

# Newsletter - March 2005

Dear Members

May we take this opportunity in welcoming you to another season with the Linton Angling Society.

Firstly let's start with the AGM

## **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING:**

This was held at the Bull Inn on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2005.

It was attended by only **37** members. A disappointing turnout when you consider the numbers of members we have. Maybe we should try a Friday night next year?

Our Chairman, **Norman Young** opened the meeting with the sad news that **Andrew Tate**, our Treasurer & Junior Secretary, had been killed in a motorcycling accident on the 6<sup>th</sup> January 2005, an obituary was then read out followed by a two minute silence. [\[click for obituary letter\]](#)

There being no apologies of absence; the minutes of the 2003 AGM were then read by Secretary, **Chris Knowler**. There were no matters arising.

## **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:**

**Norman** started his lengthy report with;

**Fishing:** All our waters fished well this season, obviously the hot summer periods & cold winter ones will always affect catches.

River Medway: Our stretch at Watringbury continues to produce good bags of Bream & some nice pike up to mid twenty's, again decent Carp being caught, more talk of another 30lb + coming out!

River Beult: produced some good catches of Roach & Tench + quite a few reasonable Carp for those doing a bit of night fishing. We did have the yearly problems with weed though.

River Teise: Despite being quite overgrown in summer this little river does produce some really good fish. An ideal water for stalking; especially now in the winter, with some reasonable Chub & Roach being caught!

The Park again threw up quite a few good Carp + 7lb. Bream catches with some good bags of Roach.

Toke: Generally fished well especially now there isn't such a weed problem, 5lb. Perch & 8lb + Tench coming out.

Staplehurst & Manor produced very well at times, however they did have their quiet periods.

Woodchurch: This has provided good sport for those who want a quiet little venue, mainly Roach Rudd, Tench & small Carp, however small Pike were a problem on the larger of the two Reservoirs, we are looking at restocking.

## **Waters:**

We envisage retaining all our other waters for this season.

We have put in a bid for the lease of a section of the River Medway also the **Royal Military Canal**, members will advise you if we are successful.

During last year we visited a couple of waters with a view to leasing them, for one reason or other they were not suitable, we are still looking for another a new suitable sized still water to replace the one we lost a few years back. If any member hears or knows of any that might be suitable please let us know asap.

## **Maintenance:**

We have a reasonable of work to carry out in 2005.

The Park being the main water involved, we've made a start with the North "naked" bank by putting in place the timber formers to provide the shape of the new bank/path, alas the winters wet weather has taken over making access with the trucks no longer possible to delivered the hardcore & other materials required to build up the bank/path.

We now have some additional palisade fencing to erect to make the car park more secure.

On other venues there is:-

Removal of some of the reeds, additional hardcore for the car park at the Farm, repair of gate at the Reservoir, rebuilding of swims at Woodchurch, Medway Beult & Teise

These jobs have been planned for March, April & May.

### **Working Parties:**

This year we start the TWO YEAR ROTA system (for members with the surname beginning **A to H**) We are still running the £10 levy for those who do not wish to attend any.

Some members have received a pay up letter because they did not attend, pay or bother to ring in last year, please do so when rejoining as this could hold up returning of membership documents!

[\[click for working party dates\]](#)

### **Closed Still Water Periods:**

There is a revision to THREE of the still waters, these are:

**Staplehurst Reservoir: 1<sup>st</sup> April to 20<sup>th</sup> May 2004 (inclusive)**

**DURING THIS PERIOD THERE WILL BE STRICTLY NO ACCESS ALLOWED.**

*(Reason: At the request of the farmer because of the "frost protection" & problems in April 2004.)*

*Because of this the closed periods on others are as follows:-*

**Manor Reservoir: NONE**

**Park Lake: NONE**

**Toke Reservoir: NONE**

**Woodchurch: NONE**

*Note:*

*Waters being worked on will be closed on working party dates.*

*The Rivers will remain closed as normal 15<sup>th</sup> March till 15<sup>th</sup> June.*

**Rules & Directives:** Unfortunately we had to issue three new directives in 2004.

Please obey them! To remind you they were as follows:-

**"NO juniors (under 17) will be allowed to night fish unless they are accompanied & supervised at all times by an adult. i.e. full card holding adult member over 20 years old"**

*(Reason: Problems with Junior's at Staplehurst Reservoir in April '04)*

*We have now had to restrict junior membership to Members Children / Family or Relatives.*

**Directive 26 – "No fishing directly amongst or within the actual confines of the reed & lily pad areas, this applies to all Linton waters."**

