

# THE BULLETIN OF THE CIVIL SERVICE ANGLING SOCIETY

**VOL ; No: VOL ; No: Spring 2014**

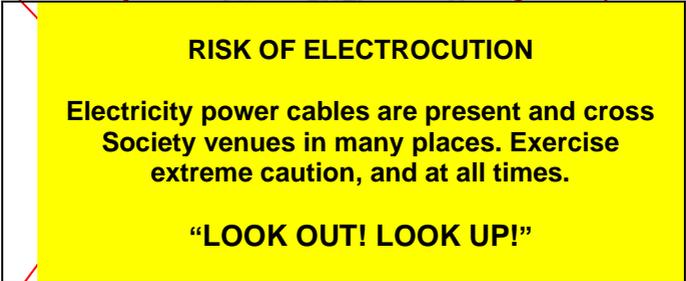
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## **RISK OF ELECTROCUTION**

**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*

Firstly, can I thank David and the GPC for their sterling work in the last year. I need to thank David in particular for standing in when my workload and private life became so burdensome that I had no time to edit the Bulletin last year.

Welcome then, to the spring 2014 edition of the CSAS Bulletin. Spring is here! Hurrah for that! We recover from the wettest winter since any one can remember and more January rainfall for 250 years, [depending upon who you ask] and we anglers should feel positive about the year that beckons. There is lots of water in the rivers for a year at least, and the lakes have a nice refreshing top up. I am reliably informed that - Meteorologically speaking - spring stretches from 1 March to the end of May. Astronomically, spring typically starts on the day of spring equinox, around the 20 March in the Northern Hemisphere. Easter is regarded as a spring festival and this year is late, beginning on the 24<sup>th</sup> May. Therefore, you should receive this just after the equinox but before Easter. Just as buds begin to push their way through the earth to reach the strengthening sun's light; birds start nesting; the energies of Nature shift from the torpor of winter to the exuberant activity of spring, coarse fish activity turns to breeding. It is a time of new beginnings, of action, of saying goodbye to the old and making room for the new.

One can only start this seasons Bulletin, with a comment about the floods. It's been an almost unprecedented year of heavy rain, the flooding which occurred causing all sorts of damage to fisheries, and prevented access to many of them for long periods, and indeed as I write, many are still unfishable as a result. In this issue we refer to the various fisheries and discuss the damage that has occurred and update you on the current position. It may however, be some considerable time before some damage materialises, and the impact or change to fish stocks, may take a while. Now the water has dropped, or at least dropped considerably more than it was, it does appear that for the most part, the long term harm is not too serious.

However, just as with spring, it's not all about looking back on the season that has just passed. We've got a new season to look forward to, and for those of you that specialise in river fishing [as I do], the close season is a

time to reflect and charge the batteries for a dawn start on the glorious 16th. The date doesn't have the same resonance since the close season for coarse fish was all but abandoned, with stillwater fisheries open all year. Now there is always something keep your hand in for the three months until the rivers open again. Hopefully, you will give some of them a try this year. Certainly the Committee and band of helpers on the working parties do all they can to make them available to you. Finally, please think about offering to support the Society by considering yourself for a position on the Committee, or offering to do something at working parties or even sending in catch reports and updates. Everything is welcome. The Committee is holding firm, but we are getting older – I believe that I am the youngest at 44 [45 by the time you read this] – so young blood to continue the work will be most welcome.

I hope that you enjoy your Spring Bulletin. I hope to see you on the banks in June. Until then, tight lines, wet nets, and don't fall in.

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

## **CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE**

This is my last message as your Hon. Chairman, and as usual I will keep it brief. I am delighted to report that Grant Milliam, currently Hon. Minute Secretary has agreed to stand for the post, and I wish him every success. He will certainly find the job very challenging at times, but I am sure, like me, he will find it most enjoyable.

We have a very good Committee in place and I should like to take this opportunity to thank them for their sterling efforts. But we still need to fill some vacancies, including that of Hon. Fisheries Officer. Let's hope that somebody comes forward soon with an offer to take on this important responsibility, because at present, despite advertisements, there are still no takers. In the meantime, we are most grateful to Tony Paul for continuing this important work in an acting capacity.

Talking of challenges, having survived the worst floods in living memory, before the new Season starts in earnest, it will be necessary carefully to inspect every one of our fisheries to ensure that they are fit for purpose, and, most importantly, safe for fishing. At present some are still not fully accessible, but this essential work, with remedial action where necessary, will need to be done as soon as possible. I look forward to seeing you at the AGM, the agenda for which you will find in this Bulletin.

**Tight lines.**

**David Kennedy**

## So much on offer...

Amazing discounts on theatre, cinema and days out for all the family

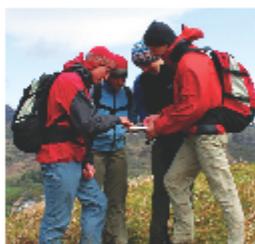
100,000+ members, and now your friends and family can join too!

Great savings on high-street brands you know and love

Sports and coaching subsidies to help you progress and save you money

Hundreds of activities - football, skiing, bike riding, golf, netball, eSports etc - there's something for everyone

Win a car and other fantastic prizes - all members are automatically entered into our prize draws



Expiry  
**31.03.2015**



Environment  
Agency



**got your  
new licence?**

**You must have a valid rod licence\***  
**Expect a big fine if you can't produce one**

**Rod licences expire on 31 March**

There are three ways to buy or renew your rod licence:

- Online at [www.environment-agency.gov.uk/rodlicence](http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/rodlicence)
- At any Post Office® in England and Wales
- Telephone **0844 800 5386**

Lines open 8.30am to 8pm, 7 days a week March to September.  
Calls charged at local rate.



**Concessionary licences (now online), apply if:**

- You are aged 16 or under (Junior)
- You are aged 65 or over
- You have a Blue Badge parking concession, or are in receipt of Disability Living Allowance

**Non-migratory trout,  
freshwater fish, smelt and eels**

|            |        |
|------------|--------|
| Full       | £27.00 |
| Concession | £18.00 |
| Junior     | £5.00  |
| 8 day      | £10.00 |
| 1 day      | £3.75  |

**Salmon and sea trout,  
AND non-migratory trout, freshwater  
fish, smelt and eels**

|            |        |
|------------|--------|
| Full       | £72.00 |
| Concession | £48.00 |
| Junior     | £5.00  |
| 8 day      | £23.00 |
| 1 day      | £8.00  |

\* Licence applies to those aged 12 years or older fishing for freshwater fish, smelt, eels, trout or salmon in England, Wales or the Border Esk in Scotland.

**Remember – If you're coarse fishing with 3 or 4 rods, you'll need 2 licences**

## SOCIETY NEWS

### Venues for Meetings

A Reminder! The GPC has continued to meet 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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### Steve Haden – Temporary Memberships.

