



Colchester APS Ltd Newsletter.

Feb 2020

www.colchesteraps.org



Sun Rise At Prestons.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT - A very satisfactory year with a very high rate of activity in all areas of our working as you will see from the individual reports that follow. Early in the year two new faces were appointed onto the board, Steve Howell and Brian Licence, adding strength to the management team. Brian having NEBOSH qualifications actively engaged himself in the role of Safety Officer combined with an input from our old friend Ian Hearsom who has kindly agreed to help us carry out a full up-dated/review of our waters over the next 3-4 years.

In March Ray Rayner, a long time life member aged 94, sadly passed away. Ray served as a committee member from around 1948 and for many years played a role in the arrangements for the annual dinner. He was also a considerable match angler representing the club over many years at national and local levels.

We also lost our Secretary Steve Dormer, Steve relocated to the wilds of the north and to-date we have failed to find a replacement and would be pleased to speak to anyone that may like to be considered for the role. Steve not only filled the Secretary's role but was very active in many other areas of the club and rarely missed a working party and will be greatly missed.

I would also take the opportunity to offer the company's condolences to the Wass family as most of you will know Wilf recently passed away and was a keen supporter of C.A.P.S. over many years along with other members of his family, one of which served as a Vice President way back in 1936 for a number of years.

PTO

CONT... During the year the board agreed that we should have a memorial wall for all the past life members and that this should be at Oliver's. It will be a while before this is in place and we are currently, along with other areas, researching those that are to be included. This work is part of our planning for the clubs 100 years celebrations which will take place next year. Currently we have a number of gaps in our records and if by luck anyone has any of our past record books in their loft or garage we would dearly like to retrieve them.

Looking at our waters they have possibly never been so well stocked with quality fish present at most venues, during the year various fish movements have been carried out and quality fish purchased. The waters, thanks to our bailiffs and their small group of helpers are a joy to fish and in excellent condition although we do have a major amount of tree surgery required which is currently being evaluated.

Unfortunately we have had a small number of members that failed to read the rule book and have suffered the loss of their fishing during the year. Also, a group of non-members homed in on Brookhall destroying numerous padlocks, taking down fencing and burning down the toilet.

Looking forward and appreciating the need to introduce youngsters into the sport we put out a feeler for anyone wishing to take up coaching and thank those that put their name in the ring and are pleased to report that Simon Ladd, a level 2 coach, has kindly offered his services should it be required but with the demands of the law this is still being investigated and something for the future.

Finally I would on your behalf thank all the Directors, Bailiffs and the members that have given their time and effort in helping to maintain the Club in a healthy position going forward as without them we would not have a club.

Reg.

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY REPORT – The season was a pretty good one for CAPS Ltd the Board gambled on reducing the Membership fees but increasing the night ticket and also guest tickets and single night ticket fees. Overall our income was slightly down but not too much to worry about, our total membership was 1457, this represented an increase of 51 on previous year, mainly due to increase in adult numbers, although other groups also showed slight increases, night season tickets were down in numbers but up in financial terms. We have decided that these figures will allow us to keep the fees the same for the following year and hopefully numbers will continue to increase.

Membership should be on sale in late February at our normal outlets i.e. Web Site, tackle shops (N.B. Stour Valley tackle no longer exists or through post to me. On the Web Site there will be two methods of payment through PayPal or with a credit card via Stripe. The introduction of Stripe proved to be very successful last year.

Members please note the Night ticket sticker will be a different colour to last season, also if you join on line you must print the temporary membership letter and carry it with you until you receive the new receipt etc.

Mick Turner

CLUB SECRETARYS REPORT – As Steve has left us now after a very successful and long period as club secretary we are looking for a suitable replacement. Along with this position if you feel you have something you can add to the club then please get in touch. www.colchesteraps.org

HEALTH & SAFETY OFFICERS REPORT - Hi I'm Brian I have been a member of the club for some years and last year got the opportunity to put something back into the club by becoming the Health and Safety officer. Health and safety is a big part of my day job as a Project Manager This is my first report as the Clubs health and safety officer and I'm glad to say that I have no Bad news to report.

Looking forward to this coming year I'm looking to encourage members to be vigilant when on the club waters and to report anything that they feel could pose a risk to other members, you can post on the Facebook page and tag myself in or alternatively drop me or any of the committee members a line highlighting a few key points

Where – Swim name / Number if you don't know either of these then please identify by saying left/right/straight ahead from the waters entrance.

When – Day/Night and weather conditions

What – what did you see / Find

The last thing to say is I am not a Health and safety "Policemen" my aim is to help us all enjoy our sport and return home to tell everyone about that mega catch! Your help in achieving this is greatly appreciated. Brian.

MATCH SECRETARY REPORT – A very good season this year, with match attendances way up on previous years. I have introduced a c.a.p.s matches Facebook group, on to which, match results can be posted together with any other match related information. 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, Roach with the top match weight on here this season going to Andy Howard with 74lb 6oz of mainly Carp from peg 16

Prestons Lake: This has fished fairly hard at the start of the season but did pick up later on but match weights were not as good as previous years. The August bank holiday charity pairs match continued to be a success and £400 was raised for charity. The top match weight on here this season goes to Paul chambers from peg 44 with 37lb 4oz of skimmers, in the August bank holiday Monday pairs match.