*(Reason: some members had been fishing for Carp with floaters in the actual reed beds themselves & when hooked are bullying them out on strong lines & hook links, this was causing damage to their mouths & scales. Bailiffs reported they had to release three tethered fish.*

*We appreciate that a hooked fish will run for cover or go for snags & are sometimes lost in the lilies & reeds', however deliberately fishing in them is something else!*

*Therefore, at the committee meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> August 2004 it was decided to issue & implement a new Directive.)*

**Directive 27 – "The use of live fish as bait whilst fishing on any Linton waters is banned."**

*(Reason: In the past; whilst it had been frowned upon & an unwritten agreement with certain associations that live fish would not be used by our members as bait for Pike fishing, there was no actual Rule or Directive in place to cover for this method of fishing in our Society or on our waters. Because of the sensitive political issue, ethical grounds, some incidents + the bad press received in some quarters it was decided at the committee meeting on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> December that "Directive 27" was to be proposed, seconded & voted on. It was passed with a 7 to 2 majority.)*

**NAFAC:** We have joined NAFAC (National Association of Fisheries & Angling Consultatives.) This gives us help, advice & guidance on insurance, legal matters, fisheries management, fight to protect the rights of anglers in parliament.

We remain members of the A.C.A. & K.F.C.A.

### **Bailiffs & Problems Around The Waters:**

Bailiffs reported there had been a number of incidents last year, The Staplehurst Reservoir was shut till mid May in '04 & will be again during this period this year. This had been done at the request of the farmer to ensure the important frost protection of his crops is not put at risk again.

During the closed period in April 04 it was "poached" or fished by some "anglers" which included LAS junior members.

During this period the following happened; Locks smashed off & gate left open, a large amount of litter was left. Damage was done to a shed & pump, evidence of alcohol & drug use & a net (containing fish) was found in the water.

This happened despite bailiff patrols during this period. Naturally the Police were involved.

This has now resulted in new rule changes involving junior members & night fishing as mentioned. I'm afraid it's the innocent that always suffer in these situations.

Subsequently we have had to expel two junior members & refuse membership reapplication for three others, also write & issue official warnings to two juniors for various night fishing offences.

Despite the "April Incident" the bailiff's report you've been pretty good up until Xmas, then school holidays produced BURNT out Bivvys & litter at Staplehurst & Linton! + Stolen car at Manor!

Generally there is still the odd problem of:-

Members having no membership cards with them, leaving litter & old line, using three rods in the summer. Non members (especially juniors) at the Park.

We would ask ALL members to be vigilant, please keep your eyes open. Don't be frightened to ask anyone fishing to show you their membership card.

Don't just leave it for the bailiffs to do. It's up to us all to protect our waters & fishing.

A reminder to you all to read the directives of the Society they're on your membership cards that you have with you.

WARNING! There will be high profile bailiffing on all our waters during the 'school holiday periods'

### **Matches:**

**Mark Chapman** ran, 10 league + 5 others last year. These were all enjoyed by those who competed; we do need more of you to enter though.

Unfortunately no KFCA championship winners this year, a poor swims draw & a difficult venue put pay to that! In 2005 it will be held on the **River Rother** on **11<sup>th</sup> September**. (subject to confirmation)

This year **Barry Andrews** takes over as Match Secretary, **Don Brown & Colin McKinnon** have agreed to help out as required.

**Mark** still intends to run **five** additional "**Summer Wednesday Evening Comps**" on the rivers. There will be a Trophy & prize money. These will start at 5.00pm & finish around 9.00pm. They will be "Rovers". If you can't make 5.00pm you're most welcome to turn & start up any time you can. It's a good way of spending your summer evenings & you get practice in for the League ones.

Contact **Mark** for details of any inter-club "Tri-matches".

Carp Matches: There will be none in 2005 due to lack of interest in those held in 2003!

You'll receive a full list of confirmed dates for the 2005 / 06 season on the new membership card.

[\[click for match dates\]](#)

**Junior Section:**

**Andrew Tate**, as well as taking over the Treasurers duties he had continued to look after the junior section. Unfortunately the "Junior Fun Days" weren't that well attended, despite this he had intended to give them a go again this year. He also ran a number of "summer evening teach-ins" for some of the Staplehurst School juniors, these were a great success.

The committee has to decide on the future of the junior section therefore all events for 2005 have been suspended until a suitable member is found to take over & carry on the splendid work that he did for all our juniors.

**Membership:** We were running at the same numbers as last year.

The web site & adverts in the Freshwater Informer were instrumental in helping us maintain our numbers.

**Subscriptions:**

Good News! Despite increase in water rentals & inflation we have decided NOT to increase the membership fees for this coming season. However they will have to go up in 2006/07.