Steve has asked me to point out that his mobile number on the membership card is incorrect is incorrect. He can be contacted on 07795-107514.

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### Rod Licences

Please remember that your current rod licence will expire on 31st March. If you pay by direct debit then you may well have received a new one already.

It has come to our attention that there are a number of internet sites offering to broker a licence for you. However – be warned - you will pay an extra charge for this service. It incurs no additional charge to purchase one from your local post office or online at the Environment Agency or Post Office websites.

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### Membership Reminder!

You should by now have all received a reminder for your 2014/2015 membership.

If any of you haven't – apparently some of you have moved – can you contact Hon. Membership Secretary. Note that memberships need to be renewed before 1<sup>st</sup> June.

Ian Campbell,  
35, Cherry Tree Avenue,  
Staines,  
Middlesex.  
TW18 1JB.

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### An Otter Topic?



It has recently been reported that there is evidence of an otter, or otters, at Hambridge and the upstream and downstream stretches of the Kennet. The reports to the GPC refer to a few possible sightings at the venue and at the surrounding gravel pits. The GPC have also had several reports of what appears to be evidence of

fish predation, but as yet there have been no photographs of the animals which could say with any certainty that otters are resident at the venue or spend a considerable amount of their time there.

Historically, the Otter (*Lutra lutra*) is a native mammal to GB, and will have been present on the Kennet and Thames catchments [and everywhere else in the British Isles] for around 10,000 years, since the end of the ice age. It would have been a common sight until the use of organochlorine pesticides [e.g. DDT which magnify through the food chain], had a severe impact on their population in much of the UK in the mid-1950's. The otter was certainly prolific enough in the Kennet catchments to make itself the target of hunting until relatively recent times, with the ban on Otter hunting being introduced in 1978, long after the populations had started to crash. By the late 1970's otters were virtually extinct from the Thames and Kennet, and most other places in the South and East of England.

The situation regarding the otter comeback on the Kennet has been closely monitored by the Environment Agency through a series of surveys. Most recently, the Otter Survey of England 2009-2019 reported that, the otter population had increased from no

confirmed evidence at all between 1977 and 2002, and identified that they are now present on all the main rivers in the catchment. This is also reinforced by reports from anglers on various web forums, and in 2011 anglers were reporting sightings in the Aldermaston area, Padworth Brimpton, and Thatcham.

Therefore, how many otters there are is difficult to assess, and nobody really knows exactly how many might be in residence in the Kennet catchments, but there can be little doubt that the otter population has increased, and it should not be too much of a surprise if otters had returned to Hambridge [it would be a 50 year absence].

However, the GPC must stress that the otter is a protected species under EU and GB law, and will remain so, and short of monitoring the situation, there is nothing that can be done about them.

The best thing we can do is to look at ways that we can improve fry recruitment and fish habitat. Help the fisheries to help themselves as it were. This is something that the GPC are looking into and we have already supported some work at Hambridge, and more developments are taking place at

Ellis with the objective of growing on stock.

However, more on this in the Autumn bulletin. but the GPC welcomes any evidence to be sent in, so please keep your reports coming and we will monitor the situation

### **Money Saving Expert or just a Hoarder?**

In these cash strapped times a day out on the water can be an expensive business. One way of saving money is your very good value CSAS membership which you must already have – tick. The amount of water available for a single annual subscription is undoubtedly good value, one which can net you a giant carp, tench, barbel or chub, a net full of silver fish, small carp, in fact almost anything you could want for the price of a day ticket at many fisheries. Aside from this, you can use less bait, and not drive as far.

Following a thread of previous bulletins, in which I have been suggesting ways to keep you on the bank without hurting your pocket, I thought about the amount that we spend on tackle. If like me, you like to browse internet shops, eBay and the like for a bargain, you can be fooled into buying something that you don't actually need. I, or rather

my wife and I, recently considered the amount of tackle I had, and recalled that the space where I store my tackle in the house seemed to be expanding, in fact it was nearly an entire room. There was more in the outhouse, and the attic. My lovely mild mannered, charming, but non-angling wife decided on my behalf that I probably had too much tackle and needed to off load some via eBay to make space and bring in some cash. I agreed. Well, what choice did I have?

I decided to leave my fly fishing tackle, which is a few (6!) rods and reels, but these break down into tiny sections, and even with the accompanying flies and lines, this was not taking up much space. My meagre stock of sea fishing gear including my beach rods and bass spinning gear was the same. No, I would need to review my coarse fishing tackle first, and started with the rods.

But where to start? Like most anglers the more expensive bits I own are my rods and for the most part I have one and a spare for the various techniques. The core items in my armoury, are my avon rods (2), trotting rods (2), all of which get the most use through a season. Then the specimen rods (2), which I use once or twice a year. Not much to get rid of there. But a rummage revealed, two empty plastic rod tubes, a broken

fly rod, and an avon rod with a broken reel fitting were consigned to the bin. This was progress. I felt good.

Then I looked at the reels. I am probably a bit of a tackle tart when it comes to reels in that I have 6 centrepins – far too many to use in a season, but these are nice items to own, so I thought I would keep these, only shedding one Allcocks Match Aerial out of the two that I had. I have four 'normal' fixed spool reels which are generally used for legering, or those venues where I just can't cast a sufficient distance with a centrepin. Two bait runners and two fixed spool, all of which are at least ten years old but fully functional, and quite valuable. Not much to clear out there then.

Of my nets, I had one specimen spoon, one match type spoon, and two handles; one extending and a one piece. There were also two extending fly fishing nets – one with a torn mesh which I recall that a trout slipped through! It would have to be consigned to the bin, and I would need to replace that. Something else to buy! This wasn't going well.

I am not one for bite indicators and the like, having only one. So I thought about the sundry items. A rummage through my rod quiver revealed some rod rests, which were in various states of disrepair,

two with various degrees of bend, two with stuck extensions, and one with a screw thread that was partly detached. I therefore, had two or three more items to throw out but also replace. However, at least it looked like I was clearing things out!

Floats next. I have an A4 paper box with loads in, and I sold a load of 'antique' floats last year, so there isn't much to shed from this lot. I also make my own, and an angler needs something fishing related that keeps one busy when not on the bank, so the float making paraphernalia was tidied and put away. At least I saved a little bit of space.

Like most anglers, I tend to replace a lot of stuff through a season. Line hooks, shot etc. etc. And I am often unsure what I have run out of. Some of this stuff is expensive, at my local shop a tub of shot is getting close to £2, swivels £1.50 a packet, and line £4-8, depending on what you buy.

