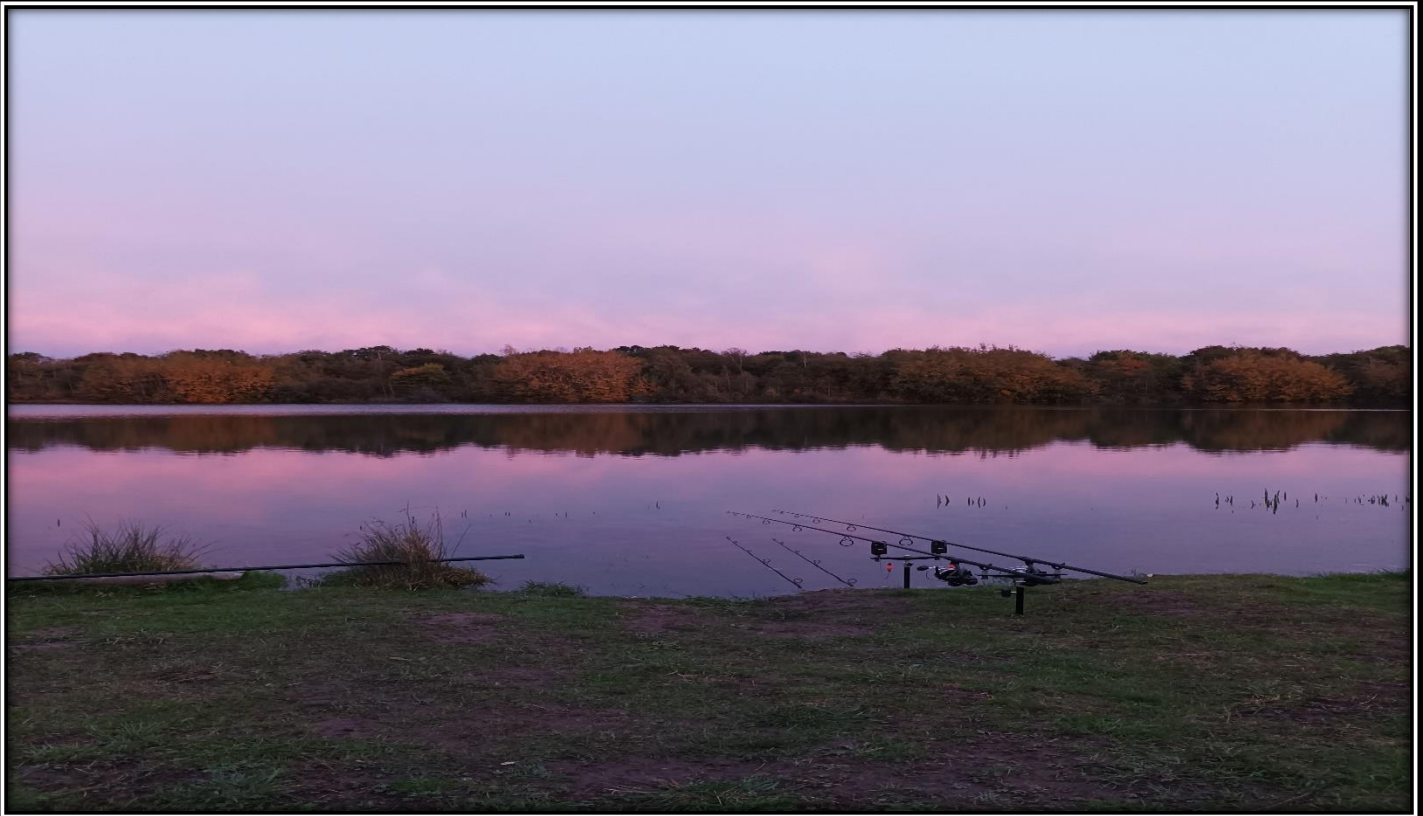


Colchester APS Ltd Newsletter.

2025

www.colchesteraps.org



CHAIRMAN'S REPORT - The past year has been a very good year for CAPS. Membership figures were very good, and our waters in general have been fishing exceptionally well. The only blot on the copybook being KHV at Bovingdon 1.

Due to retirements there has been a couple of changes on the Board, Wayne Clarke has taken over the Health & Safety Officers position and Ed Young is now the only Bailiff Officer.

