



**CIVIL SERVICE ANGLING SOCIETY
SPRING NEWSLETTER, 2017**

<http://www.civilserviceas.org.uk>

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

The Annual General Meeting of the Society is on 25 May 2017. You will find the agenda in this Newsletter, as well as the annual report of the General Purposes Committee and the minutes of the last AGM. On the agenda are some proposed rule changes and in the GPC's report the emphasis on the state of our fisheries, which are the Society's greatest asset. The report illustrates the tremendous amount of work that goes into running the Society and I am sure that you will join me in thanking all those members who helped out during the past season.

I hope to see you at the AGM, and I wish you all "tight lines" for the forthcoming season.

Grant Milliam

AGM SECTION

AGENDA FOR THE 82nd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE CIVIL SERVICE ANGLING SOCIETY

The 82nd AGM of the Society will be held on Thursday 25th May 2017 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 81st AGM held on 26th May 2016** – please see this Newsletter.
- 3. Annual Report of the GPC** – please see this Newsletter.
- 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. N. Day and Mr. Tony Paul be elected as Vice-presidents.

7. Election of Officers. The GPC recommends that Mr. Grant Milliam be re-elected Hon. Chairman and re-elected as Hon. Membership Secretary. The GPC recommends that Mr. Neil Depledge be elected Hon. Publicity Officer and that Mr. David Weeks be elected as a Committee member

The following Officers are willing to serve again:-

Dr. David Kennedy	Hon. Secretary
Mr. George Martin	Hon. Treasurer
Mr. Steve Haden	Hon. Temporary Membership Secretary
Mr. Ian Campbell	Hon. Fisheries Officer

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

8. Election of Hon. Competitions Secretary

9. Election of Hon. Minute & Newsletter Secretary

10. Election of Hon. Auditors. The GPC recommends that Mr. David Shore and Mr. Paul Kitchen be re-elected.

11. Motions proposed by the General Purposes Committee

THE FOLLOWING RULE CHANGES ARE PROPOSED.

Membership. Insert **new rule 1.4.5** "The minimum age for full or associate membership is 18 years."

Proposed effect: Clarification.

2, Conduct and responsibilities of members

Insert **new rule 2.9, "Fishery managers.** From time to time, in the interest of fish welfare, a fishery manager may, with the approval of the General Purposes Committee, introduce rules about angling methods on his fishery."

Proposed effect: To permit a fishery manager to introduce a rule about fishing methods at his fishery to safeguard the fish stocks.

3.1, Datchet fishery

3.1.2 Delete all and replace with "Members must not travel down the farm lane, either in a vehicle or on foot between 2100 hours and 0500 hours."

3.1.3, first bullet point. Delete all and replace with "Under no account must members travel down the farm lane, either in a vehicle or on foot between 2100 hours and 0500 hours."

Proposed effect: To prevent residents being disturbed by anglers at night and in the early morning.

3.4, Ellis Water, anglers' boats

Delete "N.B. THESE RULES APPLY TO ALL BOATS, INCLUDING THOSE THAT ARE KEPT THERE AND THOSE TAKEN TO AND FROM THE VENUE BY TRAILER, OR ON TOP OF, OR INSIDE VEHICLES."

Replace with N.B. "NO ANGLER'S BOAT MAY BE USED AT ELLIS WATER UNLESS IT IS KEPT IN AN OFFICIAL BERTH."

Proposed effect. Clarification.

3.15, Sheepwalk Lakes

Insert **new Rule, 3.15.1**, "Anglers' boats are not permitted on Sheepwalk Lakes under any circumstances."

Proposed effect. Clarification.

5, Temporary membership ticket regulations

5.6 Delete all and replace with "Temporary membership tickets will be valid for 24 hours from the time requested by the member."

5.10 Delete all.

5.11 Delete all.

Proposed effect: to allow night fishing by temporary membership ticket holders and to enable them to have access to all the Society's waters throughout the Season, including Fidlers.