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I therefore decided to open the fishing bags I use the most. Inside I had stored the two waistcoats I use the most. One when planning to rove the river banks with more capacity and one for general use with less pockets. I had noticed these getting heavy recently, so I went through the endless pockets of the waistcoats and the bags.

I very soon realised that I had wasted quite a considerable amount of money on items that I already had, didn't need, never used, or simply forgot about.

Here's a summary:

Ten x 100m spools of line – 5 in each. Three with the labels worn off, and three with partial labels. All broke very easily with a pull test! Three exactly the same brand and breaking strain!

A lot (54) of packets and boxes of hooks (about 600 hooks!), sizes 2 – 22; barbed, spade end, eyed, barbless, long shank short shank, red maggot, silver specimen, forged, fine wire, crystal bend, round-bend, to nylon – everything! 10 were empty, at least 5 with no label and another 5 that were rusty. Notably, I had 12 packets, and one box of Drennan Super Spade in size 16. I thought I had run out of these last time I went fishing – there was enough hooks for years here!

Over 28 tubs of shot. 8 empty and 5 mixed sized divisions. Of the remainder there were three single tubs of SSG, 4 size 6, two nearly empty, and 5 No. 1, most nearly full.

Heavy stuff was mainly leger weights, including 8 different shapes of ½ oz. bombs, and various other leads including 4

bombs with missing swivels, and three drilled bullets – one of which I had hammered flat for some reason. Four homemade stone weights made of pebbles with glued on swivels. One of the swivels had broken off, so was now just a stone! Also, a variety of feeders; five cage, five block end, three open end, four squashed, one leadless. Oh, and five plummetts.

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Amongst the more random and useless items were ten broken floats, seven disgorgers, three baiting needles (one with no handle), a Mitchell reel handle, a centrepin line guide (unknown make), two rod eyes, a broken quiver tip, three bait droppers (one with no door), a rod rest with no screw thread, two tins of corn, two peperami, a half eaten kit-kat, four yellow boilies, lots of loose hooks, bits of line and swivels, a jar of mustard ( I like pork pies), four beer bottle tops, and endless dry crusts.

As well as having lighter much cleaner and well sorted bags and waistcoats; I decided that I probably don't need to buy any end tackle for a long time. My wife was happy as I discarded what she thought was a lot of gear, and get the opportunity to replace some things as well! Everyone a winner! Give it a try, you will save yourself a packet, and can make a list of gear to

boot. I accounted for about £400.00 worth of stuff.

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## **GOOD ANGLING PRACTICE: HOOKS, NETS AND UNHOOKING MATS.**

In the last Bulletin we asked for your opinions on the above and I have received a few responses, including a lengthy and well considered response was received from Mr John Keating.

Basically, the consensus of opinion seems to be going towards the advisory route that we have adopted, rather than a more rigid rule based approach which forces members to adopt barbless hooks etc...

Responses included 'I have about 60 years experience as an all round angler, and believe that the current Thames fishery bylaws are perfectly adequate and that recommendations would be more acceptable to the membership.'

Others suggest that the angler can assist by adopting good bite detection techniques to 'avoid deep hooked fish'.

I am not alone in believing that Maggots or worms wriggle off of barbless hooks, and that sensibly barbed, reduced or micro barb hooks are in my view essential when using these baits. Others

have said that this doesn't happen though, do there is no overall agreement that bait is lost from the hook with no barb.

In relation to pike fishing, it was suggested that 'barbed hooks (not large barbs) are essential for lure fishing for pike and other predators, as barbless hooks would soon be levered out whilst playing the fish. It was also stated that even barbless advocates tend to use a single barbed treble-hook for bait retention only. This is not a new debate though.

*CSAS Bulletin; December 1968:*

### **Care of Fish**

*A member reports finding a pike at Colnbrook which had been badly hacked about, obviously in the process of hook extraction. If members don't like handling live pike, they shouldn't fish for them.*

On the subject of nets and unhooking mats; it was suggested that 'in the practise of catch and release, one would rather carry and use a lightweight fishing stool than carry a keep-net'. Adding that, 'roving kit comprises of a roll-up unhooking mat strapped to my fishing bag with disgorgers, fish handling glove, two pairs of forceps, wire-cutters, weighing sling, digital scales, lures and camera in a game fishing bag; it weighs about 11 lbs with a small plastic bottle of drink and lightweight waterproofs included.'

This seems quite reasonable to me, and is probably akin to my own bag (now it's emptied of surplus junk).

**Overall the jury is still out on this one. Keep your comments coming and send them to [csaseditor@gmail.com](mailto:csaseditor@gmail.com). Thank you!**

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## RELATED ARTICLES.

### Out of our Depth?

One thing is certain Louis Armstrong wasn't an angler - "I don't care what the weatherman says when the weatherman says it's raining. You'll never hear me complaining...". Certainly not the words an angler would speak this winter! [I know he also sang 'gone fishin', but bear with me on this!]

the song isn't entirely incorrect, rain and flood are part of the water cycle and fish need water – I think we are all now generally in agreement that now – but the amount of rainfall we get, and the corresponding water levels are a constant and inter-related concern. A cycle of flood and drought are entirely natural events. However, the last few years have been remarkable, and identify a significant change over a very short period.

The last twelve years have seen five of the wettest years on record, and two of the driest. And the last three years had two of the wettest; this suggests a most worrying series of severe weather events. Most people now accept that human activity has influenced our weather patterns.

To give you a brief synopsis I have to look backwards. I am reminded of the 2011/12 season. A winter drought that started in 2011 and stretched into Spring was virtually unheard of. With the prospect of what would normally be the driest months of the year to come, we were all concerned. The GPC were discussing the parched rivers, ponds and lakes and the potential of fish kills if there were any significantly high temperatures. Looking back, it was so severe that rivers such as the Kennet dried up along their upper reaches before Christmas.

I wrote in the Spring 2012 Bulletin that that we required biblical amounts of rain. It proved to be quite prophetic. The March 2012 GPC meeting was followed by Thames Water hosepipe ban on April 5 - whereupon the heavens opened. The remarkable turnaround through April saw nearly three times more than the average

In 2013/14 we have been yet again plagued by unusual weather

events, and the Thames and Kennet reached record levels in February.

Clearly folks have different and passionately held views on what the cause of all this, but what we must all not forget is who is at the root of all these problems is us, the human, the great exploiter of the planets resources and meddler with nature. Man, the supposedly superior intelligent being continues to mess things up on a cataclysmic scale, lessons are not being learnt. What we need is a careful and integrated approach to our water management and much of this was in the pipeline, with many learned documents being produced about the sustainable use of water. However, it is interesting that human memory tends to be quick to forget the lessons of the past.

Looking back through old back issues of the Bulletin, it was only as recently as the late sixties that dredging was still commonplace on our rivers including Hambridge. The arisings were dumped on the banks, and working parties would level them out. Can you imagine the furore if that was proposed now? We have had some small scale localised dredging but not the wholesale clearance that is proposed by some.