Brookhall has been fairly consistent with some good match winning weights. Top weight this season on here goes to Darren Culmer from peg 8 with 136lb 4oz of carp

The new lake at Inworth Grange Tiptree also featured in 2019 with limited pegs weights were still good. Top weight here this season was Mick Turner from peg 6 with 33lb 4oz of bream and Tench

We had a couple of great silver fish matches at Layer pit this season with lots of bream caught. The top weight here this season went to John Shepard from peg 18 with 111lb 5oz of bream

We also had our first match on Lodge Lake St Osyth with lots of small carp there was some good sport. Top weight here went to Rob Houlding from peg 13 with 55lb of small carp

Essex inter club league: This is still going strong after all these years. Caps usually enter 2 teams in this event each year and 2020 will be no exception. There are 6 rounds on various club waters with teams of 6 anglers competing

This coming season will also see another 24 hour carp match which will be held at Layer pit. All proceeds from this match will go to help to pay for otter fencing our waters.

I hope the coming season will be a good one and it's always nice to see new faces on the bank so if you fancy trying your luck at a match or two give me a ring or drop me an email. A full list of all this seasons results are on the c.a.p.s matches Facebook group and also on our website.

Andy Howard.

ESTATES & TREASURERS REPORT –

Estates - In terms of on and on boarding new waters it has been a quiet year. We have seen the normal ebb and flow of contract renewals as expected and the relationship with landowners remains good.

Treasurers Report - In terms of the clubs finances we continue to be in a good position with sufficient capital to pursue opportunities if consider appropriate.

Dan

WEBMASTERS REPORT - After my first year of being the CAPS webmaster I have been pleased with the progress we have made this year.

The revamp of our website www.colchesteraps.org, following work with local design agency Upshot Media, was successfully launched just after last year's AGM as we had stated to members at the AGM. Initial feedback received was very positive which was great to hear after the work we had put into the design.

This new site has enabled the club to take far more control as we can now do real time updates ourselves without the need to continually go to a third party, saving the club money in the process. It has also meant that we have been able to quickly inform members that waters are temporarily closed which is a real asset in the summer months when fish are spawning and we often need to close waters at short notice. Match results are also now being published on the website after the completion of the match and we add regular news items which we feel are of relevance to the members.

The online ordering of memberships/guest and night tickets has also gone well. During the course of the year we processed 380 memberships via the website as well as over 280 guest and night tickets. In April we also added the ability to pay by Credit/Debit Card in addition to paying via the existing method of PayPal.

I hope members continue to take the opportunity to upload recent catches across our range of waters as new pictures to the gallery are always welcomed. I hope during 2020/1 to continue to make improvements to the site which will complement the official CAPS Facebook page which broke through the 3000 followers this year.

Ian Carter.

BAILIFF OFFICER REPORT - I would just like to thank all the bailiffs for their help over the last year most of the lakes are looking very well kept. A few need to have some Maintenance work done on them by an outside contractor as these are well outside the club and bailiff capabilities within a work party. Unfortunately we have had a few bad apples this year who have now been removed from the club, we also still have year on year the mindless individuals that think its fine to leave litter or flaunt club rules (I.e. Leaving Gates open etc)

Also the club pays out good money to supply Toilets on all the waters please have some decency and use the facilities provided and not some bush by or near the Lakes.

Thank you to the majority of members that abide by the rules and to those that don't... Be aware that the bailiffs will be visiting and checking that all membership is in order and that everyone has their Membership card with them for checking.

Thank you all and

Tight lines for 2020

Mark.

FISHERY OFFICER REPORT -

With another year gone the constant battle against predators carries on and this season has been no different with otters and cormorants running rampant. More quotes are coming in to fence all our still waters that haven't already been fenced, but as you can understand it's a very costly and lengthy business. Hopefully we will see more fencing erected within the next few seasons.

Cormorants are also a major headache trying to keep them from munching through our fish stocks. Steps have been taken to scare them from our waters but also the introduction of "fish refuge" cages, these are basically an underwater cage that the fish can swim into but the cormorants can't. These have been introduced to Brookhall and St Osyth and if successful will be introduced to other waters too.

On a lighter note we have purchased some very nice VS carp which were stocked into Snake Pit,

These fish were

4x c4 average 13lb each

8x c5 average 17lb each

3x c6 average 25lb each

Hopefully these will provide good sport and pack on plenty of weight in the seasons to come.

Over 700lb of bream were successfully removed from layer and stocked into Prestons.

And about 270lb of small carp were moved from St Osyth to Brookhall.

Andy.



CAPS News.



Olivers Lake proving it's not just a small fish venue with a fine 22lb Ghostie!



If it's a challenge you are after then Snake Pit offers that for sure. However the rewards can be stunning... Here is "Stompers" at 40lb 8oz. Don't forget great new stock has recently been introduced to this iconic venue.



Layer Pit - Congrats to Martin on what is largest fish currently in Layer. The slope head common caught @ 39.8oz. its largest recorded weight.



Don't forget, there are plenty of predators to go at in Caps waters, Pike, Perch, Cats and even Zander. But... Please remember to target them responsibly.



The recent Stocking of Inworth 2 is going well. Here Dave Davis shows off a 7lb 2oz fish but they go well into doubles, along with the addition of bream this water is maturing nicely.



Brook Hall continues to provide great sport and along with waters like Olivers it is a great place for young and old alike to learn and grow our great sport.