6. Delete existing title and replace with "JUNIOR FACILITY TICKETS & SPOUSES' TICKETS"

6.2 Delete existing clause and replace with "junior facility ticket holders under the age of 16 are permitted to be on a Society water only if accompanied by the sponsoring member[s] who shall at all times be held responsible for their behaviour. While junior facility ticket holders over the age of 16 may fish unaccompanied by their sponsor, they may not fish at night."

6.3 Delete existing clause and replace with "Junior facility ticket holders shall not be members of the Society but will become eligible for membership on their 18th birthday."

6.4 Delete existing clause and replace with "Although not members of the Society, junior facility ticket holders shall be bound by the Society's rules which are on the Society's website."

6.5 Insert new clause "Spouses' tickets are available to the spouses and partners of full and associate members. Spouses' ticket holders are permitted to be on a Society water only if accompanied by their spouse or partner who shall at all times be held responsible for their behaviour. Although not members of the Society, spouses' ticket holders shall be bound by the Society's rules which are on the Society's website."

Proposed effect: clarification and harmonisation.

12. Any Other Business

MINUTES OF 81ST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE CIVIL SERVICE ANGLING SOCIETY, ON 26TH MAY 2016, AT THE CIVIL SERVICE CLUB, GREAT SCOTLAND YARD, LONDON SW1A 2HJ.

Before the meeting started, the President, Mr. Ian Mathers, the Chairman, called for one minute's silence in memory of Eddie Cox, Sheila Day and David Sheppard who sadly passed away in the last year.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Messrs. Norman Day, Paul Kitchen, David Shore, Les Mallinson, Ray Higginbottom and Ian Campbell.

2. MINUTES OF 80TH AGM. 2015

These were formally accepted by the meeting.

3. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

4. ANNUAL REPORT OF GPC

The Report was formally accepted by the meeting.

5. STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

A question was raised from the floor whether the Society was likely to face large legal costs as a consequence of having to deal with a claim by Feltham and Twickenham Piscatorial Society that they owned the fish in the newly-acquired Sheepwalk Lakes. David Kennedy explained that any question of ownership of the fish in the lakes would be dealt with by Surrey Wildlife Trust, which had granted the licence to CSAS, and insurance was in place which provided indemnification should there be a need to defend a civil action. The Statement of Accounts was formally accepted by the meeting.

6. ELECTION OF PRESIDENT

Mr. Grant Milliam took over the Chair and Mr. Ian Mathers formally was unanimously re-elected as President.

7. ELECTION OF VICE- PRESIDENTS

Mr. Norman Day and Mr Tony Paul formally were unanimously re-elected as Vice-Presidents.

8. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The following formally were unanimously re-elected:-

Mr. Grant Milliam	Hon. Chairman & Hon. Membership Secretary.
Dr. David Kennedy	Hon. Secretary
Mr. George Martin	Hon. Treasurer
Mr. Steve Haden	Hon. Temporary Membership Secretary
Mr. Ian Campbell	Hon. Fisheries Officer
Mr. Graham Sigley	Hon. Publicity Secretary
Mr. Ray Higginbottom	Committee Member
Dr. Les Mallinson.	Committee Member

9. ELECTION OF HON. COMPETITIONS SECRETARY AND HON. MINUTE & NEWSLETTER SECRETARY.

No advanced nominations for these posts had been received, and none were forthcoming from the floor. Mr. Tony Paul agreed to continue as the Hon. Competitions Secretary in an acting capacity. Mr. Grant Milliam and Dr. David Kennedy agreed to discharge the duties of the Hon. Minute & Newsletter Secretary between themselves for the time being.

10. ELECTION OF AUDITORS

It was confirmed that Mr. Paul Kitchen and Mr. David Shore were willing to stand and formally they were unanimously elected by the meeting.