This year's flooding is obviously horrific to those involved, and anyone who has been affected by it would understandably 'want something done'. However, this shouldn't be a surprise. We have for years been warned by the Met Office that there would be more periods of drought, more flooding and more rainstorms and thus has come to pass. However, a return to the bad old days of dredging as a knee jerk reaction to the flooding is not the right way to go; there is no golden bullet in this scenario. The river levels of the Thames during 2012 would very quickly stagnate if the depth were increased, and the flows are scant in a normal summer. But to what extent has insect and aquatic life been affected by the droughts, or by the floods? How many fry have been washed away? Have the mitten crabs been washed into more lakes? We simply don't know and we need more research into the effect of climate change, and factual information on fishery quality before it is too late so we can future proof our fisheries.

We will try to resolve this, but let us know about anything unusual that you discover e.g. koi at Datchet or Catfish in Ellis – it's not impossible.

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## **Weather it is or Whether it isn't...**

Aside from the vagaries of low flows varying water levels and floods, weather is a constant hot topic in angling, and one that is always likely to stir up some discussion one way or another. Whether it is right for fishing [is it ever the 'right weather' for fishing!], the wrong weather for the fish, or for the angler, due to atmospheric pressure, wind, rain, ice, fog or snow, it is clear that anglers are always discussing the merits and de-merits of the various weather conditions which might be encountered, and trying to come up with a solution to ensure a good days fishing whatever the weather.

There are a number of old wives tales, or perhaps the more PC version – old anglers tales about catching fish and the effect that the weather had on it. Going though old issues of your Bulletin, I found this particular reference to weather conditions in the August 1962 issue about eels being caught in thunderous conditions – 11 eels for 23lb. Also, a reference to a large catch of pike during a thick fog at Walthamstow reservoir. A discourse about rain states that there is no need to get wet in this 'plastic age' [1962] and suggests fishing under a bridge!

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## **Up to our necks in it...**

Occasionally, the GPC get reports of direct and indirect pollution in the various fisheries. Whilst this is welcomed [the report not the pollution], there may be a delay in getting the news to us, which may affect the response. First response for all the issues rests with the Environment Agency, so please let the GPC know immediately, either to the Secretary, Fishery Manager or a member of the GPC. If no one can be contacted then call the pollution hotline immediately.

The principal water pollution offences are contained in the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2010 [updated from previous very similar Regulations]. This is primary legislation, and any cases brought by them will involve a prosecution in court with a substantial penalty upon conviction.

The Angling Trust will support its members by following up with a Civil Claim for damages through the claims courts, and they are becoming increasingly successful at this, and if they win the third plaintiff also pays the legal fees.

Broadly speaking, the legislation cover discharges of pollutants directly or indirectly into groundwater, or the water body

itself. The legislation does not define poisonous, noxious or polluting and this is usually where the discussion between barristers occurs. But offences do not always need to be a discharge in the normal sense. It can also be an offence to cut or uproot substantial amounts of vegetation from water bodies, without taking reasonable steps to remove it.

It is also an offence to cause or knowingly permit a groundwater activity unless you are complying with an environmental permit or exemption. Broadly speaking, groundwater activities cover discharges of pollutants directly into groundwater, or indirectly.

The courts take a broad approach when deciding whether a person (or a company) caused a water discharge or groundwater activity.

There is no need to show that a person knew about the activity or intended it. If pollution is due to a chain of events, a person may be regarded as having caused it even if someone else's actions immediately triggered the pollution. If a river is polluted by a third party e.g. a silage bund is emptied by persons unknown, causing a leak into the water, the farmer could be charged with causing the pollution. However, most offences arise where a person (or company) is aware of a polluting incident but refuses to take steps to stop the pollution.

Exemptions include some water discharge activities and groundwater activities are treated as exempt activities. These include certain small discharges of sewage from treatment works and septic tanks. Exempt activities can be carried on without an environmental permit provided that the person responsible registers with the Environment Agency, complies with special rules and ensures that they do not cause water pollution.

The offences cover pollution of different types of water but include virtually all groundwater and surface water - including lakes, ponds, watercourses and rivers.

With all this legislation you would imagine that a contravention would have significant penalties, but they are not that significant relative to the potential damage. Upon conviction in a Magistrates Court, the penalty is up to £50,000 and/or sentenced to up to twelve months imprisonment. If they are tried and convicted in a Crown Court they could face an unlimited fine and/or be sentenced to up to five years imprisonment. However, severe penalties are rare - I've researched it and can't find anything that would seem like more than a slap on the wrist to major PLC, and in an organisation

of that size, which member of staff would end up in receipt of a prison sentence and a criminal record?

In reality, most cases [all?] end up in a magistrates court due to cost, and because the penalty depends upon the severity of the case, and the prosecution will only be taken to court when there is a greater likelihood of success as this is more likely to achieve a conviction. All the more important then that the Angling Trust seek additional damages.

However, despite all of this legislation, there are exceptions, some of which seem - on the face of it – to be a way out. For instance, it is a defence to a water pollution offence if the activity was done in an emergency in order to avoid danger to human health, provided that reasonable steps were taken to minimise pollution and notify the EA promptly. Some of you may recall the pollution of the River Crane in 29th – 31st October 2011 which was reported in the Bulletin. This was one very good example of this exemption, when Thames Water were forced to open a valve into the river to avoid flooding homes with sewage.

A business may also apply to the Environment Agency for an environmental permit to do an operation such as a discharge of treated sewage effluent with strict conditions. Sewage discharge

under this clause occurs a lot more frequently than you probably realise. The Thames Angling Conservancy list all the discharges on this website: <http://sdn.rivertac.org/>.

Although this lists the discharges into the Thames from the Mogden and Hammersmith works, which are downstream of the CSAS fisheries, the frequency of the discharge is quite frightening – almost weekly in some cases.

There are at least two significant large treatments works on the Kennet at Wash Water and another at Reading. Thames Water has announced a £2.8m upgrade to its works at Wash Water, which is due for completion about now. However, it is without doubt that this occurs on a frequent basis from these plants as well.

It is therefore very important that any reports are made immediately, and get as much evidence as you can. In these days of digital media, photographs can be taken, recording dates and times, observations of impact and evidence of dead/dying fish etc.

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### **Cormorants.**

Currently, anyone can apply for a licence to shoot cormorants providing they can provide

statistical – not hearsay – evidence of predation and the benefits of population reduction. The numbers of cormorants you can shoot is based on the numbers nationally and at a European level.

The law has been changed from what is currently an open licence, into a new catchment-based approach will allow for cormorant control based on the local needs of fisheries rather than the current restrictive national limits.

