. However, I do have a leaning towards rivers, so if you are a still water or carp angler and want to write an article feel free. I'll happily make space for you! As is usual when writing the Editorial, I have a bottle of something to sustain me while I write, currently a bottle of Blandford Fly, and very nice it is too.

For me, the 2011 season turned out to be fairly uneventful. The pre-season found me planning an attack upon the perch and bream of Ellis, but it never happened. We all tend to do the same thing over and over again whilst fishing, well I do anyway, and I find myself remarking upon a season past which has had me – pretty much – doing the same things. During 2011 I got some good spring trout fly fishing in what can only be described as a bit of a jungle and several trout including a notable 3lb brownie on dry fly were the fruit of my labour. Other than that, I've been to Hambridge, and err, Hambridge oh, and the Fur and Feather match. This is ridiculous really, when there is so much water available. However, I did manage to beat my previous year's record of the number of sessions hands down – I got out to Hambridge 20 times over the course of the season, which is good going for me. But that is not going to be the case this year. I work in parks in central London and my Jubilee and Olympic year will be spent doing lots of extra work to ensure that the Olympic and Jubilee events go ahead, while at the same time ensuing business as usual for the parks. This will be a tough challenge which involves a considerable amount of extra work with little time for angling.

I just hope that we get some rain, so that there is some water in our fisheries when I do eventually get out fishing again. This season I intend to have a go at some big bream from Ellis, the lovely perch being caught from East Peckham and spend more time at Windsor, and Datchet two wonderful stretches of The Thames which really are wonderful fisheries that deserve more attention. I might see you on the banks in the autumn.

**Mike Turner**  
**Hon. Bulletin Editor**

## **A WORD FROM THE CHAIR**

First, I should like to remind you that the Society's AGM is on 24 May 2012 and you will find an agenda in the AGM section of this Bulletin. Please note that the new venue is the Civil Service Club, details of which you will also find in this Bulletin. As this is the Society's most important meeting of the year, it is important that we get a good attendance, and I look forward to seeing you there.

Second, you may be surprised to see an advertisement for CSSC Sports and Leisure in this issue. Associate members may not know that this is the Society's parent body and that it owns the fishing rights at Hambridge, Ellis Water and East Peckham, from which we are all entitled to benefit. CSSC is a not-for-profit organisation, membership of which was previously limited to serving and retired civil servants. Recently, it has widened its membership eligibility and is aiming to recruit from a wide range of public sector workers, including local government employees, the police, fire service, NHS staff, members of the armed forces and ex-service people. The advertisement gives contact details if you are interested in joining CSSC.

Third, every member will be concerned about the current drought situation and its possible adverse effect on our fisheries. While there is some guidance on the topic elsewhere in this Bulletin, I wish to take this opportunity to urge members who spot groups of fish clearly in distress on the water surface, or groups of dead or dying fish, immediately to report their concerns to the Environment Agency's 24 hour incident hotline on 0800 807060 and thereafter to let Tony Paul know [01932 563094, [tonythefish1@aol.com](mailto:tonythefish1@aol.com)] as soon as possible.

But, I hope that it does not come to this and that we can all enjoy good sport in the coming Season.

**Tight lines.**

**David Kennedy**

# Be prepared for a dry summer: protect fish and other wildlife

Extended periods of hot, dry weather can lead to ponds, lakes and rivers drying up.



A number of dead bream



A pond drying up



Green water typifying an algal bloom



Protecting fish using water aerators

Following these simple guidelines will help to avoid emergency situations.

## Good practice

- During hot weather avoid stocking fish, cutting weed or using aquatic herbicides.
- Manage numbers of anglers fishing and consider restricting the use of keepnets and groundbait.
- Know about your local water aeration and fish rescue contractors; have access to aeration equipment to help save fish in an emergency.
- For legal reasons ensure that valid fish removal and introduction consents are in place prior to any fish rescue, as well as a fish health certificate if required.
- Review the long-term management of lakes and ponds to help reduce the effects of hot and dry weather in the future.
- Contact your local Environment Agency office for further advice if needed.

## What to look for

- Long periods of hot, dry weather.
- Low water levels in rivers, lakes and ponds.
- Green coloured water (algal bloom).

## What is an emergency?

- Groups of fish clearly in distress 'gasping' at the water surface.
- Numbers of dead or dying fish.

## What you should do in an emergency

- Rivers, lakes and ponds – contact the Environment Agency in an emergency using the incident hotline number given below, and if possible alert the owner.
- Ornamental and garden ponds that are not fished – it is the owner's responsibility to resolve an emergency.

## Responsibility

- The Environment Agency has a duty to maintain, improve and develop fisheries. We provide advice to fishery owners, managers, angling clubs and the public.
- Fishery owners and managers are advised to plan ahead to protect their fisheries.