11. MOTIONS PROPOSED BY THE GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

11.1 Rule Book, Conduct and Responsibilities of Members, new Foreword & Rule 2.1.1

"Members have a responsibility to abide by the Rules and Regulations of the Society that are currently on the Society's website. Such should be regarded as the definitive Rules and Regulations of the Society. Members must satisfy themselves that they understand the Rules and Regulations and are complying with them, particularly when they are on one of the Society's fisheries. In this respect a plea of ignorance will not be accepted. Any amendment of the Rules or Regulations will be put on the website without delay and later will be reported in the Newsletter. Members who have questions about the prevailing Rules and Regulations should contact the Hon. Secretary."

The motion formally was accepted by a majority vote, with Mr. Tony Paul voting in opposition.

11.2 Rule Book, Conduct and Responsibilities of Members, Rules and Regulations regarding dogs

At 2.3.7,

Delete penultimate bullet point "taking dogs, unless they are assistance dogs, or when on a public right of way"

Insert new Rule 2.3.12, Dogs.

"Assistance dogs are permitted on all fisheries. Well-mannered dogs, under the full control of their owners, are permitted on fisheries where there is a public right of way and where dogs are specifically permitted by the fishery regulations."

The motion formally was accepted unanimously.

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

12.1 It was agreed unanimously that Mr. Tony Thomas should be awarded the Neale Trophy.

12.2 Mr. Tony Paul proposed that the Surrey Wildlife Trust should be asked to provide dog waste disposal facilities at Sheepwalk Lakes. On behalf of the GPC, Dr. David Kennedy agreed to take this up with the Trust.

12.3 From the floor it was proposed that consideration should be given to introduction of more tench and stocking of crucian carp and roach in the smaller Sheepwalk Lake and the stocking of more barbel and chub into the Kennet at Hambridge. On behalf of the GPC, Dr. David Kennedy agreed to take this up with Ian Campbell, Hon. Fishery Officer.

12.4 Concerns were raised from the floor about the need to improve security at Crabtree Lake. For the GPC it was reported that considerable progress had been made in this direction by Mr. Ian Campbell and the situation was being kept under review.

12.5 Concerns were raised from the floor about cormorant and otter predation. On behalf of the GPC, Dr. David Kennedy agreed to take this up with Ian Campbell, Hon. Fishery Officer.

12.6 It was confirmed that the GPC was monitoring the flood relief scheme that would affect Ellis Water and Sheepwalk Lakes.

12.7 Honoraria.

The following honoraria were proposed by Mr. Tony Paul, seconded by Mr Mark Flux:-

Hon. Secretary, £350, Hon. Treasurer, £250, Hon. Membership Secretary £250, Hon. Fisheries Officer, £250, Hon. Temporary Membership Secretary £135, Hon. Minutes Secretary, £135, Hon. Publicity Secretary, £135. The motion was unanimously carried by the meeting.

REPORT OF THE GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE, 1 APRIL 2016 TO 31 MARCH 2017

On behalf of the GPC we have pleasure in presenting the 82nd Annual Report of the Society.

Membership and Finances

Membership has picked up and while our income has steadied, reserves have been somewhat depleted by expenditure on fish for restocking, which undoubtedly was a sound investment.

Fisheries management

Negotiations with CSSC Sports & Leisure Ltd. to secure 25 year leases for Hambridge and Ellis Water continued and recently draft lease documents were provided. These were reviewed, amendments were proposed and legal advice is awaited, before finally the leases eventually are signed.

Ian Campbell, our Fisheries Officer has arranged a number of working parties and consequently our fisheries are being kept in good shape. Fishery managers and bailiffs have been active in resolving local issues and in keeping our fisheries as free from poaching as possible. The GPC is grateful to the members who gave up their time to help in this important work.

