

GENERAL SECRETARYS REPORT

PERMIT ISSUE

Permit sales are going reasonably well considering the size of the change required. I think we have had a change of permit detail twice in four years so hopefully this will be the last for a few more.

The 24 Hour Renewals have all gone through and numbers are down but we did expect this as carp anglers do move on to other venues fairly regularly. We do have new members and those that have missed the closure date making their applications so I expect the numbers to be very similar to this season.

Those members who have no smart phone will be able to get their permits from the Match Hut on the following dates **Saturday 30th April, Saturday 7th May, Saturday 14th May and Saturday 21st May between the hours of 10am and 1pm.**

Keys will be issued with the permit on these days.

GREEN PARK RAILWAY STATION

The station is due to open in the late summer of this year although we expect the contractors to vacate the 4 X 4 site in Cottage Lane before this. We will then dispose of the site as we have no interest in developing or doing anything else with a landfill site that has all the restrictions.

MAPLEDURHAM

It disappoints me to tell you that we have lost the fishing lease on this venue. The Estate have told us that the lease will not be renewed for the coming season. This is due to several reasons but the main one being the revenue from film making and private events is a lot more than we can offer.

We are looking at other Thames venues to replace Mapledurham.

FISHERIES OFFICER REPORT

The hatchery plans are forging ahead. As things stand at present we have purchased the bulk of the 'hardware' for a knock down price and have a location for the building. The need to apply for planning permission has caused a few issues, but thanks to a Facebook appeal I have found a member that is willing to help us out (for a cost, obviously) with navigating the planning process. All being well, we are on track for a build start in the autumn.

During the latest storm we experienced a few issues with the inevitable fallen trees. Most of our venues suffered in some way or another and the clear up took around three weeks.

We've had a number of work parties other than the invaluable Friday club and these have been largely centred around Moatlands. There are now around fifteen usable swims and a footpath accessing the whole lake. Over the coming weeks, we will be creating a secure parking area, sectioned off from the public footpath. Hopefully, this will encourage more anglers to visit the lake.

Electro-fishing has been front and centre over the last month. We have carried this out on Brown-Lee, Callows and Willmotts. All the carp we caught over 7lb were moved around our other fisheries. It was very pleasing to see a good variety of healthy fish from all three ponds,

in particular some juvenile Tench in all three and some juvenile Crucians in Callows. Willmotts threw up the biggest surprise however, a very near twenty pound Pike! Which was re-homed in Flint.

The biggest disappointment lately was the discovery that the roach growing on ponds were all but empty. I genuinely do not have not a clue as to the reason behind this as the netting covering the ponds was untouched. We did find a number of large Chub within the ponds and we do get the occasional Mink visiting the site.....who knows!

Anyway....

After putting some feelers out Newbury have a water that they are having issues with an explosion of Roach, so they kindly allowed us to collect some for use as broodstock. From the looks of things, this may become a regular event as while electro-fishing we found the issue to be much greater than they first thought.

Bailiffing continues without too many problems.