For advice call

08708 506 506

In an emergency call (24 hrs incident hotline)

0800 80 70 60



## SOCIETY NEWS

*[Sounds more like Vanity Fair than an Angling Bulletin! Ed.]*

### Venues for Meetings

Following CSSC Sports & Leisure Ltd's decision to close the Chadwick Street Recreation Centre, the GPC has met at the Civil Service Club during the year and the AGM will also be held at this venue. **Civil Service Club, 13-15, Great Scotland Yard, London SW1A 2HJ.**

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### PLEASE NOTE! Changes to Fixture List 2012/13

There was a misprint in the membership cards. Would members please amend their fixture list in the membership cards as follows;

July 1 Fass/Hurcomb - Datchet  
January 2nd Pratt - Kintbury  
February 3 Pratt - Hambridge.

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### Scrambled Padlocks – AGAIN!

This is third time I've mentioned padlocks in The Bulletin. Please, when entering or leaving a fishery via padlocked gates ensure that you have scrambled the combination on the padlock. Don't – as is apparent on many fisheries – just shift the last number. This is too easy to work out. It only takes a second – why is this so difficult?

### Dave Root

It is with regret that the Society announces the passing away of Dave Root, a longstanding member.

We have been informed by his daughter Christina Henry and the funeral will take place at Ruislip Crematorium, 11 April at 1400.

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### Session Anglers

There is no easy way of saying this, whichever way it is put it is rather distasteful.

Can anglers please ensure that when there is a need to use a toilet, as is necessary with the natural passage of time, that they do the decent thing, take a disposable toilet, or a spade with you in your session kit. Then, if you are caught short you can ensure that you will not put others at risk of encountering it. When burying it, please ensure that it is out of sight and well out of harm's way where it won't be discovered. I won't make a reference to motions being carried by the Committee, as this is a serious matter. Thank you.

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### Feeling Tired?

Whilst on the subject of session angling, this is a good opportunity

to point out the dangers of driving while tired. A number of the members drive a considerable distance to get to their chosen waters, and after staying up all night, sleeping lightly, or arriving before dawn many drive home having had little sleep. Whatever risks there are from being adjacent to water at night are statistically far less risky than driving tired.

Have a sleep after fishing and before you drive. Dropping off on the roads or motorway on the way home is dangerous to yourself and everyone else. At best you would have an accident that didn't injure anyone; at worst you may kill yourself and others. It would certainly put a shadow on that PB barbel you caught.

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## **Drought – It's Official**

As reported previously, the levels of the Kennet Thames and Lea catchments – and other regions - are dangerously low for fish survival. A winter drought is unusual, and this is further compounded by the [at the time of writing in March] continued low rainfall. The aquifers are not getting topped up and refreshed and the water table in Hampshire, Berkshire and Wiltshire which influence levels in the Thames and Kennet catchments, is as low,

as or lower than the drought of 1976.

The difference being that this is a winter low rather than a summer one, and with the prospect of a dry spring and summer, there is the potential for some rivers or at least parts of them to dry out completely.

This is obviously of grave concern. Reservoirs, rivers and chalk streams in the South of England in a perilous situation.

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## **STOP PRESS!**

The latest news is that there is now [April 6<sup>th</sup>] a hose pipe ban in place, which will help reduce the water being lost but will do nothing to improve the flows. We need sustained periods of rain.

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## **Shrine at Ellis**

You may recall that around a year ago, the drowning of Anthony Daniels, aged 38, of Egham in Ellis Water was reported in The Bulletin. The appearance of fresh flowers and other items at swim 8 has been noted.



Although this is evidence that relatives or friends are gaining access to the waterside, anglers are politely asked to respect this and leave it undisturbed. Be respectful to anyone you see tending the shrine, but please report how many people you see, and any other observations to the GPC.

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### **What a load of balls...**

A recurring problem of golf balls flying over from the Newbury Racecourse Golf Course is giving cause for concern. The problem has been reported several times over the years and damage has been caused to cars including that of the Environmental Health Officer from West Berkshire Council.

Clearly, this is a hazard that needs to be addressed, and David your Chair has been seeking to

resolve this with the golf course and has also sought advice from Fish Legal, who are preparing a carefully worded letter to the golf course in the hope of ensuring that some action is taken to prevent this problem occurring.

Although, this is currently being investigated, the GPC have requested that you report any incidences of flying golf balls, or golf balls on the ground in the car park area, and if possible get some evidence that we may be able to use.

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### **East Peckham – Illicit Motorcycles**

A recent sighting of motorcyclists riding round the Strettit Farm field behind the CSAS fishery was reported to the GPC. Although they were clearly a nuisance, the accusation was that an angler had permitted someone who was accompanying him to ride while they fished. Why anyone would imagine that an angler would do this is beyond me, but this has now proven to be false. During a recent visit by David Kennedy, your Chair and Secretary, he noted a white van which had motorcycles being unloaded from the back of it. The registration of this vehicle has been reported to the Police and the Estate owners and now has a crime reference.

If you are fishing at East Peckham and notice anyone unloading a van or illicit scrambling around the field, you are requested to call Kent Police. They have allocated crime reference No.21-0412.

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## **Datchet Incident**

Would all members using the lane to the car park please observe a strict 5mph speed limit. A pet dog from the cottages has recently been run over, and apart from the danger to animals there are now children living in the cottages.