This is unlikely to make much difference, as the birds remain protected, but at least it is now much simpler to understand!

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## **ANGLING TRUST & RELATED NEWS**

Five Years of the Angling Trust  
The Angling Trust has marked its five year anniversary by appointing 25 new Ambassadors to help promote its work and to encourage more anglers to join its growing membership. Among the new appointees are some keen anglers who are also household names such as ex-England goalkeeper David Seaman, sports promoter Barry Hearn and recent Environment & Fisheries Minister Richard Benyon MP, Angling

and media stars Paul Young, Nigel Botherway and Gary Newman have also lent their support to the Trust, along with Team England Angling legend Tommy Pickering [remember him – the bleak whipper!].

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### **Did you know?**

According to The Angling Trust, angling employs 37,000 people and generates £3.5 Billion to the economy? I certainly didn't. Mind you, I wonder who – and how - how they worked it out? Maybe they emptied my tackle bags and worked it out proportionately.

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### **Angling Trust New Chairman**

The Angling Trust has appointed George Stephenson as its new Chair. He has several decades experience of managing safari and fishing businesses around the world, George Stephenson brings great knowledge, business acumen and an excellent contact list to the role of Chairman of the rapidly-growing and dynamic representative organisation for all anglers in England. The post was widely advertised and attracted a number of high quality applicants.

As well as being the new chair of the Angling Trust, the lucky chap

makes us even moiré envious by living on a farm in Wiltshire, which includes two miles of the River Nadder and a carp lake.

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### **Predation Action Group.**

Following a wide range of work in the angling community about the impact of predation on fish stocks, including the recent publication of *The Big Picture* by the Predation Action Group, the Government's reviews of cormorants, goosanders [*lovely birds Ed.*] and non-native species such as signal crayfish [*foul horrible things*], the Angling Trust has published a new action plan for managing predation.

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### **The River Close Season Debate**

The Angling Trust reports that it will not take any formal position in lobbying for a change in the river coarse fishing close season until there is evidence supporting that there would be no impact on fish stocks, and the views of our members and the various groups of anglers are all in support. Their opinion is that as they are an organisation committed to conservation, it would be irresponsible of us to do anything else. You can join the the Angling

Trust's River Close Season Debate on their new web page dedicated to this issue at <http://www.anglingtrust.net/The+River+Close+Season+Debate>.

### **The Impact of Otter Predation on Inland Fisheries in the UK**

Oliver Fielding, a student of Rural Land Management is undertaking a dissertation titled: 'The Impact of Otter Predation on Inland Fisheries in the UK'. This study aims to analyse the impact of recovering otter numbers on inland fisheries and the reasons why some fisheries suffer more than others from otter predation [*more otters in some places than others? Ed.*]. It investigates whether otters are responsible for increasing levels of damage to fisheries and poorer angling results, from the perspective of recreational anglers. The study will explore the different predation prevention methods available and look at damage control methods that may be required in the future.

You can complete the survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/S6QK2VD>

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### **Upper Thames Consultative**

A hardy bunch of individuals, interested parties and groups frequently attend meetings of this group. They are primarily a

discussion group, but the topics of discussion are wide and varied. The group also includes the Angling Trust, so the minutes and actions get to the right place.

I have attended the meetings in the past, but as mentioned in the Editorial, my time is rather limited and I've let it slip but Grant Millaim (Deputy Chair) attends. However, when I have attended it has been rather interesting.

As such, I am still on their mailing list, and get regular updates on activities relating to the fisheries in the area. Their principal concern – as the major waterway of the area – is the Thames, but no issues are out of bounds and the usual thorny issues of cormorants, otters and poaching are discussed.

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## **FISHERIES SECTION**

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### **REPORT OF THE GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE; 1<sup>ST</sup> APRIL 2013 - 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2014.**

On behalf of the GPC we have pleasure in presenting the 79th Annual Report of the Society.

#### **General**

The Season 2013-2014 continued to be another busy one for the

officers. Following the motion passed at last year's AGM to engage with the Chief Executive of the Civil Service Sports Council [CSSC], at last a useful dialogue has opened up with them over long-term rental agreements for the exclusive use of the Ellis Water, Hambridge and East Peckham fisheries. However, despite a recent productive meeting with CSSC, draft heads of terms are still awaited. Nevertheless, there is every expectation of a successful conclusion later in the year. The Society was represented at other meetings during the year included those organised by the EA and the Kennet Valley Fisheries Association. We continue on very good terms with our various landlords and other angling clubs including Newbury AA, Reed Thatcham AA and Old Windsor AC. We still lack an Hon. Fisheries Officer and Hon. Competition Secretary and thanks are due to Tony Paul for performing the necessary duties in an acting capacity.

#### **Membership and Finances**

Despite an overall fall in the total membership, the Society's finances remain healthy.

#### **Fisheries**

For the second successive year we had a deluge from December

until the end of February which saw not only our rivers overflowing, but Ellis and Crabtree lakes also flooded. Add to this the storm at the end of October that saw many trees felled, and it is easy to see why the fisheries team were kept very busy. Unfortunately a serious breach of the north bank occurred below

Hambridge which saw a lot of the river flow out into the lake behind our fishery. Newbury AA's fishery team acting for the lake owner have managed to effect a temporary repair but a more permanent job will have to be undertaken. Despite the fact the Thames began to drop quickly once the rain stopped, the Kennet's banks remained mostly underwater until the Season ended.

Flooding at Datchet almost reached the cottage and it was reported by the farm staff that there was four feet of water in our car park. Nevertheless chub and barbel continued to be caught from Hambridge whilst Windsor produced odd chub and some bream throughout the winter.

Working parties were held during the close season at Hambridge, Datchet, East Peckham, and Clifton Reynes. Unfortunately the Windsor clearing party had to be cancelled on the day due to an unannounced Race for Life event.

Generally attendances continue to decline but all the venues were in reasonable shape by the start of the new season, helped no end by the efforts of the mid-week mowing team. Ian Robinson and his helpers have continued their good work at Ellis where several trees have been dealt with and fencing repairs are now being undertaken.

As usual venues such as Datchet and Hambridge needed to be strimmed several time during the season. The Acting Fisheries Officer was again grateful to Terry Gyngell and Ken James for their assistance with this work. Padlocks continued to be a problem at Ellis, Windsor and Crabtree with malfunctions, theft and vandalism.

The GPC's thanks go to all those who gave up their time, often at short notice, to assist the Tony Paul throughout the year.

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## **FISHERY REPORTS**

### **Clifton Reynes**

The paths and swims were strimmed prior to the start of the new season but no fishing reports were received, other than the banking of three pike, best 18lbs, and a small chub.