Further details of the good work in the club are reported in other Officers reports, I will close this report by thanking all the Board Members, Bailiffs and all others who have contributed to the successful past year.

Mick Turner.

ESTATES OFFICERS REPORT - As always, we continue to ensure our waters are operating as effectively as possible. This is becoming harder with the more 'variable weather' (dare I use the words climate change) that we are seeing. This is affecting lakes all over the country and we are having to work with landowners to adapt. People have a view that managing the Estates role is purely seeking out unfished hidden gems. Whilst we may have the odd situation like that, most of it comes down to the 3 T's – Toilets, Tracks and Trees. We are always on the lookout to continue expanding the mix of waters we offer and raise the quality of waters. This will continue and we are in a good position to take opportunities as they arise. I've really enjoyed meeting so many of the members on the bank this last year to gain valued perspective on important topics, as always, the Club is only as strong as its members, and we all play a part in its future. Hopefully in the coming year we can continue to add great fishing opportunities to the Club, I know the Committee is excited for the year ahead.

Dan Jarman.

FISHERY OFFICER REPORT - Unfortunately this season has been very troublesome on our waters with a series of low oxygen levels on several of our waters. The most notable one being the Bovington complex, where Bov1 had a KHV outbreak, which was almost certainly bought on by the low oxygen levels.

We have also had very low oxygen at Snake pit, Inworth 1 and finally at the beginning of November at Rectory pool where we sadly lost a lot of fish. A massive thanks goes out to the bailiffs who have spotted the problems early so that we could deploy the pumps to get oxygen into the water and also the environment agency for their quick response bringing their equipment to site. The cause of the oxygen crashes was a combination of lack of wind on the waters, together with decaying organic matter on the bottom of the lakes and also weed growth. As the weed grows to the surface it acts as a wind break and stops the water from being naturally oxygenated by the wind and wave action. The tree lines are also a contributing factor as the wind is then broken further.

Moving forward we have sought professional advice from Dr Bernice Brewster and there is now a clear strategic plan to treat and get the waters in question to a better standard so that it is less likely to happen again. First the tree lines and undergrowth are to be cleared creating wind tunnels (this has already been started on some waters). Secondly, at the end of the winter a dye will be introduced to reduce the weed growth. And thirdly a beneficial Bacteria (Rhodococcus and rhodobacter Bacteria) will be introduced in late spring. This is a nontoxic Bacteria that decomposes rotting vegetation and organic matter that has settled on the lake bed. It helps prevent further build up, reduces BOD & COD maintaining a good level of dissolved oxygen. Once these tasks have been completed and the water quality has improved we then have plans to re stock next Autumn and over the next few years we should start to see an improvement in catch rates and fish growth.

Continued on Page 3...

FISHERY REPORT *Continued...* - We have now been given the all clear from the fish health inspectorate regarding the KHV outbreak on Bov1. There are still plenty of good fish in there to catch.

We netted Layer pit at the beginning of December to remove some of the smaller Carp together with some Bream were moved to Lodge farm. The plan is to move some more smaller fish next autumn and then replace some with a new strain to keep the gene pool healthy. Work should start on the pathway around Layer pit in the new year making it easier and safer to walk around, together with swims being repaired.

As many of you know we stocked some Crucian carp into Oliver's earlier in the year. Some of these were given to us free by the EA and some the club purchased. These are doing very well with anglers catching several in a session up to roughly 11lb in weight.

And a huge thanks to all the Bailiffs, who, without their help and dedication things could have been a lot worse when we had problems. Also, for the hard work they do around the lakes keeping bushes trimmed and lakes clean. None of them get paid so if they are being noisy with a mower or strimmer they are doing it for your benefit.

On another positive note there has been some very good fishing this past season with all species being caught. There are lots of improvements work planned for next season on swims, paths and undergrowth around the lakes. So, here's to a prosperous and fish healthy 2025.

Andy Howard.

BAILIFF OFFICER REPORT – My first year as Bailiff Officer has been quite eventful but very rewarding. I think we can agree the bailiffs now in place are doing a first-class job and are committed to the cause, giving their time to run and maintain our lakes, and also being helpful to our members when needed. On a member's side of things, I have been fortunate to meet quite a few of you and I have made some good friends along the way.