Please be responsible, courteous and don't be a nuisance to our neighbours

## **Windsor Close Dates for Olympics**

Windsor is hosting the rowing and sprint kayaking events of the 2012 Olympics at Dorney Lake, with 30,000+ visitors a day expected. For those who are unaware, the racecourse at Windsor is being linked to Dorney with a temporary Olympic Footbridge, to take the events' spectators arriving by coaches and taxis at the Games Transport hub facility at the Windsor Racecourse, across the river and into the main events area at Dorney Lake.

The build for the infrastructure and the event itself will mean there is restricted access for a lengthy period leading up to and after the games

period. As a result there will be significant disruption to fishing and no access for a sustained period. The GPC have been pressing for information on closure dates, but the details have not been clarified. At the time of going to print the close out dates for the course are **28<sup>th</sup> July – 12<sup>th</sup> August**, though you would expect there to be significant activity coming up to and just after these dates too. **The GPC will update you as soon as we know more.**

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## **OTHER NEWS**

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### **Fish Safety**

Related in some ways to alien species being moved around inadvertently, the GPC are also all very concerned about the spread of diseases such as KHV, being transferred from or to other waters we visit. KHV can cause partial or complete mortalities in carp, and fish are most susceptible at water temperatures of 15-28°C, so small fisheries which get warm in summer are more at risk. In England there have been more than 60 confirmed outbreaks of KHV since 2003, peaking during the hot summer of 2006. There is no known cure, and it is believed to remain in infected fish for life, and all fish should be considered as potential carriers of the virus.

KHV is now a notifiable disease, and it is a legal requirement that

outbreaks, or suspected outbreaks, be reported to the Fish Health Inspectorate at the Centre for Environment, Fisheries & Aquaculture Science (CEFAS).

One way of transferring these diseases is via wet nets, as well as boots and other tackle which gets immersed in our waters, including boats.

The GPC have applied pressure on the sailing club at Ellis to ensure that they have some precautions in place to reduce the likelihood of diseases or species such as the killer shrimp spreading, and although we can't stop them entirely, it is probably prudent to ensure we adopt our own. My lovely wife makes me get in the shower with mine at the end of the day, but the less said about that the better.

Therefore, the GPC respectfully request that all anglers adopt the following principles with nets before moving from one water body to another. It is good practice to do it at the end of every session anyway, whether or not you are transferring to a different water body or not. It keeps your car clean and non-smelly as much as anything.

- Don't leave nets festering in bags in your car boot.

- Remove any weed or algae at the end of your session
- Wash your net and dry the net completely in the sun for at least 48 hours
- Alternatively you can freeze it then wash it in cold (not lake/river water) tap water.
- If you have a net bag, wash that in the same way.

DEFRA are sponsoring the control of alien species via the with a 'Stop the Spread' promotion.



GB Non-Native Species Secretariat website is at [www://secure.fera.defra.gov.uk/nonnative/species/news/index](http://www://secure.fera.defra.gov.uk/nonnative/species/news/index)

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## Caught in a Trap?

I am completely dismayed at the situation we find ourselves in with signal crayfish taking over our waterways. It is a sad indictment of our society that alien species like this are introduced to our waterways, eating native fish eggs, destroying banks and constantly eating our baits. Their spread is now unstoppable and we will just have to live with them, in the South-East at least.

Anyway, I have always been an advocate of trapping as a means of control, and have supported this as an approach in any waters that have a population of them. However, after discussing with some experts and reading some scientific reports I now believe that it will not only be ineffective, it may actually be assisting their populations to increase.

Initially, this sounds like nonsense – how can the reduction in their numbers be ineffective?

There are a number of reasons;

- Trapping is patchy at best, and in some areas is none existent. Removal permits repopulation from other areas.
- Trapping is very selective, and catches the older more active adults. Crays

are viciously territorial, their removal this reduces competition amongst the younger crays and also reduces cannibalism – a natural means of reducing numbers.

- Crays occasionally migrate en-masse, an entire population clears off and migrates upstream [or down], this can happen almost overnight, and typically occurs when the populations reach a peak of single age individuals. Trapping the adults encourages this.
- Evidence – we've been trapping for ages as have others. From our own experience it has little impact.

The GPC are happy to see trapping continue as it is generally supported by the members, but I don't think it is going to achieve a solution to the spread. We need a signal cray disease, a time travel machine or a miracle. I think we will just have to live with them and avoid spreading them to other catchments.

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## Mitten Crabs

As if the crayfish weren't bad enough, we now have these things – and these really are foul.

As reported in previous issues of The Bulletin, they are on the move and their spread throughout the Thames catchment is rapid. I have mistakenly – again – suggested that their range would be reduced by their ability to find spawning habitat as this means getting back to the sea as they need estuary conditions for successful breeding. This is not the case. Although they do require estuary conditions to reproduce, a proportion of their population sacrifice their own reproduction and migrate upstream – a long way upstream. They have now been found as far as Oxford.