Crabtree Lake

Much work has been done, both by the Society and jointly with Elmbridge Model Club, to improve security. 400 thorn bushes were planted and on the roadside verge logs were placed to deter would-be poachers from parking. Both the main gate and the gate into the adjacent horse field have had three strands of barbed wire, 18 in. high, fitted to the top bar, and mesh was fitted to the outside of the gate to prevent the bars being used as rungs. Crabtree is flagged up on the police "radar" and there have been two successful prosecutions. Recent appointments at the venue were Arturas Gulbinas, as fishery manager and Kevin Wells, as bailiff. All this activity has resulted in less poaching and we hope to see even more improvement in the future. Reports indicated that the

carp fishing was much as before, while the roach fishing continued to improve. There were persistent rumours of a three-pounder having been caught, and two-pounders definitely were taken. There were no reports of the perch that were stocked last year and Ian Campbell would like to hear from any member who has taken any.

Datchet

Steps have been taken to address the ease of access by the railway track at the end of the fishery and consequently it should be more secure. While reports indicate that overall the fishing was patchy, a few barbel were taken and there were some good catches of silver fish at times. The few anglers who could locate and hold the bream shoals were well rewarded.

East Peckham

It was possible to fish at this venue for one more season thanks to CSSC Sports & Leisure, the owner. No fishing reports were received and probably few members visited the fishery. CSSC intends to put it up for auction shortly and it seems unlikely that fishery will be available again to the Society.

East Whitley Lake

Members may wish to be reminded that this is small, shallow farm reservoir on a quiet, rural equestrian centre near Shamley Green, Surrey. Parts are tree-lined but most of it is fishable. A few swims have fishing platforms, some of which are accessible for wheelchairs. It can be fished all year round and the water has a good head of smallish common carp and also contains a lot of small roach and rudd. Crucians are present, though not so frequently caught, they run to a good size. A few substantial perch were caught here in past seasons but there have been no reports of any taken recently. Last year, a working party tidied up the fishery and removed fallen and encroaching branches. The swims and the surrounding path regularly were kept strimmed, thanks to Tony Paul. It is clear that more members fished the venue as evidenced by increased comments on the CSAS website forum. Nigel Watson, the fishery manager reports that he caught 35 carp during the season using traditional methods and the best was 9lb 8oz. During the dry summer, the water level was very low but this did not diminish catches. Unauthorised dog walkers sometimes let their animals swim in the lake. The owner is aware of this and has asked that further instances are reported to him, via Nigel Watson. Finally, at this fishery it is advisable to keep lids on bait containers to prevent stray dogs from helping themselves.

Ellis Water, Sheepwalk and the Lagoon

Tony Thomas, the fishery manager, has provided an overview of the venue, for new members, as follows. Ellis Water is a large, mature gravel pit with a history of producing quality specimen fish and still has an element of the unknown about it, which many anglers find alluring. With a low stock ratio per acreage, fishing will always be a challenge but for the devotees the rewards can be great. Fishing last season was slow in the spring but eventually picked up in the summer months with most of the known carp making an appearance at good weights. The lake has been stocked in recent years with carp from the Dinton strain, which have shown impressive growth rates and are starting to attain weights of 20lbs or more. The stock fish initially fell easily to anglers baits' but have now grown wary and, like the originals, are an elusive quarry. Ellis

has a wide variety of depths and swims and the fish respond well to all manner of approaches and baits. While some fish have a taste for boilies, particles and natural baits have also been used to good effect. Many anglers try to fish at range and have achieved good results but the mobile approach has been successful with some crafty anglers having good catches from margin spots they have pre-baited.

Ellis also contains large tench, which have been recorded into low doubles and also are difficult to catch. A small number of specialist anglers devote their time in the pursuit of these fish, which are extremely shy and difficult to locate. Large bream also live in Ellis but few anglers target them. However, they are often caught by carpers and weights of 15lb or more are not unusual. Pike fishing this winter has been productive on Ellis with plenty of double-figure fish and the odd twenty pounder being caught.

