



Colchester APS Ltd Newsletter.

Jan 2023

www.colchesteraps.org



Bite Time!

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT - I wish that I did not have to write this report, within a month of our last AGM we had the very sad news that our long serving Chairman Reg Upsher was seriously ill and he subsequently passed away, Reg will be missed by everyone, for his great input to the running of CAPS Ltd plus his vast knowledge of all things angling.

The greatest compliment we can pay Reg is to make certain that CAPS carries on with all the good work as he would have wanted. Even allowing for Reg's death we have had another very good year on most fronts as you will see in other reports. It is sad to lose a fishery like Rectory Pool at Bradwell, unfortunately the land around it has been sold for luxury housing and the pool makes a nice outlook. I will finish this report by thanking all the Board members and other volunteers for their continued hard work.

Mick Turner.

FISHERY OFFICER REPORT - This season we have continued works on tree felling at Olivers. With all the “dangerous trees” now removed along the righthand side. This work will continue into 2023 to remove all the old willow trees that are coming to the end of their life and make them safe.

Many other works that have also been carried out by contractors. Firstly, the tracks at Olivers, Prestons and Bovington have been made good. Unfortunately, a week after the track was repaired at Prestons we had torrential rain and it was worse than ever. Thanks go to Joe the bailiff and Jay Caunter for their help using the digger to rectify the storm damage.

In the past week or so I have met with the contractor about works at Inworth grange. I now have the quotes in to repair the track and make good the swims on Inworth 2. Work will take place in the new year with the track being done first.

With the Trouble we have had in the past at Brookhall. I.e. the toilets being burnt down amongst other things. The committee felt it only right to install cctv. This is a standalone unit, which works through Wi-Fi and alerts are sent to us every time someone comes through the gate. It certainly seems to be working as we have an all-time record for the length of time we have had the same lock on the gate. Hopefully now our members will feel a lot safer.

A fair few fish have been stocked this year. We have purchased some more very nice VS carp. 200 C3's & 20 C4's have been stocked into Preston's lake. We have lost quite a lot of silver fish in the lake over the past few years through cormorant predation and spawning. And rather than stock more Bream it was instead decided to stock more Carp. Bovington 1 & 2 have received 2 VS C5's each along with some further stockings to over 20lbs. Brookhall has also been restocked with around 1100lb of carp up to 8lb and around 200lb of silver fish.

Unfortunately, we have lost rectory pool, and upon doing so we managed to get some fish out. This was done by electro fishing. Three carp were caught, all lower 20's, and were moved to Bovington 1.

Behind the scenes we have serviced our oxygen meters and associated equipment to ensure next summer we are fully prepared if an oxygen crash situation occurs on any of our waters. Last but not least, the Environment Agency have kindly given us a few hundred Crucian Carp and some more Tench for Inworth 2. 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 centre pages of your rule book to see when and where they are.

Andy Howard & Wayne Clarke.

TREASURERS REPORT - With a full membership and a tightly managed cost base we have continued to operate with a healthy surplus. This allows the club to build on its reserves that will hopefully enable us to pursue opportunities to buy waters, if and when the opportunity arises. We have not been immune to the inflationary economic environment and because of this, a small increase has been made to the night ticket for the coming year. With the increase being less than 10 pence a week, I hope you still see value in joining the club.

Dan Jarman.

MATCH SECRETARY REPORT – A very busy season again this year, with good attendances in all matches. Well done to Bill Walker for winning last seasons matchman of the season. Highlights include Caps blue team winning the Essex Interclub league fished against 8 other teams and winning the 5x4 league against Colne AS, Essex Police and Hadleigh AS. 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 caps 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 Bob Davis, on peg 27, with a 71lb 8oz mixed bag

Prestons lake: Certainly not as good as previous seasons but still lots of quality roach coming out. Top weight on Preston's lake this year was from our usual August bank holiday pairs match and Ged Spurgin had this from peg 31, with 45lb 15oz

Brookhall: There were not so many matches on here this season due to low fish stocks but with the recent stocking we will be using Brookhall a lot more in the future. Top weight here this season was Jamie Turner with 62lb 14oz from peg 41.

We had the usual couple of silver fish matches at **Layer pit** this season with virtually all weights made up of Bream. Both matches fished ok for those who were at the windy end of the lake. The top weight here this season went to Warren Young with 85lb 12oz of bream from peg 17

We only had one match on **Lodge Farm** lake St Osyth and it was a superb match with 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 Steve Crawford with 95lb 13oz of mainly Bream from peg 21

2022 saw a return to the river Stour at Boxted triangle. Unfortunately with soaring temperatures and poor access attendances were low along with the catch weights too. Top weight was Warren Young with 5lb 12oz from peg 1.

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 I hope the coming season will be another good one.

Andy Howard.

ESTATES OFFICER REPORT - With the year drawing to a close, it's time to take stock on how the year developed. This year as noted elsewhere in the newsletter, we unfortunately have lost Bradwell. In this instance there was nothing that could have been done to avoid this outcome in reality. Land and water in Essex are at a premium and the farmers and land agents are aware of this. We will continue to try to lease good quality waters or purchase waters where possible. As always, if you are aware of any lakes that could become available for a fishing club to lease let us know. It's been great speaking to so many of you on the banks this year and I wish you all the best for the coming year.

Dan Jarman.