The greater the population at the downstream end of the river, the greater the proportion that adopt this survival technique and clear off upstream. Given that reducing the population in the tidal Thames is now huge, it seems that it will only be a matter of time that these are as common as crayfish throughout the Thames catchment. As far as I know these have not been found in the Kennet or Lea, but I don't see why they wouldn't. Recent reports suggest they are already resident in Ellis Water.

Legering on the bottom with baits such as meat could soon be a thing of the past. What is the world coming to?

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## Zebra Mussels

As if we don't have enough invasive alien species already, we now have these things.

They were initially introduced in the 1820's and occasional populations have sprung up from time to time, but they are now very well established in the tidal Thames.



Crown Copyright 2009: Reproduced courtesy of GBNNSS.

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Crown Copyright 2009: Reproduced courtesy of GBNNSS

Imagine legering over this lot? They are good at severing lines. Zebra mussels are currently clogging up water pipes at the local water works in my home town of Reading, as they are very fond of hard water. However, alkaline streams and lakes are likely to be widely colonised, but extremes of high and low temperatures, may help to reduce numbers.

The greatest impact is where boat usage is high as they hitch a ride on boat hulls and get transferred up and downstream.

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### **Fat Cats?**

There are unconfirmed reports of huge Wels catfish in the tidal Thames, which some lunatic has released illegally. These reports are being investigated by EA, but if their population spreads this will be disastrous for Thames fisheries. Some catfish anglers may be pleased, but it's really not good news. These are very invasive and harmful predators, and should not be released into the wild.

It's unlikely, but should you catch any Wels, please report them immediately to the GPC & Environment Agency. Note that it is illegal to put them back!

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## **ANGLING TRUST & RELATED NEWS**

### **The Drought**

Richard Benyon MP (Fisheries Minister) recently held a press call to at a dried up section of the River Kennet adjacent to his land. He wants to see urgent action to resolve the matter.

The Government are aware of this and have produced a Water White Paper [WWP], one of the recommendations of which has been a water strategy for the UK, including a review of the water abstraction controls. However, the WWP identifies the deadline for the strategy to be in place by 2020 – evidently we need action much sooner than this. Many of our rivers can't wait that long and a new timeline for action needs to be redrafted urgently if it is not going to be too late.

There is existing legislation which can be enforced to close abstraction licences, but it is seldom used - cutting off water to homes and businesses is fraught with legal and political difficulties – but the Angling Trust and Salmon and Trout Association has been raising this issue at the highest levels, in an attempt to press the Government to act.

Hopefully, the involvement of Messrs Benyon and Salter will

help push the issue up the agenda.

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## **Benefits of Angling**

Richard Benyon MP appears to be quite active in supporting angling, and has given his backing to a three year research programme which highlights the benefits of angling in terms of reducing disaffected youth, by involving them in angling, and educational benefits of an enhanced environmental awareness. It also highlights anglings contribution to the environment by maintaining clean, healthy waterways and countryside.

The Angling Trust is adding that the economic benefits of angling tourism and the angling industry also benefit small and large businesses in both urban and rural communities.

The Angling Trust is backing the report and they are making a strong case to the Home Office in terms of a National Angling Participation Plan. Details of this can be found on-line at [www.resourcesanglingresearch.org.uk](http://www.resourcesanglingresearch.org.uk).

I will also post this link on the CSAS website forum.

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## **Angling Trust & Angling Development Board Merger**

It has been announced that the Angling Trust and the Angling Development Board are to merge. The Angling Development Board have a role in the development of angling through funding received via the Environment Agency and Sport England.

Jointly, they will encourage angling as a sport and will probably be the better for it. The Development Board will be fully absorbed by the AT and will be unified under the Angling Trust banner.

## **Government Funding for new Canal and River Charity**

The Inland Waterways Association (former British Waterways) has reached a settlement over the amount of Government funding that it will receive when it takes over responsibility for the management of the waterways in England and Wales.

The settlement has been substantially increased from £390million over ten years to potentially, £800m over the full 15 years. There is also the full property portfolio of commercial

premises and land worth an additional £460m. This sounds like a lot of cash, but there is an awful lot of land and assets to manage.

The next stage is to explore of the transfer of Environment Agency navigations to the IWA in 2015/2016.

Whether this is good or bad news for anglers remains to be seen. To any members who are currently BW or EA staff, who will be directly affected by this, it is probably very bad news indeed.

### **Angling Trust moves to secure CEMEX waters for angling**

Many of you may be aware, that following years of uncertainty and changes within the Company, CEMEX have decided to withdraw from the fishing industry altogether. As a result all their fisheries are currently up for sale.

This could involve the loss of up to 100 fisheries, either to private syndicates or nature conservation. In response to these concern, the Angling Trust has contacted the agents handling the sale, and offered to broker contacts with interested clubs or fisheries interests to see if the owners would consider joint bids in order to retain angling access to these historic venues.

## **FISHERIES SECTION**

### **GENERAL**

The Season 2011/12 has proved to be another busy one for the Society's officers, who were boosted by the election of Grant Milliam as Hon Minutes Secretary and Dr Les Mallinson who joined the GPC. This new blood is to be welcomed, but there is still the need for some younger volunteers.