Members play a big part as well, with your eyes, ears and ideas, so if you do see anything you are unhappy with, please report it to the Bailiff or to me directly, which is never a problem. For example, litter, there have been instances this season which have resulted in life bans for members. So, if you see people leaving litter get your smart phone out, take some photos of the perpetrator and email them to me, as without evidence it's hard to catch them. Another would be the Keeping of gates locked at all times especially where we have Otter fences.

On the last note, we are always looking for good bailiffs to help the club in moving forward, so if you think that could be you, please get in touch with me.

Ed Young.

SECRETARY REPORT - This year from a secretarial perspective has gone relatively smoothly. We have been able to hold our monthly meetings face to face, with these being supplemented by occasional Zoom meetings when urgent matters have arisen such as the KHV outbreak at Bovington 1.

The running of a club the size of CAPS has many challenges, from ensuring membership renewals and bringing on new members runs smoothly, to ensuring our waters are safe and are managed effectively with stock levels appropriate for the respective waters. As well as dealing with various landowners and managing our finances prudently whilst actively continuing to look to expand our portfolio. All of this against the backdrop of making sure we abide to ever increasing regulatory and insurance requirements. As Secretary I get to see the amount of work that goes on behind the scenes and am pleased that through the efforts of the officers the club it all runs so smoothly.

So, thank you to all those people including our membership for your ongoing support.

Ian Carter.

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR REPORT – As already mentioned our numbers are slightly above last year's exceptional figures. Judging by all the enquiries re new memberships we will again reach these high standards. Existing members be warned you will have until 31st March to renew after we open up the web Site around mid-February. It is sure to be very hectic when we open for ne new members at 7.30am on 1st April. There is no increase in any fees for this coming season.

As usual Kay Howard at Membership Services continued her good work sorting out all the queries and getting memberships out to you. We are dropping the postal Newsletter because of rising printing and postal costs; therefore, you will not get a renewal form in the post. The form will be on the web site if you wish to renew by post but hopefully most will do so on-line which is much quicker and more reliable.

Mick Turner.

MATCH SECRETARY REPORT – Another good season with very good attendances in all matches. We had 2 junior matches this season, which were very well attended. With prizes for the biggest total weight and the heaviest fish in 3 separate age groups. These were under 10, 11- 13 and 14 -16-year olds. Lots of prizes were donated by, Korda/Guru with lots of rods also donated by Fox. Trophies were donated by Matt Gould of Gould adaptations for the first match and myself and Kay for the second. A massive thank you goes out to all those involved, not forgetting the helpers on the day, Mark Orin together with Ed Young and his partner Kim.

We will have another 2 matches next year, and as I have been asked many times, we are going to add an intermediate category so that 16-18-year olds can join in.

Olivers lake: Still producing the goods with fantastic results and nice bags of Skimmers, Tench, Carp, Roach together with the new Crucian carp. The top match weight on here this season going to Matt Gould, on peg 31 with a 113lb 4oz mixed bag. The winter silverfish matches here are also very popular with at the time of writing matches selling out.

Prestons lake: Slightly better this season, with the Roach a bit thin on the ground at the start of the season but soon turned up in force later on. The Bream did show fairly well this season together with several Carp. Top weight on Preston's lake this year was from new member, John Wilson, who was on peg 1, with an impressive 120lb 3oz 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! Special thanks to Rob Houlding on keeping the lakes extra tidy. Top weight here this season was on one of our Thursday matches and went to Bob Oakley on peg 24 with 182lb 14oz!

Layer Pit: We had the usual silver fish match at Layer this season with all top weights made up of Bream with the top 3 weights all over 100lb. The top weight here this season went to Keith Adams with 113lb 6oz of bream from peg 18.

Lodge Farm: St Osyth is proving to be an excellent venue. The Bream were a little elusive this year with most of the top weights made up of Carp. Top weight here this season was Julian Collop with 115lb 4oz of mainly Carp from peg 17

A big thank you to Paul Connell and Mick Turner for helping out organising matches in my absence, 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.

