



Colchester APS Ltd Newsletter.

Jan 2024

www.colchesteraps.org



Not Long Now!

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT - It has been a very good year for CAPS with a number of improvements made to our waters throughout the year (See our fisheries section below). Membership is at an all time high, our waters generally are fishing exceptionally well, and it is pleasing to have got the lease back on Rectory Pool at Bradwell. On advice from Angling Trust we have instigated a new position of Welfare Director, Steve Howell will be taking up this role.

I will close this report by thanking all the Directors, Bailiffs and all members who have helped out during the past year, may this coming year be just as good.

Mick Turner.

WEBMASTERS REPORT – I am once again pleased to report that in 2023 the CAPS website www.colchesteraps.org successfully handled the volumes that were placed in front of it, especially during the busy period from mid-February to the beginning of April. I always feel it is good to put some numbers behind the words to give a little context to the volumes we are talking about. When we opened up for new members over 300 new members joined the club in the first hour. For the last 3 years we have opened up for new members at 10.30pm on the 31st March, this was partially due to our web developers needing to change some code. However, in 2024 following some extra development on the website all changes are now within our own control and as such we have decided to open up for new members at 7.30am on the 1st April 2024. As with previous years renewal for existing members (you need to have been a member in the 23/24 season) will be available online from around mid-February. As with recent years we fully expect to reach our membership limit very quickly, last year we closed the site for memberships around mid-morning on the 1st April. So, if you are an existing member and wish to rejoin then make sure you go on the site before the 31st March and if you are a potential new member then get on the site as soon as possible after 7.30am.

The website continues to be a vital asset in promoting the club, not only making people aware of what the club offers but also keeping members aware of the latest news such as water closures, especially vital during the spawning period and latest match results. The website continues to drive considerable traffic, during the last calendar year we have had over 85,000 sessions on our website, these are not individual page views but 85,000 times when someone has come to the website and looked around!

As well as ensuring the website is up to date we continue to look for new ways that will enhance the site and our ability to manage the site. This year we have done some background work with our developers which means we now have an active database that sits off the back of the website. This ensures that we have the necessary backup of our information in a secure manner and in line with the appropriate data protection requirements as well as hopefully saving our membership team time re-keying information. As I mentioned last year we continue to encourage members to post pictures of their catches so don't be shy, it does not have to be a record breaker and whilst the majority of pictures are those of Carp we are just as keen to see nice pictures of the excellent Roach, Tench, Chub or other species that exist in our waters.

Finally, thank you to all those who have contributed to the website or our very active Facebook group page.

Ian Carter.

MATCH SECRETARY REPORT – A very busy season again this year, with good attendances in all matches. Well done to Warren Young for winning last seasons matchman of the season with Simon White in second place and Bill Walker in third. All match results can be seen on the CAPS Matches Facebook page together with the current matchman of the season table. There is a link on the c.a.p.s website so that you may ask to join the group.

Olivers Lake - Still producing the goods with fantastic results and nice bags of Skimmers, Tench, Carp and Roach with the top match weight on here this season going to Danny Ramply on peg 2, with a 134lb 4oz mixed bag.

Prestons Lake - Slightly better this season, with the big Roach still a bit thin on the ground, the Bream did however show fairly well this season. Top weight on Preston's lake this year was form Ian Carter who was on peg 1 with an impressive 97lb 8oz of mainly Bream.

Brookhall – A lot more matches this season and with recent stockings weights are really on the up and it's now proving to be a really productive venue with lots of weights over the magical 100lb! Also, with the work Rob Houlding has done to keep the lake tidy making this an excellent venue for all. Thanks Rob. Top weight here this season was on one of our Thursday matches and went to Bill Walker on peg 35 with 218lb 12oz.

We had the usual couple of silver fish matches at Layer pit this season with virtually all top weights made up of Bream. Although there were some good Roach weights mixed in this year. The top weight here this season went to Kevin Howell with 128lb 8oz of bream from peg 26 on the cottages.

We had a few matches at Lodge Farm lake St Osyth and again this is proving to be an excellent venue with great mixed bags and good weights all round. Weights were mostly made up of Bream and silver fish with a few Carp thrown in for good measure. Top weight here this season was Kevin Howell again on one of our Thursday matches, with 122lb 6oz of mainly Bream from peg 8.

Well done for the CAPS Blue team for coming 2nd in this seasons Essex inter club league. I hope the coming season will be another good one. Due to the numbers wanting to fish All members need to book in to our club matches to secure a place, so just text, email, phone or message me via messenger.

Don't forget A full list of all this seasons results are on the c.a.p.s matches Facebook group and also on our website **www.colchesteraps.org**

Andy Howard.

BAILIFF OFFICER REPORT – After taking over the role early season I now have a full list of our bailiffs for each water. These bailiffs do a great job, not only checking memberships, keeping people in check with the rules but also doing light maintenance work around the lakes.