Among some of the more difficult issues the GPC had to deal with was the persistent threat from stray golf balls from the Newbury racecourse, the dumping of asbestos waste in the Fairview Drive car park, and the EA's proposal to dredge Tumble Bay and introduce "woody debris groynes along the south bank of Section A at Hambridge. Overall these appear to have been a success, but your comments are welcome to the GPC or via the web forum.

Generally members were well behaved and observed the rules. The one or two exceptions being at Ellis Water where the presence of dogs in unauthorised areas and accessing the venue by climbing over fences were noted. Two new bailiffs were appointed during the year and they have been very

active at Ellis and our Thames and Kennet fisheries.

The Society was represented at meetings held during the year with the usual bodies, such as the Civil Service Sports Council, Littleton User Group, Kennet Valley Fisheries Association, EA and the Angling Trust. In addition, we have also been in touch with representatives of Rivar, Old Windsor Angling Club, Newbury AA, Reading and District AA, Reed Thatcham AC, Nigel Berryman [Southleas Farm], Ian French [Lagoon] and Windsor Racecourse management.

Site security at Windsor was also a problem, as was getting information about the effect on our fishing of the Olympic rowing, something that has still not been fully resolved.

The arrangement with Old Windsor AC to fish at Datchet appears to have worked well and the income generated helps towards the rent. Unfortunately no progress was made in our bid to obtain further parking below the railway at Hambridge as although Tarmac decided not to renew the lease on the land their current plans do not see them vacating the site before 2014.

Weather conditions during the season yet again dominated the fishing for the entire year with little

rainfall even in the winter months. Our river fisheries are in desperate need of a good flush through to remove the dead weed and other debris, whilst our still water fisheries need filling up. Nevertheless, there was some excellent river fishing to be had, especially in the opening months of the Season. Ellis Water and Crabtree Lake also fished well for their respective species, although East Whitley lake, the venue most prone to water shortages, appeared to have been less productive than usual.

Clearing parties were held during the Close Season at Hambridge, Datchet, Windsor, East Peckham, Clifton Reynes and Crabtree Lake, whilst Bailiff Ian Robinson organised several at Ellis Water throughout the year. However the exceptional growing weather meant the venues such as Datchet and Hambridge needed to be strimmed several times during the Season. The Fisheries Officer was grateful to Terry Gyngell and Ken James for their assistance with this work. The GPC's thanks go to all those who gave up their time, often at short notice, to assist the Fisheries Officer throughout the year.

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## **FISHERY REPORTS**

### **Clifton Reynes**

The venue was strimmed prior to the start of the new Season but again due to limited support on the clearing party there was no opportunity to repair swims. The winter saw the entrance to the field become impassable at times to all except four wheeled drive vehicles, as the horse tend to gather by the gate and have consequently paddled the ground into a muddy morass.

### **Crabtree Lake**

The working party again confined itself to pruning or removing overhanging trees and clearing up the litter left by poachers, a task that had to be regularly repeated throughout the warmer months. The three "Private Fishery" notices remained in place, but it appears the local youngsters have not yet learned to read. The surface sport for carp during the summer was very good, although it appears to have become more challenging for those fishing on the bottom. There was also some fine roach fishing during the warmer months if the shoals could be located.

### **Datchet**

The clearing parties undertook the repair of several swims, mainly replacing rotten or damaged boards on the steps leading down to the water. Some tree pruning

was also undertaken along with the removal of fallen trees. The Fisheries Officer was grateful for the assistance of some Old Windsor members who turned up to bolster the clearing party numbers.

The venue was strimmed regularly throughout the Close Season and warmer months. Outside of the clearing parties, the Fisheries Officer continues to be grateful for the assistance he received from Terry Gyngell and Ken James with mid-week mowing and other work. During the winter the farmer undertook to repair the potholes in the farm track. Despite mainly unfavourable clear conditions, the dace fishing in the early summer was reasonable although late summer saw an explosion in roach to over a pound being caught in several places below the weir for a few weeks before they disappeared with the arrival of the colder weather. A few barbel and carp were also reported along with bream perch and pike.

### **East Peckham**

The clearing parties were poorly attended, and although the venue was strimmed just prior to the start of the new Season, further work to cut back the brambles and re-strim the venue was necessary before the middle of July and

again in September. During the winter, motor cycles were observed being ridden around the field behind the venue and details were passed to the local police and the land owners. Bream and roach again made up the majority of weights but at least one angler had some very nice perch.

## East Whitley Lake

Work to trim the venue and cut back overhanging branches and brambles was carried out mid-week by a small group of members. The water level was again a problem, filling up only when the occasional rain caused the little feeder stream to flow. Nevertheless the carp and silver fish continued to show on all but the hardest days.



## Ellis Water

Spring saw the completion of the three new swims along the Littleton Road bank and later in the year the old sandbags swim

was completely rebuilt and enlarged.