## **Crabtree Lake**

The mid-week team removed a couple of fallen trees as well as pruning others. Encroaching reed beds were again cut back to keep swims clear and excessive litter left by poachers was cleared up. Poaching and associated litter continued to be a problem throughout the summer months, although with the appointment of new bailiffs and additional signage we hope to get on top of the problem. Reports suggest that the carp are now getting wise to floaters, and whilst they still freely take “freebies” they often ignore the one with the hook in. The fine roach fishing during the warmer months noted last year continued with fish to a pound being weighed-in. Levels are still very high and caution is advised [see photo].



## **Datchet**

Several swims were repaired and silt from the earlier floods was removed from the steps. Trees were trimmed back or removed. The venue was mowed several times throughout the close season and warmer months with the assistance of Terry Gyngell and Ken James. Towards the end of October storm-force winds brought down many willows and three black poplars which blocked the pathways both below and above the weir. The Acting Fisheries Officer was grateful for the help he received from Ian Campbell, Dave Steele and Terry Gyngell in clearing these away. This winter's floods and further high winds have caused more damage which will have to be tackled in the close season.

The fishing was patchy with few quality roach and dace showing although a couple of decent chub turned up in matches. The odd bream also showed up but there were no reports received from pleasure and specialist anglers.

## **East Peckham**

The working party was again poorly attended and the venue had to be mowed mid week prior to the start of the new season.. The only match held produced a very poor result and no other fishing reports were received.

## **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. Water levels were good for most of the season and the carp continue to give a good account of themselves when they can beat the tiny rudd and roach to the bait.

## **Ellis Water**

The swim on the end of the island has been rebuilt and plans are in hand to tackle some of the trees that are in a dangerous condition. The tree that blocked the swim in the lagoon by the bridge was dealt with by a contractor. Contractors have also been called in to deal with dangerous trees and undertake fence repairs along the causeway bank.

Following the break into the Society's container before Christmas 2012, a new container was obtained and sited in the South Dinghy Park. Unfortunately, or perhaps fortunately, this was also broken into before we had a chance to move in the items stored in the old container. Fishing reports suggest that the carp fed throughout most of the year for those prepared to put in the time and effort.

Tench and bream appear to have been hard to locate.

## **Hambridge**

The working parties removed one large willow that snapped off and drifted into the south bank of the middle meadow. George Martin again trailed his boat down and this was used to trim back low branches and other obstruction that could not be tackled from the bank. As usual it was necessary to mow the venue from Hambridge to the Stakes during August and the winter storms saw the Acting Fisheries Officer undertake three visits with his chainsaws in order to open up paths that had been blocked by fallen trees. After the October storm he was grateful to Ian Campbell, Dave Steele and Terry Gyngell for their help in clearing the paths along the river bank in the first cove below the railway. Barbel were plentiful, with many double figure fish being reported including one of 14lb 7oz caught on Fidler's during February. Others continued to report catches even during the height of the floods. Some reasonable bags of dace were recorded but very few roach. Trout of all sizes were again very much in evidence throughout the year to the extent that they are becoming a bit of a nuisance [Any comments from fly fishers? Ed.].

## **Kintbury**

The canal was fishing quite well until the winter floods which led to the closing of all locks on the canal meaning that boats were locked into pounds allowing them to moor up continually throughout the closure. As a consequence there was little bank space left for angling..

## **Midgham**

The removal of all the tree cover on the top end peg noted two year's ago does not appear to have affected the swim as carp continued to be caught or lost from this area. Bream have occasionally turned up at the other end of the fishery, but other species are notable only for their absence. Contractors are continuing their work to pile the far bank.

## **Woolhampton**

This new fishery which we share with Reed Thatcham and King Heron Angling Clubs has proved an interesting acquisition producing pike, tench, bream, chub and big perch. However, there seems to be few small fish, so cormorant predation may be a problem [may also be due to the chub and perch and a big pike has been observed Ed.]. An advantage of this venue is that part of it is on the south bank and

part on the north bank so it is usually possible to get the wind off your back.

## **Windsor Racecourse**

With the working party having to be cancelled it was left to the mid-week team to do the strimming and treework. The winter storms and floods have seen many trees felled but racecourse contractors have dealt with the majority of these. There were a number of double figure barbel taken, with individual specimens of 15lb and 14lb recorded from the weir pool. A mid-twenty carp was also reported, along with the odd good chub to over 6lbs. Silver fish were much less easy to find and the bream shoals appear to have split up, as large multiple catches appear to be a thing of the past. Nevertheless individual fish to 9lbs were reported.

## **Lost Fisheries**

A Report from a fishery that CSAS no longer have access to:

### **December 1964: Staines South Reservoir.**

Mr Ricketts took a nice roach to 2lbs 15½ oz. Mr Lewis who witnessed it, and wrote to the Bulletin editor reported that he was 'more excited than the captor'.

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## COMPETITIONS

The reduction in the number of matches did nothing to improve attendances. Weights too were disappointing with even the normally reliable Crabtree fishing very hard. The night match at Windsor was a disappointment in terms of the number of fish caught and the fur and feather match although reasonably well attended saw only three weigh in. The only fish of note taken in matches were a roach of 1lb taken by the Chairman at Crabtree and a chub of 5lb 10oz taken by Jamie Nash at Datchet. Terry Gyngell won The Sir Ernest Fass championship whilst John Ellyatt again won the mid-week league.

The winter championship, the Pratt Cup, was reduced to two rounds [due to flooding] and was won by Tony Paul. Congratulations go to all trophy winners. For once the Society won all three of our interclub matches beating Reed Thatcham home and away and defeating Old Windsor at Hambridge.

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## MATCH RESULTS 2013-14

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Fass/R Dance memorial, 30 June  
East Peckham

Result: 1. D Steele 1lb 12oz, 2. T Gyngell 7oz, 3. P Kitchen 3oz  
5 fished 3 weighed in a total of 2lb 6oz

Night match, 6/7 July Windsor  
Result: 1. T Gyngell 34lb 11oz, 2. A. Pang 27lb 13oz, 3. F. McAdam 18lb 6oz  
14 fished, 6 weighed in a total of 113lb 11oz.

CSAS V RTAA/Fass, 21 July  
Whitehouse lake  
Result (CSAS): 1. M Rutter 28lb 10oz, 2 A Paul 21lb 1oz 3 D Steele 19lbs.  
6 fished 4 weighed in a total of 73lb 8oz  
RTAA 6 fished total weight 29lbs 12oz

CSAS V RTAA/Fass, 4 August  
Hambridge  
Result (CSAS): 1. E Beadle 8lb 5oz, 2. M Rutter 8lb 2oz, 3 A Paul 6lb 8oz.  
7 fished, all weighed in a total of 32lb 14oz  
RTAA 10 fished 8 weighed in a total of 29lb 1oz

CSAS V Old Windsor, 18 August  
Hambridge  
Result (CSAS): 1. A Paul 12lb 11oz, 2. M Rutter 6lb 13oz, D Steele 6lb 9oz.  
7 fished, 6 weighed in a total of 34lb 6oz  
Old Windsor 5 fished all weighed in a total of 11lb 10oz,  
Fass/Pairs, Crabtree 30 Oct

Fass/Hayman, 8 September  
Datchet

Result: 1. J Nash 8lb 5oz, 2. A Paul 4lb, 3 T Gyngell 3lb 10oz  
5 fished, 3 weighed in a total of 15lb 15oz.