On a sad note the club had a lot of its equipment stolen from the containers at Oliver's. The items included new aerating pumps, generators and equipment we have in place in the event that we have oxygen problems on our waters. Due to this we are now in the process of installing more CCTV cameras on our waters, not only to catch people taking our equipment it also to catch vandals and fish thieves. The camera we have at Brookhall seems to work very well so they will now be installed at, Oliver's, Bovington, Layer and Lodge farm St Osyth to name a few.

I have had a meeting with the new EA enforcement officer John Groves. He has been around some of our waters to check rod licenses and will continue to do so into the new season. All in all, no major incidents during 2023.

Andy Howard.

SECRETARY REPORT - From a secretarial perspective this year has passed without major incident and the operations of the club has returned to a more even footing after the 'Covid' years. The club continues to adapt and as part of this the club will be introducing a new Welfare Officer post to ensure that any club activities are undertaken with the wellbeing of society members a priority. This is especially relevant where younger members are involved.

One negative was the break in at our container at Oliver's lake where a large number of items were taken, including 4 brand new pumps. Whilst our insurers have paid out it will not fully cover our loss. As a result of this incident we are reviewing where our equipment is now housed to lessen future risk whilst recognising it is important that we can get pumps to our waters quickly in the event of any oxygen issues.

Finally thank you to all members this year for your ongoing support.

Ian Carter.

TREASURERS & ESTATES OFFICER REPORT – A Positive year for the clubs financial position ensuring that we can continue with our current portfolio but also be in a position to seize any opportunities that come our way. One example of this is reacquiring the lease on Rectory Pool Bradwell. This intimate traditional old Carp pool is popular with our members who like a challenge. The club is always on the look out for potential new venues so please get in touch if you know of anything that could be suitable (River or Stillwater).

Dan Jarman.

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR REPORT - As already mentioned our Membership numbers are higher than ever, we took the decision to not include U10s in the stated limit of 2200 thus allowing more adult members to join. This year we will allow existing members until 31st March to renew and then open up to new members at 7.30am on 1st April, members be warned if you wish to keep your membership get in early the web site will be opened approx. mid-February. There is a small increase in fees this year, Adult rises £5 to £100, Husband and Wife rises by £10 to £170 and Senior Citizens goes up £5 to £75, all other fees are unchanged. As per usual if you renew by post or send in for an upgrade at later stage please include a SAE as postal charges are at an all time high. If you need to contact our Membership Services please do so in the evenings.

Mick Turner.

FISHERY OFFICER REPORT - This season we have had less fish stocking on our waters but have mainly concentrated on maintenance work on and around our waters. Bovington has had extensive work to swims, paths with track repairs thrown in for good measure. Oliver's has a new path on the left-hand bank and we have slightly extended the car park to allow for more cars. Layer pit has finally had the path repaired around the bottle neck. Safety hand rails have been put in place at Snake pit. Several new swims have been built at Inworth 2 with more planned for the future. Drainage pipes have also been installed on Inworth 1 to allow more water into the lake to keep water levels up. Several Swims have also been rebuilt at Mersea too.

Fish stocking, 750lb of small carp were stocked into Brookhall (which the club was offered at a very cheap rate). Also, the Environment Agency have kindly given the club 200 Tench and 200 crucians, for Lodge farm St Osyth, and 200 mixed Tench and Crucians for Oliver's

Next season there are plans to refurbish and rebuild more swims on the waters together with any other work that needs doing. Also, there are still plenty of work parties on next season so please check the center pages of your rule book to see when and where they are. A big thank you also to some of our bailiffs that constantly do general maintenance around our lakes keeping them tidy and paths clear.

Andy Howard & Wayne Clarke.

The last word – Whatever your quarry whatever your preferred method, CAPS certainly has a venue for you. This can only continue with your support. Please if you can make it to a work party do so. Our bailiff team is always looking for extra help so don't hesitate to get in touch if you have something to offer. Have a successful and safe season.

Steve Howell.



A fantastic Perch of 2lb15oz from Brookhall. A very popular venue this year and for good reason.



An Oliver's lake fish of 23lbs clearly showing how these fish are growing in size and beauty.



A Brakes Round lake fish of 27lb The impressive build of this particular stock is plain to see.



Bov 1 proving it's not just big carp that it can produce. Plenty of high single and double figure Bream are now being regularly caught.



Harrison Howard showing his dad how to pole fish at Oliver's. Note the good fish welfare skills.



Here we see a small sample of the Crucians and Tench that went into our venues this year courtesy of the EA.



Great to see Rectory Pool back under the CAPS banner. Although challenging it is certainly one of our most atmospheric venues.



At Snake Pit its not just the Carp that are having fantastic growth rates, The Tench are also putting plenty of weight on year on year.



Lodge Farm continues to mature and develop into a great fishery, the foresight of previous stockings is now paying off for all to enjoy.