SECRETARY REPORT - Following previous long-standing secretary Steve Dormer moving out of the area in the Autumn 2019 the CAPS Secretary position, despite advertising, had remained vacant. However, at that time whilst not wishing to formally add to my Webmaster duties I did volunteer to assist the committee in writing up the board minutes as well as arranging the monthly meetings. This soon became arranging and documenting the zoom calls in 2020 as the board juggled with the challenges and restrictions that Covid brought. Since that time I have been acting in this voluntary manner until July of this year when the board coming to terms with the sad loss of our Chairman asked me that as I had basically done the role for the past few years would I now be prepared to take up the secretary position on a formal basis which I have now agreed to do. Hopefully I can serve the board in a professional manner.

Before ending this section, I wanted to say a few personal words in respect of our late Chairman Reg Upsher. Whilst knowing Reg and fishing CAPS matches with him for over 45 years it was only when I was working with him on the CAPS history book for around a year that I really got to fully understand the vast depth of knowledge and work he had put into the club. It is fitting that we now have erected the memorial bench at Oliver's as his positive contribution and lasting legacy to the club cannot be overstated.

Ian Carter.

WEBMASTERS REPORT - Following the success last season (2021) with the way the CAPS website www.colchsteraps.org handled the online membership I am pleased to say that once again in 2022 the website successfully handled the volumes that were placed in front of it. 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. In the week leading up to the 1st April 2022, 421 existing members re-joined online but is always on the 1st of April when new members are offered the opportunity to join when it gets really busy! And this year was no exception with 295 members joining on the 1st April alone. As with recent years it was not long before we reached our membership limit and closed the ability to join online. 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 spawning period and latest match results. As I write this in December during the calendar year we have had over 97,422 sessions on our website, which is up 447 on last year. These are not individual page views but 97,422 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 or provide more information without it becoming too difficult to navigate. For example, this year on the suggestion of a member we added a rules summary page which can be found on the main banner. The picture gallery had 69 new photos uploaded by members since April 1st which is unfortunately down on last year 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. The CAPS Official Facebook page has now reached 4,800 members in the group and continues to be a vibrant forum for members to share views 99% of the time in a polite and constructive manner.

Ian Carter.

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY REPORT - We reached our cut off point within hours of opening up the web site for new members which kept our New Membership Services administrator Kay Howard extremely busy (Thank you Kay for all of your hard work). The new system has worked very efficiently and we will continue to carry on with it. We will open up the web site for new members late on 31st March, therefore existing members be warned renew by then or risk losing your membership. Renewing on-line is by far the easiest way,

Please remember to include a stamped addressed envelope if you renew by post because our postal costs are very high and getting worse each year. There will only be one price increase this year, when yearly night ticket rises by £5 to £80. When compared to other clubs in the area we continue to offer value for money and maintain a good variety of waters across mid and north Essex.

Mick Turner.

BAILIFF OFFICER REPORT – I would just like to say a massive thank you to all the bailiffs, without you guys this would be an impossible task. I would also like to say a thank you to the majority of the members who treat our lakes with respect and as a whole just enjoy fishing our great lakes and rivers. However, there is still a small percentage of members who think they can leave rubbish, damage property and create problems. We as a team do our best to bring these people to account and vigilance from good members is important if you see something report it. As a whole it has been a good year, challenging but enjoyable, let's Hope the coming year is filled with less litter, minimal problems and full landing nets. Looking forward to seeing many of you at our waters in the coming season.

Chris Southernwood.

HEALTH & SAFETY OFFICER REPORT – Hello, I am the Club's new Safety Director. Appointed initially in October, I have 22 years experience in the construction industry as a Chartered Health and Safety Professional, experienced in water safety, risk assessment, safety in design just to name a few. I have been busy reviewing and updating the clubs H&S Policy documentation, visiting club waters and getting to understand rolls and responsibilities. Email: safety@colchesteraps.org

Just a quick reminder in this ever changing weather:

- When fishing from a slippery bank or near deep water - don't take risks near the water.
- Check the weather forecast for changing conditions which affect the water you are fishing.
- Know where the bouys are located on the waters, if they are missing or damaged drop me an email or contact the bailiff.
- Notice and avoid contact with overhead power lines.
- Tell someone where you are going to fish and what time you expect to return home.
- Don't walk on ice covered water.

Paul Smith.



Despite the summer heat Olivers kept on producing the goods! Well done Alex (and all of the members out there who contributed to our FB page.)



Caps certainly has it all... If its a big fish challenge you want then fish like this 42lb Mirror caught by Anthony Albini await you in many of our venues.



Lee Kirk with a nice Chub on opening day. Don't overlook our extensive river portfolio as the Stour and Chelmer contain fish for all disciplines of our sport.



Here we have Chris Lewis, Felicity and Simon Taylor, proud winners of the Layer Carp match. Well done to Sean and all involved with £1000 being raised for Charity.



An Example of one of the recently stocked fantastic looking Mirrors that went into Bov1 & 2. Check out Facebook for other stockings that have taken place this year.



Ray Sievey sent us this pic of his son's first Twenty, the smile says it all! By the looks of the photo gallery Layer has been kind to many of you this year.

The last word – With caps waters like the **Round lake** now producing fish pushing upper thirties, next door at **Long Lake** you have two forties and lots of back up fish. **Snake pit** fish increasing in weight rapidly with recently stocked VS fish reaching mid-thirties. Not to mention the specimen **Inworth** fish. **Oliver's** producing big match and pleasure weights. What are you waiting for? Enjoy your season and see you on the bank!

Steve Howell.