Fass/Hurcombe 22 September  
Windsor

Result: 1. J Nash 3lb 15oz, 2. T Gyngell 3lb 1oz, 3. A Paul 2lb 9oz  
4 fished, 3 weighed in a total of 9lb 9oz.

Fass/La Roche, 14 October  
Datchet

Result: 1. J Nash 11lb 6oz; 2. D Steele 6lb; A Paul 3lb 5oz.

Fass/Robbins/Calkin  
27 October Hambridge

Result: 1. T Gyngell 12lb 12oz; 2. M Rutter 5lb 12oz; 3. A Paul 1lb 5oz

Calkin (best specimen) M Rutter's 7oz dace just beat T Gyngell's 6lb 1oz barbel

Fass/Guthrie, 14 November  
Kintbury

Result: 1. M Rutter 8lb; 2. J Fisher 7lb 14oz, 3. T Gyngell 4lb 12oz.

Fur and Feather, 15 December  
Windsor

Result: 1. D Steele 3lb 10oz; 2. A Paul 11oz, 3. A Boutelle 3oz.

Pratt, 16 February Kintbury  
Cancelled due to the floods

Pratt/J Dean March 9 Hambridge  
Result: 1. A Paul 8lb 12oz. No one else weighed in.

Final Results

Sir Ernest Fass Championship

1. T Gyngell 75 points  
2. A Paul 74 points  
3 M Rutter 54 points

Pratt Trophy (2 rounds)

1. A Paul 8 points  
2. J Fisher 5 points  
3. T Gyngell 4 points

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## TROPHY WINNERS 2013/14

### Fass Trophy:

Winner: T Gyngell Runner - up  
A Paul

### S King/J Speer Memorial

Trophy:

Winner, J Ellyatt, Runner-up -A  
Boutelle

### Pratt Trophy:

Winner A Paul, Runner-up J  
Fisher

### Cyril Guthrie Memorial

Trophy:

Winner, M Rutter

**Steve Hayman Memorial Trophy:**

Winner, J Nash

**Hurcomb Memorial Trophy**

Winner, J Nash

**T La Roche Memorial Cup:**

Winner, J Nash

**Williams Memorial Trophy:**

Winner, J Fisher

**Robbins Memorial Trophy:**

Winner, T Gyngell

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**Calkin Challenge Cup:**

Winner, M Rutter

**Tony Devine Memorial Trophy (Night Match):**

Winner, T Gyngell

**J Dean Memorial Trophy:**

Winner, A Paul

**R Dance Memorial Cup**

Winner, D Steele

## **AGM SECTION**

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### **MINUTES OF 78TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE CIVIL SERVICE ANGLING SOCIETY HELD ON 23<sup>RD</sup> MAY 2013 AT THE CIVIL SERVICE CLUB, GREAT SCOTLAND YARD, LONDON SW1A 2HJ.**

#### **1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

**2.**

Norman Day, Eddie Cox, Ian Campbell, Steve Haden, Peter Stone, Paul Kitchen, David Trangmar, Dave Tester and Terry Gygell.

#### **2. MINUTES OF 77<sup>th</sup> AGM 2012**

These were formally agreed by the meeting.

#### **3. MATTERS ARISING**

There were no matters arising.

#### **4. ANNUAL REPORT OF GPC**

Tony Paul pointed out that there was an error in the report printed in the current Bulletin in regard to competitions and the river Beult. The text that appeared on page 25 under the river Beult should have appeared on page 29 under competitions and the text that is on page 29 regarding competitions is a repeat of last year's report. The Report was formally accepted by the meeting subject to the correction of this error.

#### **5. STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS**

With regard to the accounts provided at the AGM, George Martin advised that invoices from the Civil Service Sports Council for fisheries rents and insurance had not been received by the time that they were drawn up. Income for the year was down due to a reduction in membership. The amount of interest

received had gone up because the society's cash had been invested with a bank which gave a better return. The Society now obtained an income from Old Windsor Angling Club for access to the Datchet fishery. George also advised that the accounts had been audited by Paul Kitchen who wished to resign from this role. The Statement of Accounts was formally accepted by the meeting.

## **6. ELECTION OF PRESIDENT**

Mr I. E. Mathers was unanimously re-elected as President.

## **7. ELECTION OF VICE- PRESIDENTS**

Mr. E. W. Cox, Mr. N. Day and Mr. J. Richardson were unanimously re-elected as Vice-Presidents.

## **8. ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

**8.1** Dr. D. A, Kennedy was unanimously re-elected Hon. Chairman. The following were re-elected:-

|                     |                           |
|---------------------|---------------------------|
| Dr. D. A. Kennedy   | Hon. Secretary            |
| Mr. G. Martin       | Hon. Treasurer            |
| Mr. S. Haden        | Hon. Temporary            |
| Membership Officer  |                           |
| Mr. I Campbell      | Hon. Membership Secretary |
| Mr. G. Sigley       | Hon. Publicity Secretary  |
| Mr. G. Milliam      | Hon. Minute Secretary     |
| Mr. R. Higginbottom | Committee Member          |
| Dr. L. Mallinson.   | Committee Member          |

### **8.2 Election of Hon. Fisheries Officer and Hon. Competitions Secretary**

No advanced nominations for these posts and none were forthcoming from the floor. The Chairman pointed out that without a Fisheries Officer or Competitions Secretary the Society would have no one to manage its fisheries, which was its biggest asset, and no one to run competitions. Tony Paul

said a Competitions Officer was not required because there were so few competitors and it was now just a case of arranging a few events and bringing along a pair of scales; and he would continue to do this. He also said he would continue to do the fishery work pending the appointment of a new fisheries officer, a job description for which could be found in the current Bulletin. The President thanked Tony for his 28 years' service on the GPC and his work as the Fisheries Officer for the previous 18 years. Tony confirmed that he was prepared to continue to act as the Fisheries Officer provided that this did not require him to be a member of the GPC. The Hon. Treasurer confirmed that Tony could continue to claim expenses for fishery work.

### **8.3 Election of Auditor**

After some discussion, Tony Paul agreed to be nominated as an Auditor. He was unanimously elected by the meeting.

