

GENERAL SECRETARYS REPORT

PERMIT ISSUE

We are now solely operating on Clubmate and Stripe (replaced paypal for our banking) and this also includes the issue of Day Tickets. We had some issues with Day Tickets whereby we gave a few away for the first two weeks of the season but this was rectified and now operates fully. I thank all of our members for all of their help to get this through and I the only complaints I have received has been from members who not use technology anyway.

The next stage is to make sure that all members keep their Profile up to date on Clubmate especially regarding email addresses as these will be used to issue permit renewal notices for next season. There should be no need to want to change pics as they should be good for a few years. We still have members who have not attached pics despite reminder emails and I will shortly be issuing details to the Bailiffs to keep an eye out for these members.

OPEN DAY

I would like to say a very big thank you to all who planned and helped to make this one of the most successful days in RDAA history. Even the weather was on our side and I have been inundated with emails praising us and asking if we will doing another next year (no doubt this will be discussed later in the meeting). I also have received messages saying that the car boot sellers will be donating part of their earnings towards RDAA .

GREEN PARK RAILWAY STATION

Still awaiting a completion notice from Reading Borough Council cancelling the rental agreement for the site on the old 4 X 4 site. We did use it as an overspill car park for the Open Day and we will probably still need to do so if we have another event next year.

LONGWATER LAKE

Ownership has changed yet again but we still have a good partnership with Security on site who are now informing us when closure of the lake is necessary (flooding etc and when platforms are underwater.

FISHERIES OFFICER REPORT

The biggest thing that has affected our fisheries this last few months has been the hot weather. I fear this is going to be an ongoing issue. This extraordinary heat has many effects on our fisheries, both rivers and lakes. Warmer water holds less oxygen and leaves us more susceptible to dissolved oxygen crashes within our lakes. It also leads to more weed growth.

On the rivers it means extra care is needed while retaining and releasing fish, particularly larger fish. The Kennet generally has an average water temperature of between 17-20 degrees during the summer months. The fish within the river are perfectly accustomed to these temperatures. However, once the temp starts to climb above 20 degrees the odds of problems increase massively. I use a figure of 22 degrees as a trigger to intervene and start to put measures in place to protect our fish stocks.

Obviously, I also keep a keen eye of the weather forecast and air pressure forecasts.

Despite the extreme air temperatures of late, we haven't experienced any serious issues within the river.

While we're never far away from problems with the river, I think we may have weathered the worst. The lakes are however, a different story. We are currently in much need of some rain. The levels are starting to become critical in some of our lakes, particularly the smaller ones. I have to date already had to pump water into Willmotts and I fear I will have to do this again for Willmotts, Callows and Brown-Lee in the coming days/weeks.

On the subject of Willmotts...it produced its first 100 pound plus bag of fish in a recent Tuesday club match. The last three anglers to weigh in all broke the previous weight record with 86lb-93lb and then the 103lb.

We're slowly progressing with the Kennet Hatchery project and will be submitting for full planning permission early next week.

Thames Valley Police have finally stepped up to the plate and had an operation to address the problems with motorbikes using the towpaths. A number of bikes were confiscated and hopefully this will send a message.

Work to build a bund and thus mark the boundary of Moatlands is on-going.

We have hosted two events in the last few months, one being a weekend Angling Trust event at J12.

This was a huge success with a lot of good publicity for us.

The other was of course our first ever 'open day'. Judging by the comments both on the day and on our Facebook page, it went down well.