Please send subs in on time, it enables us to see where we are financially; we have to pay out for leases in May – June. Remember there are new applicants on the waiting list.

**Web Site:**

WE NEED MORE OF YOUR PHOTOS for the WEB SITE:

We need more of your decent Linton fishing photos; we know you're catching the fish! Please send them in (putting name, address & details on the back) or e-mail (They will be returned after use)

We do need more of you to contribute. It has been great success but to keep the interest going it does need constantly updating.

Member's Shop: - If you have any decent tackle you wish to sell or want, you can advertise it free in this section.

Forum, Letters & Articles:- Anything interesting to say, angling tips or ideas or want information? Why not send it through?

Adverts:- For those members who have their own companies, self employed or provide a service etc. here's your chance to advertise.

Thanks again to **Warren Muckall** for managing our web site. It continues to be a great success.

**Monthly Raffle:**

This has been quite successful; it is beneficial to the Society & to the lucky members who won (some twice!). However we do need more of you to participate. More that enter the larger the prize money.

**TREASURERS REPORT:**

The accounts & report on last year figures was presented & read out by **Chris Knowler**. Again there was an excess of income over expenditure. Chris went on to say that although the Societies financial state is still reasonably strong, we envisage the excess will be used for the increase in rentals.

**ELECTIONS:**

These were handled by **Tony Spall** who started by announcing that **Alan Croucher** our Assistant Secretary wished to stand down, he feels now is the time he would like to take a back seat, bow out & retire, in his own words. "To give some younger blood a chance"

He has been a member for some 50 years, long serving on the committee; the last eight as Assistant Secretary, four of those standing in as Secretary from 1997 to 2001 where he was instrumental in pulling the Societies financial position around & help build it to what it is today.

Alan is a keen society member always supporting the matches & various events, over the years his name has appeared on most of the trophies.

Alan is a main part of the Linton Angling Society.

On behalf of the society & in appreciation Alan was presented with a gift in the form of tackle vouchers. In keeping with L.A.S tradition as a retiring officer he was made an honorary member.

Voting then took place. **Norman Young** was returned as Chairman, **Mark Chapman** now takes over as Assistant Secretary.

It was agreed that the position of Treasurer will be taken on by our Secretary, **Chris Knowler**.

The following members were elected onto the Committee, they were:-

**Jason Tuckey & Don Brown** (existing committee members)

**Kevin Jenner**, our C.P.O. & **Barry Andrews** as Match Secretary.

#### **OTHER ELECTIONS & RULE CHANGES:**

It was proposed by **Mick Cullen** & seconded by **Alan Croucher** that in recognition of all the hard work, time & effort the officers, **Chris Knowler, Norman Young & Tony Spall** put in on Societies behalf & the fact that they received no Honorarium (even paying their own subs like any other member) they be made Honorary members. This was unanimously passed by a show of hands.

#### **ANY OTHER BUSINESS:**

Members raised the following points. a) The problem of discarded line, especially at Linton. All we can do is to educate & keep reminding members of the dangers to wildlife caused by this.

b) A question was asked if the Lake had been netted recently. Norman confirmed that no official netting of any Linton waters had taken place in the last eight years. He assured members that if any surveys or netting were required it would only be carried out by the E.A. & no other private company. It would also be supervised by our committee.

#### **TROPHY PRESENTATION:**

**Mark Chapman** presented the **2004** trophies.

Congratulations to **Barry Andrews** for 'Premier Cup' Overall point's winner, & Winter Trophy Winner. **Paul Smy** – Runner up. **Richard Leeson** - Summer Trophy Winner & **Mick Cullen** – KO Trophy winner.

Further copies of 2004 Trophy winners & Points chart are posted on this site or can be obtained by sending an S.S.A.E. to Norman. [\[click for details\]](#)

#### **NEWSLETTER:**

We will be sending out the April newsletters with the new season cards by the 1<sup>st</sup> April (subject to you sending in your subs by 15<sup>th</sup> March. Don't forget the renewal forms!)

#### **THANKYOU:**

A thank you to all the other officers & committee for all their hard work, time & effort spent running & supporting your Society. Without them it wouldn't be what it is today.

Special thanks goes to Head Bailiff "Mower Man" **Alan Clark, Jason Tuckey, Martin Worrall & Mick Cullen** for their work on the maintenance & bailiff side.

Also bailiffs **John Carter** who looks after Woodchurch & **Andy Underdown, Mick Harber** at Manor Farm.

In closing may we wish you all good fishing for the forthcoming season.

**Tony Spall**

*Vice Chairman*

For & on behalf of LAS Officers & Committee

1<sup>st</sup> March 2005

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