### **8.4 Election of Hon. Bulletin Editor**

Stuart Penny pointed out that Mike Turner had indicated his willingness to continue in the post. He was unanimously elected by the meeting.

## **9. RULE CHANGE**

The Hon. Publicity Officer outlined the background to the proposal to repeal Rule 9.1 [Publicity] and Rule 2.10 [Reporting a catch]. He said that these rules were written many years ago when the number of members was high and the Society was more exclusive, with civil servants as a majority. Now membership was falling, there was an increase in associate members and instant communication by mobile phone was the norm. The GPC felt that the publicity rules were a deterrent when there was a need to attract new members, and there was a case to be made for repeal. In the discussion that followed a number of concerns were voiced from the floor. These included the following: poachers would be attracted to waters

where good catches were reported, the Society should not cater for carp anglers who were keen on self-publicity; and landlords might not be happy if there were no publicity rules regarding their waters. In response it was pointed out that a vetting system was in place for prospective new associate members; if a member was considered to have brought the Society into disrepute as a consequence of adverse publicity, disciplinary action could be taken; and if necessary publicity rules could be re-introduced at a later date, if necessary. When the motion formally was put to the meeting, half the floor voted for it and half voted against it. The President then used his casting vote in favour of the motion and it was carried.

## **10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

**10.1** Life Membership was given to Stuart Penny by Ian Mather for services to the Society.

**10.2** David Kennedy reported that the Society's parent body, the Civil Service Sports Council [CSSC] had made it clear that in future it would be expecting a rental payment for the use of the parts of Ellis Water [Littleton Lake] that it owned, Hambridge, where it owned most of the fishing rights, and East Peckham where it was the riparian owner as well as owning the fishing rights. He felt that when eventually it was necessary to begin the formal negotiations with CSSC on rental payments, the Society's position would be strengthened with more full members. And, that this could be achieved by signing-up more full members through the linked CSSC membership scheme. Accordingly, the GPC would encourage associate members to take advantage of the linked membership scheme, details of which have been in the Bulletin for some time.

When comments were invited from the floor, Tony Paul said that for every full member we signed up we would lose about £30 per year in subscription income. Furthermore, regarding the negotiations so far over Ellis Water, he felt that the Society had been treated abysmally and had been kept in the dark about the

CSSC's intentions. David Kennedy was of the same opinion as Tony, adding that numerous attempts had been made to negotiate directly with CSSC about the use of Ellis Water, but all had been rebutted. Furthermore, CSSC's line had been that they wanted the matter dealt with by the Littleton Lake Users' Group which he felt was an entirely inappropriate route, and not in the interests of the Society. In the light of Tony's concerns, David said that he would be happy to write to the Chief Executive of CSSC requesting a meeting to address the situation at Ellis Water, which was complex, with a number of parties being involved, including Littleton Sailing Club and the Civil Service Sailing Association. Graham Sigley added that in his opinion the issue of rental payments for the use of Littleton Lake had arisen because of differences of opinion between the Civil Service Sailing Association and CSSC. After much discussion, Tony Paul proposed a motion to the effect that the meeting requested the Hon. Secretary to write to the Chief Executive of CSSC expressing concerns about the lack of information concerning future rental payments for the use of Ellis Water together with a request for a meeting. This motion was carried unanimously with the proviso that the exact form of words in the communication to the Chief Executive should be left to David Kennedy, who should consult Tony Paul about the wording.

**10.3** David Kennedy advised that he intended to stand down as Hon Chairman at the next AGM [2014] and as Hon Secretary at the AGM after that [2015]. Thus, the Society will be looking for an Hon. Fisheries Officer, Hon Competition Secretary and a Chairman and a Secretary in the next two years.

## **Honoraria**

Allen Cunningham proposed the following honoraria:-

|                             |      |
|-----------------------------|------|
| Hon. Secretary              | £320 |
| Hon. Treasurer              | £220 |
| Hon. Fisheries Officer      | £220 |
| Hon. Competitions Secretary | £220 |

|                                     |      |
|-------------------------------------|------|
| Hon. Bulletin Editor                | £125 |
| Hon..Temporary Membership Secretary | £125 |
| Hon. Minutes Secretary              | £125 |

The motion was unanimously carried by the meeting.

## **REPORT OF THE GPC, 1 APRIL 2011 TO 31 MARCH 2012**

On behalf of the GPC we have pleasure in presenting the 77th Annual Report of the Society.

### **MEMBERSHIP AND FINANCES**

After several years of fairly stable membership numbers, this year saw a drop of around 10%. Despite this, the trading position of the Society remained in the black, and the GPC decided that there would be no overall increase in cost of membership other than that needed to bring associate members into line with the increase that full members have to pay on their CSSC Sports & Leisure Ltd subscription.

## AGENDA FOR THE 79<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 79<sup>th</sup> AGM of the Civil Service Angling Society will be held on Thursday, 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2014, at 1930 hours sharp, at the Civil Service Club, Great Scotland Yard, London SW1A 2HJ.

**All members, whether full or associate, are cordially invited to attend. Admission is with a current CSSC Sports & Leisure Card or current CSAS membership book. Associate members should note that under Society Rules they are not allowed to vote in elections or on motions, but they may speak in favour or against a motion.**

1. **Apologies for absence.**
2. **Minutes of the 78<sup>th</sup> AGM** – please see this Bulletin.
3. **Annual report of the General Purposes Committee** – please see this Bulletin.
4. **Statement of Accounts** – this will be available at the meeting.
5. **Election of President.** The GPC recommends that Mr. I. E. Mathers be re-elected President.
6. **Election of Vice-presidents.** The GPC recommends that Mr. E. W. Cox and Mr. N. Day be re-elected as Vice-presidents.
7. **Election of Officers.** The GPC recommends that Mr G. Malliam be elected Hon. Chairman.

The following officers are willing to serve again:-

|                   |                                    |
|-------------------|------------------------------------|
| Dr. D. A. Kennedy | Hon. Secretary.                    |
| Mr. G. Martin     | Hon. Treasurer.                    |
| Mr. S. Haden      | Hon. Temporary Membership Officer. |
| Mr. I. Campbell   | Hon. Membership Secretary.         |
| Mr. G. Sigley     | Hon. Publicity Officer.            |
| Mr. M. Turner     | Hon. Bulletin Editor               |

The following are willing to serve on the GPC again: - Mr R. Higginbottom and Dr. L. Mallinson.

**8. Election of Hon. Fisheries Officer and Hon. Competitions Secretary.** As yet there are no nominations for this post.

**9. Election of Hon. Auditors.** As yet there are no nominations for this post.

**10. Election of Hon Minutes Secretary.** As yet there are no nominations for this post.

**11. Any Other Business.**

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