Whilst the GPC were happy to cover the cost of materials for these swims their thanks go to the small group of members under the supervision of Ian Robinson who put in many hours of hard work to complete them. Following the drowning incident in February 2011, a shrine appeared in a swim in the Divers Bay car park. Although this has not been sanctioned by any of the lakes user groups, members are requested to respect it and not to disturb any of the items left there. Following last year's abortive attempt, Littleton Sailing Club was successful in carpeting certain shallow areas of the lake with special material to inhibit weed growth. The bailiff team has been very active and mainly appears to be keeping things well under control. The only real problems concern the presence of members' dogs on the Littleton Lane side of the venue, particularly on the island; and members accessing the Divers' Bay swim by climbing over the fence. As usual, fishing reports are not easy to get but it seems the carp fishing was satisfactory, although those after the tench and bream found the going harder. Cormorants continue to be a nuisance, but there were signs that the roach are making a comeback in the lagoon.

## Hambridge

During the winter, the Environment Agency carried out a programme of replacing the old groynes at Hambridge with ones made up of "woody debris". The aim of this is to scour out the spawning beds and to provide havens for juvenile fish.



They also dredged out Tumble Bay to provide a further refuge for juvenile fish, a process that seems to have worked judging by the large number of 3 to 5 inch fish that now occupy this area.

The clearing parties removed part of the large triple tree that had fallen into the river in the Middle Meadow area, thus improving the flow to the swim below. The Fisheries Officer was again grateful to George Martin who towed his boat all the way from Hythe to enable this work to be undertaken. As usual, further trees have now fallen in during the year. Plenty of barbel were reported with a larger than usual

number of double-figure specimens. These fish were being caught throughout the venue with some swims providing several fish at a time.



## Kintbury

Four winter moorings were allocated on the stretch again this year but due to stoppages on the canal due to lack of water for most of the winter only one boat was in residence.

The last week of the Season saw British Waterways close the car park at short notice so that they could carry out tree work in the area.

## Midgham

BW contractors have taken out all the tree cover on the top end peg, thus destroying the only known holding spot for large perch and chub that used to inhabit this area. Similar works were reported from Reading AA stretches also.

## **Windsor Racecourse**

The good working relationship the Society has with racecourse staff continued, although site security remains a problem.

Several times the padlock on the main gates had to be replaced due to vandalism and on one occasion a serious break-in occurred in the racecourse tool store which resulted in the theft of several thousand pounds worth of equipment. As a result CCTV cameras have now been set up and members are required to display their parking permits on the front left hand side of their windscreens. Many parts of the millstream below the marina became choked with Fools' Watercress in the autumn which threatens to block the waterway if it continues to spread. Some work was undertaken to clear the worst patches and further action will be taken before the new Season begins.

Water and weather conditions again played their part in producing what on the whole can only be described as a disappointing Season. Cormorant predation continues to be a severe problem, and catching silver fish from the main river is now problematic.

For a short period there was some fine dace and roach fishing from

the top end of the millstream, but the cormorants soon found out where they were and they disappeared again.

Only the overflow stream seems to be safe from the cormorant threat, and at times this was black with huge shoals of fish moving up and down.

## **Yalding, River Beult**

Paul Kitchen and Tony Paul strimmed the venue at the start of the Season. Plenty of small roach were in evidence but no reports of other fish.

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## **FISHING REPORTS**

### **Clifton Reynes**

Tony Paul reports plenty of small dace and roach to single red maggot plus a nice perch of 2lb 15oz and another around the two pound mark.

Others have reported mixed bags including bream to 6lb, Roach to 1lb, Perch to 1.5 lb. Pike are around but no large ones reported.

## **Crabtree**

There are plenty of common carp to 5 or 6 pounds which can be caught. Tench are also around but the low levels have seemingly put them off. Should be good for a spring tench or two, and some bags of carp.

## **Datchet**

A decent head of dace and roach to fish for along with some perch. No large barbel reported but they are there. Pending some flow or will be very poor for the coming season.

## **East Peckham**

The Medway has virtually no flow at all, needs some rain, but the fish are there.

## **East Whitley**

The usual carp catches which apparently – according to one report – go like a train! A good day out can be had here throughout the season.

## **Ellis**

Some quiet reports of large carp being caught, but nothing in particular.

## **Hambridge**

Fewer chub than usual were reported in the winter months, but there was some very good dace and grayling fishing from the top end shallows towards the end of the Season. An out of Season brown trout of 5lb 10oz was caught during a match.

## **Kintbury**

The winter fishing continues to be consistently good even in the coldest of weather with large bags of perch, many over 2lbs and the occasional three pounder, roach to over a pound and skimmer bream.

## **Midgham**

Generally this fishery remains under-fished, and for those who have fished it the going has been hard. Better flow may help.

## **Windsor**

One member found several good chub to 5lb 7oz in the winter using trotted bread tactics [*I tried too – I got nowt Ed.*]. Overall, there were some fine chub, barbel, carp, pike and bream for those prepared to put in the time and effort.

## **Yalding**

No reports – someone must have been there!

## **FLY FISHING SECTION**

The annual stocking took place at the end of March when a number of 11" to 12" trout were released at various points on the venue. Concerns continue that there is already a sufficient head of trout in the fishery but after careful consideration the GPC decided to go ahead with this year's re-stocking.