Sheepwalk Big Lake has an average depth of around 18 foot, although most anglers try to target either the margins or the shallower bars, which can be found by plumbing. The deep areas however have been known to produce fish as well, even in the middle of a summer's day. As with most lakes of this nature, observation is the key. The water has a pedigree of producing large specimen fish and is quite famous in the angling world. It is a low stock venue, so the fish are hard to catch. However, the rewards can be great for the persistent angler. The fish are not the stunted ones with damaged mouths that we have become too used to seeing from overstocked venues but are truly wild magnificent beasts. In recent years the largest fish landed was about 36lbs but it is widely believed that larger fish inhabit the depths.

The lake has benefitted from the introduction of about 50 'Dintons' which have shown some excellent growth rates and several of them have been caught to over 20lbs. The stock fish have quickly become adapted to life in the water and have become versed in the art of ignoring anglers baits! Sheepwalk Big Lake is a hard lake to fish, so don't be put off by early failures. The record tench came from the water and by all accounts big fish are still present, but are difficult to catch. A few anglers devote their time to these elusive fish and are understandably secretive about what they catch. Sheepwalk Big Lake also contains large bream, large eels and, it is rumoured, some good pike as well. The beauty of the lake is its mystery and an angler will never really know what is in there, which is a rare commodity these days.

Sheepwalk Little Lake is also a deep water that recently was stocked with carp and tench. The fish are doing well and there have been many reports of hard fighting carp falling to all tactics. The original fish include carp to over 30lbs, tench to 13lbs and bream in excess of 17lbs. The lake also contains pike, perch and roach and suits a variety of angling approaches, from stalking to float fishing, swim feeders or spinning. The Lagoon is largely a deep water, the side-arm of which was, in the past, famed for its winter roach catches and pike fishing. The pike are still there, and recently have been mostly caught on dead-baits. However, all swims can yield pike to anglers wishing to try for them.

Throughout the fishery, several more swims have been cleared for easier fishing this year. Unfortunately, overgrown and sunken trees remain a problem, especially in the Lagoon side-arm. We hope that the owner will give permission for this to be addressed later in the year. While the use of bait boats is permitted, in the interest of fish welfare, members are urged not to use them to send baits into snaggy areas where there is little chance of landing a hooked fish. Finally, meetings have been held with the EA about the proposed flood relief channel that will incorporate the lakes and with Littleton Sailing Club about proposals to

control aquatic weed in the lake by the introduction of dye that reduces sunlight penetration of the water. At present we have no immediate concerns about either of these developments but are keeping them under review in the best interests of the Society.

Hambridge

In the close season, clearing parties removed a fallen tree from the river, cut back overhanging branches and mowed the banks. As an experiment, spawning boards were introduced in the hope of increasing the roach population. It was necessary to hold additional clearing parties during the season to remove more fallen trees from the river. The contractors who felled the trees on the canalised section were held to task for not clearing up the mess they left on the river bank and duly returned to make good their work. A meeting was held with the landlord, Rivar, about the possibility of creating a car park in the "Stakes" area and we await the outcome. Generally it was a disappointing year for coarse fishing. Few double-figure barbel were reported and catches generally were down on previous seasons. Silver fish also were hard to find and once the colder weather arrived they seemed to completely disappear. Odd bream, perch and chub were caught on the canalised section and some good pike were reported. However, trout of all varieties were caught throughout the fishery on all sorts of bait. George Martin, our Hon. Treasurer, skilfully landed, at night, a sea trout weighing over 8lbs. It was also encouraging to see the appearance of several grayling over the pound mark, as well as many more smaller ones.

Kintbury

Kintbury is looked on mainly as a winter venue but fishing this winter has been nearly impossible because of the constant presence of legally and illegally moored boats. Jeff Fisher, the Society's fishery manager, has with terrier-like persistence, harried the Canal and Rivers Trust on this annoying issue. This resulted in a very useful meeting on 27th March with Mark Evans, the Trust's manager for the area. He agreed to Jeff's suggestion to move the legal winter moorings nearer to the lock, away from the popular fishing area. Also, he will do more about illegally moored boats, hopes to enlarge the towpath on the "Wides" and allow us to trim overhanging branches. We look forward to better access and good fishing next winter!

