

R&DAA

INFORMATION SHEET

AUGUST 2020

E.C.

We held our July meeting at the Match Hut on July 13th and this was the first since the March one.

AGM

As the AGM scheduled for March never took place due to Covid-19 we will continue without having one in 2020 .Members that were up for re-election were Mike Cox (Head Bailiff), Keith Philpott (Treasurer) and.Mike Carwardine (Fisheries). Keith has indicated he will not sign up for three years but will continue in the post as long as he can and the other two are prepared to continue.

PERMIT SALES

Last season's sales saw our best for a good few years and we were hoping to continue that into the present season. Then along came Covid-19 in March and we saw all of our income disappear. We were expecting the worse for this season but it has seemingly helped us with permit sales going past last season's total. My thanks go to Piers Kernoghan for selling them in the Match Hut.

The Junior figures are impressive after we changed it to Juniors having permits we now have 68 aged 6 to 12 and 57 aged 12 to 17 members. We need to keep these youngsters interested and see them return next season and also their parents..

POST LOCKDOWN.

The rivers despite the recent Association match results appear to be fishing quite well, with a number of specimen sized fish being caught. The encouraging thing however, is the amount of small juvenile barbel and chub being caught....even grayling from our joint initiative to re-populate the lower river, are being caught.

The lakes are also fishing well and the influx of new members since the releasing of some well publicised videos featuring our venues, is welcome. It's not just the 'big carp' angling that is grabbing attention on our lake venues though. The silver fish fishing can also be exceptional, with a few anglers having excellent days.....even eels have been targeted, with cracking results. Willmotts and Callows are proving to be popular with families of young children, in fact I have seen more children and families fishing our venues in

the last few months, than we have in 20 years. The shop and toilet facilities are also proving to be a big plus.

VEGETATION

Fallen trees over the last month or so are a bit of an issue, with many of our venues with trees blocking paths or swims....I will get around to clearing them, but with so many, it may take a while. We are currently, having some tree work done on the upstream end of Lower Benyons. This work is long overdue and will make access to that section a lot easier. Once the main work has been completed, I will look at re-instating the swims a long that bank.

MOTOR CYCLES

Motorbikes at Cottage lane have once more become an issue. Most weekends and evening bikes can be heard in the fields opposite and at one point this spilled into the car park at Flint. I have a meeting with all parties...Englefield Estates and the Police scheduled for 14-07-20 where we hope to come up with a plan of action. This has been going on for far to long now (20 odd years) and I feel we've reached a watershed moment. If things don't get resolved once and for all, we need to think seriously about our lease commitment with Englefield.

Bailiffing is going well, with only the occasional issue. Our new system of reporting, which we started a long with the new season. Is going well and proving to be of great benefit as we can now see things a little clearer and react quicker, with the 'realtime' reporting.