TREASURERS REPORT - The Club success has again strengthened its financial position. We continue to ensure the Club is run efficiently from a financial perspective and that the money is spent prudently. With the Club having been in existence for over 100 years we need to remember that we are just looking after it and all we can hope is that we leave it in a better state than we found it. The Clubs savings are working hard for us, earning interest, which is a nice addition to the income for the Club. In addition, the grant received from the Angling Improvement Fund, which was used to clear wind tunnels on Bovington 2 was very warmly welcomed. A big thanks goes to Kay for processing the membership and Ian for keeping the website up and running to make online joining possible. Due to their expertise, we have been able to create our own membership system. It's this sort of project that helps us run a club of this size efficiently. A huge thank you to the bailiffs and members that have helped us to keep on moving forward this year, we are learning all the time and the help and input received through the year has been really appreciated.

Dan Jarman.

WELFARE OFFICER REPORT – Hello, I would like to introduce myself as the clubs new Welfare officer. It is a new role within the club which brings us into line with current operating procedures for an organization such as ours. Currently working in education as I do (twenty-two years so far) I am best placed to keep up to date on the evolving sphere of welfare and safeguarding, this is further complimented with new guidelines set down by the Angling Trust. What is a welfare officer? A Welfare officer is responsible for acting as a voice for safeguarding within the club, working with the committee to ensure best practice is followed and to coordinate actions within the club, should a safeguarding concern or referral arise.

Just like Health and safety, Welfare is a responsibility we all share. Should you have a safeguarding concern especially if it concerns a child then contact the bailiff or directly to the committee.

Whilst I do not want to turn this into a do's and don'ts lecture, I would like to make it clear that dropping a child off at one of our venues and leaving them unsupervised is not tolerated. Ultimately it can be classed as child abandonment which could involve investigation by the authorities which I am sure nobody wants.

On a much brighter note it has been extremely encouraging to see so many Juniors joining in with our matches this year (see match section report), and feedback I have had from parents has been heartwarming, so a big thanks to our committee members and coaches for your help and support.

Steve Howell.

WEBMASTERS REPORT – 2024 continued the recent trend in that our website needed to deal with increasing daily volumes (up 5.59%) and pressures that were placed in front of it. This is especially crucial during the busy joining period from mid-February to the beginning of April.

As with previous years we guaranteed renewal for existing members of the previous season providing you join during the period mid-February until we open to new members, which in 2024 was 7.30am on the 1st April 2024.

Based on previous years we expected to reach our membership limit quickly after the 7.30am opening for new members but this year the demand was even greater! With over 300 people joining in the first 5 minutes and us reaching our limit within 20mins. So, I would stress again if you are an existing member do not leave it too late to re-join. We will again open for new members at 07.30am on the 1st April 2025.

We continue to look at ways we can improve our digital services and this year was the first year our new database, which is linked to our web platform, was used during the joining process. Ensuring that when existing members re-joined, the membership number provided was crosschecked to a valid member for the previous year. This new database 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 saving our membership team time in rekeying information. The database has also enabled us to now contact our membership via email in a more streamlined manner, saving us from ever increasing postal charges. So, for the first time we sent out notification of the AGM via email and will do the same for our newsletter.

It is important if you want to be kept up with communications such as these that when you re-join online in 2025 you click the button that shows you subscribe to email communication from the club. The website continues drive a large number of views as mentioned earlier viewing figures are up 5.59% over the previous year with almost 90,000 sessions! During what has been a challenging year for water closures and measures needing to be quickly put in place the website remains a vital asset in keeping our members updated with the very latest information.

As I mention every year we continue to encourage members to post pictures of their catches be it Carp or some of the other excellent species such as Roach, Tench, Bream and Chub that exist in our waters. And, finally, thank you to all those who have contributed to the website or our very active Facebook group page.

Ian Carter.





Bov1 Showing us that it too can produce perfectly shaped specimen Tench just like Bov2!



Another Thirty from Brakes Long Lake. Recent Pipe works have returned the level back to normal now, just in time for another cracking season.



BrookHall has always produced extremely good weights but is now looking better than ever.



Olivers just keeps getting better! Numbers of fish and specimen weights just keep improving, take a look at the match results.



Lodge farm has proved popular this year and why not with such a head of thirties present, not to mention plenty of back up fish providing plenty of action.



Snake pit producing the goods. Recent improvements will not only enhance this water but improve future prospects of what is an iconic Carp & Tench water.