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## **RELATED CLUBS AND ASSOCIATIONS**

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### **EXCHANGE PERMIT AGREEMENT WITH FELTHAM PISCATORIALS**

The Society has an exchange permit agreement with Feltham Piscatorials.

More details of the waters included and availability of the permits can be obtained from Tony Paul, tel. 01932 563094, e-mail, [tonythefish1@aol.com](mailto:tonythefish1@aol.com)

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### **WATER-SHARING AGREEMENT WITH NEWBURY AA**

The Society has a water-sharing agreement with Newbury AA. The basis of the agreement is the exchange of 5 permits. Most of Newbury AA's waters are included

in the agreement and all of the Society's waters are included, with the exception of the Fidler's stretch of the River Kennet at Hambridge. Fisheries will not be available during the times that they are booked for matches. Trout fishing is allowed on Speen Moor from 1 April to 30 September using dry fly only. Newbury AA members may fish for trout at Hambridge providing they have paid the currently-agreed supplement.

While fishing on Newbury AA's waters, Society members must follow strictly all of Newbury AA's rules and regulations that apply to their waters. Please note that Newbury AA does not allow barbed hooks at some of their fisheries and the information is shown on notice boards at their car parks; Society members must read these carefully, and check what it says in the information pack before fishing. While fishing on the Society's waters, Newbury AA members must follow strictly to all of the Society's rules that apply to our waters. Infringement of fishery rules and regulations by a visiting angler will be reported to their own society/association. It has been agreed that such reports will be investigated promptly and disciplinary action may be taken.

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**EXCHANGE  
AGREEMENT  
NEWBURY  
ASSOCIATION**

**PERMIT  
WITH  
ANGLING**

Sets of Newbury AA permits, and information packs giving details of fisheries, including rules and regulations applying to our Society members, will be distributed by; **Thatcham Angling Centre, 156 Sagecroft Road, Thatcham, Berkshire RG18 3BQ.** Travelling from the east on the A4 [i.e., towards Newbury], turn right into Park Lane, then left into Sagecroft Road. The opening hours are 0730-1800, Monday to Saturday. Tony Franklin, the proprietor, can be contacted on 01635 871450.

Permits and information packs are available during the shop's normal opening hours. To obtain one of the permits and an information pack, a CSAS Member must produce evidence of full adult membership and must sign a register to indicate that they understand the rules and regulations applying to the waters that are part of the agreement. Permits must be returned before the normal closing time unless a prior arrangement has been made with the shop to return them later.

Under no circumstances are Society members permitted to be on Newbury AA's waters without a valid permit. Newbury AA

members are being informed that under no circumstances are Newbury AA members permitted to be on the Society's waters without a valid permit

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**EXCHANGE  
AGREEMENT  
GODALMING  
SOCIETY**

**PERMIT  
WITH  
ANGLING**

The Society has an exchange permit agreement with Godalming Angling Society [GAS]. For CSAS members, four GAS permits, fishery information and access keys will be held at the **Apollo II Angling Centre, Marsh Farm Fisheries, Station Lane, Milford, Surrey GU8 5AE, tel. 01483 428885.** The Centre is open from 0730 hours and information for return of the permits, etc., will be available there.

Please note that no night fishing is permitted under this arrangement. Details of GAS waters may be found on [www.godalminganglingociety.co.uk](http://www.godalminganglingociety.co.uk)

## COMPETITIONS

It was a very disappointing year in terms of members taking part. Indeed, one round of the Fass championship had to be cancelled due to lack of competitors. Despite this, there were some creditable, if not record-breaking, weights. The night match at Windsor was particularly poor, despite a decent winning weight, with many blanks from fancied swims. All of the matches at Crabtree were won by surface fishing methods. Few quality fish were caught in matches, although a barbel of 8lb 15oz [Hambridge] and several perch over two pounds [Kintbury] were recorded.

David Steele was the runaway winner of The Sir Ernest Fass championship, whilst John Ellyatt again won the mid-week league. The winter championship, the Pratt Cup, was a much closer thing with Tony Paul and Eamon Capecci tying on points, and Eamon getting the verdict on a weight count back.

Congratulations go to all trophy winners. The Society again defeated Old Windsor in our annual inter-club challenge match, and having narrowly lost the away leg, comfortably beat Reed Thatcham AC at Hambridge

## MATCH RESULTS

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### Hayman, Midgham 9 Oct

Only a few tiny fish saved the day.

**Result:** 1. T. Gyngell 2. E Capocci

4 fished, 2 weighed in a total of

### La Roche, Windsor 23 Oct

Terry Gyngell had a barbel from the weir but the rest had to make do with bits.

**Result:** 1. T Gyngell 5lb 6oz, 2. A Paul 2lb 11oz, 3 = J Merry & D Steele 1lb 6oz.

6 fished , 5 weighed in a total of 10lb 14oz

### Fass/Pairs, Crabtree 30 Oct

Both the overall winner and runner-up were paired with anglers who failed to find many fish and even third place was not enough to get an outright points win in the pair's event. It therefore went to a weight count back between the two team that had tied on points and even this could not produce a winner as they both tied on weight as well.