Midgham and Woolhampton

No reports were received on these stretches of the Kennet & Avon Canal and possibly this reflects the membership's lack of interest in these fisheries. The GPC needs information on catches to appraise the value of fisheries on the Society's portfolio.

Windsor Racecourse

In addition to general strimming and swim-tidying, the clearing parties concentrated on two main tasks. These were, rebuilding peg 35 to give a solid base at water level and the removal of the large tree from the double swim above the weir. Following an incursion by some travelling folk, the racecourse management installed a height restrictor on the main gate. Unfortunately some confusion arose when staff changed the padlock number on the main gate over the Christmas holiday without telling us. The summer and autumn fishing was on the whole excellent with good catches of roach and dace reported from all

over the venue. A barbel of over 17lbs was weighed and photographed from the weir pool, along with another one over 15lbs. The bream shoals appeared to have split up and large bags were no longer commonplace. However, in the night match the winning weight of 82lb was taken from the rebuilt peg 35. Once the cold weather arrived, the fishing deteriorated notably with most anglers failing to get a bite on many occasions. The odd bream and chub did show but they were few and far between. Some perch and pike fell to spinning tactics, along with the odd chub. Those who braved fishing-on into darkness reported the best results, which included some very good roach that fell to boilies.

Competitions

Despite Tony Paul's sterling efforts, unfortunately time has caught up with us and a full match programme is no longer viable. Although in the summer months a few of us enjoyed the competitive side of angling. But, when autumn came, matches had to be cancelled because of a lack of competitors. The exception to this was the annual Fur n' Feather match, which was well-attended. In light of this it was decided that only the Night Match, the two inter-club matches and the Fur n' Feather will be held in the coming season. It is a sad situation because over the years the competitions side of the club has been a good recruitment source for the Society.

Fly Fishing Section

No reports were received. It would have been interesting to learn whether trout at Hambridge were as easy to take on the fly as they were to catch on coarse fishing baits.

General

The season 2016/2017 was another challenging one for the Society's officers, principally due to the requirement to negotiate leases with CSSC for Hambridge and Ellis Water. The decision to affiliate to CALPAC proved to be a good one, as did the decision to acquire the Sheepwalk lakes which complement well Ellis Water and the Lagoon. Generally members observed the rules and there was no need to convene a disciplinary committee. The Society were represented at various meetings including those with CSSC, Littleton Sailing Club, the Civil Service Sailing Association, Kennet Valley Fisheries Association, Rivar Ltd., the EA, Windsor Racecourse management and Nigel Berryman of Southleas Farm.

NEWS

OBITUARY

It is with great sadness that we announce the death of Alan Cunningham, formally Hon. Membership Secretary and long-term GPC member. Vice-president Norman Day reports that Alan was a much respected and hard work member who was also a very good angler and a great fishing companion. He will be greatly missed, especially by his widow, Beryl to whom we offer our condolences.

IMPORTANT MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Wearing the Hon. Membership Secretary's hat, Grant Milliam asks that two first class stamps are enclosed for return postage when you send in your membership renewal form.

CSSC Sports & Leisure is putting us under pressure to encourage our members to join it. This means that we need maximum help from existing full members to agree to sign up to the CSSC associate members and new applicants. If you are prepared to do this, please get in touch with Grant on 07768 686643 or at grant_milliam@blueyonder.co.uk

NEALE TROPHY

This is awarded to Jeff Fisher for his untiring efforts for keeping high on the agenda of the Canal and River Trust the troublesome issue of moored boats at Kintbury during the winter.

COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS NEWSLETTER

Please address these to David Kennedy, Hon. Secretary at 5 Cranes Drive, Surbiton KT5 8AJ or at csanglingsoc@gmail.com

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