**Result:** 1. J Ellyatt 17lb 12oz, 2. D Steele 14lb 14oz, 3. A Paul 9lb 10oz

**Pairs:** A Paul & P Martinelli tied with B Stallwood and D Brown on points and total weight.

### **Pole match, Kintbury 6 Nov**

On a somewhat disappointing day, Eamonn Capocci scored from a peg on the wides.

**Result:** 1. E Capocci 11lb 2oz, 2. D Steele 8lb 12oz, 3. P Martinelli 6lb 12oz.  
6 fished, All weighed in a total of 39lb 9 oz.

### **Williams, East Peckham 20 Nov**

The winner moved swims at the midpoint and found some obliging roach on a very disappointing day

**Result:** 1. T Gyngell 4lb 12oz, 2. R Lattimer 3lb 9oz, 3. D Steele 2lb 13 oz.  
7 fished 6 weighed in a total of 13lb 15oz

### **Robbins, Hambridge 4 Dec**

Dace and greyling made up the weights in what was a close finish.

**Result:** 1. A Paul 4lb 12oz, 2. E Capocci 4lb8oz, 3. R Lattimer 3lb 9oz  
8 fished, 6 weighed in a total of 13lb 15oz.

### **Fur & Feather, Windsor 11 Dec**

The ditch provided nearly all the weights with just some tiny roach from the millstream and nothing from the main river. *[I caught less than nothing Ed.]*

**Result:** 1. J Poulson 11lb 3oz, 2. = D Steele and A Pettifer 5lb 12oz

17 fished, 10 weighed in a total of 35lb 8oz.

### **Pratt, Kintbury 8 Jan**

Eamonn Capocci found perch and skimmers on the wides for a comfortable victory. Only nine ounces covered the next four competitors

**Result:** 1. E Capocci 12lb 4oz; 2. M Rutter 7lb 12oz, 3. = D Steele & T Gyngell 7lb 8oz.  
6 fished, all weighed in a total of 46lbs 15oz

### **Pratt/Guthrie Hambridge 22 Jan**

Eamonn Capocci found chub and dace in peg 1. For the rest only small fish showed.

**Result:** 1. E Capocci 13lb 14oz, 2. T Gyngell 4lb 3 R. Lattimer 3lb 15oz  
4 fished, all weighed in a total of 24lb 14oz

### **Pratt/J Dean Hambridge 12 Feb**

The winner had the only bite recorded on a freezing day, a chub from the car park.

**Result;** 1. A Paul, 4lbs 11oz

### **Pratt/Hurcomb, Kintbury 26 Feb**

Dave Steele found the skimmers and a couple of bonus perch for an excellent winning weight.

**Result:** 1. D Steele 21lb 14 oz, 2. J Fisher 9lb 1oz, 3. A Paul 6lb 10oz.

5 fished, all weighed in a total of 42lb 15oz

### **Calkin, Hambridge 11 Mar**

The top weight comprised 68 dace from the top end shallows. The runner-up won the Calkin Trophy for the best specimen with a barbel of 7lb 10oz from the "stakes".

**Result:** 1. A Paul 11lb 13 oz, 2, G Sigley 7lb 14 oz, 3. E Capocci 6lb 7 fished, 5 weighed in a total of 27lb 15 oz

### **Final Fass points (best 6 results)**

1. D Steele	80
2. R Lattimer	59
3. J Ellyatt	56

### **Final Pratt points**

E Capocci	12
A Paul	12
T Gyngell	10
D Steele	10

E Capocci wins on weight count back 31lb 4oz to A Paul 19lb 2oz.

### **Final S King/J Speers points (best 6 results)**

J Ellyatt	59
R Lattimer	38

### **Monthly match spoons**

D Steele (2) J Ellyatt (2) , R Lattimer, C McLaughlin, A Paul

## **TROPHY WINNERS 2011/12**

### **Fass Trophy:**

Winner: D Steele, Runner - up J Ellyatt

S King/J Speer Memorial Trophy:  
Winner, J Ellyatt, Runner-up -R Lattimer

### **Pratt Trophy:**

Winner E Capocci, Runner-up A Paul

### **Cyril Guthrie Memorial Trophy:**

Winner, E Capocci

### **Steve Hayman Memorial Trophy:**

Winner, T Gyngell

### **Hurcomb Memorial Trophy**

Winner, D Steele

### **T La Roche Memorial Cup:**

Winner, T Gyngell

### **Williams Memorial Trophy:**

Winner, T Gyngell

### **Robbins Memorial Trophy:**

Winner, A Paul

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### **Calkin Challenge Cup:**

Winner, G Sigley (barbel 7lb 10oz)

### **Tony Devine Memorial Trophy**

(Night Match):

Winner, F McAdam

### **J Dean Memorial Trophy:**

Winner, A Paul

## **R Dance Memorial Cup**

Winner, A Paul

## **Pairs Trophy:**

Winners A Paul/P Martinelli tied  
with B Stallwood/D Brown

## **Pole Trophy:**

E Capocci

