

Newsletter - October 2005

Dear Member

Well we're over halfway through the season, lets hope the majority of you have managed to get a few fishing trips in. Sometimes it's finding the time or just plain making the effort but once you're there it's great to be on the water again.

FISHING in general:

Our bailiffs report that all in all, the fishing has been good so far this year; lack of water has affected some venues especially on the rivers, more of them later. All the still waters have produced very well at times; most of them are susceptible to weather changes which of course affect catches. Largest Carp this year so far are a 33 & 30+, with quite a number of 20's up to 28½ lbs. Certain waters produced well with plenty of fish coming off the top, best numbers in one session was 37!

Tench have been caught to 8½. Bream to 7½. Perch to 4½. Roach to 2½, these were amongst the reported catches.

Rivers: Medway has fished very well with some really good mixed bags, no real big catches of Bream reported though. A lot of the Carp boys are keeping quiet but I know there are catching! Pike are a nuisance for those general fishing. No big'uns reported yet, winter may very well produce some good fish.

The Beult: This River has been a disappointment this year, the "duckweed" descended shortly after the start of the season & it's still there, even the weir at Stile Bridge! There were a few clear areas so it was possible to fish.

With the lack of rain to flush it downstream it has made most sections unfishable, seems to becoming the norm each year.

One wonders the value to members of some stretches where there is a poor access, limited parking, overgrown banks, low water levels when they take the boards out, covered in duckweed, fished by only a handful of members & expensive. Makes it only fishable three months of the year!

Hmmm... We have some serious thinking to do & some hard decisions to make!!!

Royal Military Canal

When we took this new section of water over in July any members who visited were in for a shock; you could practically walk across it in places, the weed & lily pads on some sections were horrendous, however a few weeks later the weed cutter boat & JCB came along & cut back & removed them. Still a small number of pads in places but we know what weed houses & produces, good fish & fishing!

From the reports, those of you who have fished it haven't been disappointed: there's been some excellent bags of Roach, Bream & Tench with a number of reasonable Pike & Carp coming out as well. **John Carter**, our Ashford area Bailiff has had some good sport with the Roach & Tench, he gives some tips on how to fish it on the Forum section. He's managed to clear, or should I say keep free a number of swims, it is the old story the more people fish it the more bait that goes the more the fishing improves.

Footnote to all Bailiffs:

Linton A. S. have the sole licensed fishing rights from the E.A. for the 3 mile section, **Ruckinge Bridge to Giggers Green Bridge**, anyone fishing it must be a member or have the relevant Day Fishing Permit irrespective of which bank they are fishing from. Anglers are only allowed to fish from the Southern bank.

BAILIFFS REPORT:

Alan & Jason report that on the whole members have been pretty good, however we have had a few problems in other quarters, namely Poachers at Toke & on the Chainhurst section of the Beult (the EA were contacted, not being a great deal of help the Police were called to one incident at Toke, turned out to be "East European farm workers") Rubbish & fires at Hawkenbury. Nets across the lower section of river at Stile Bridge, these were removed, no prizes for guessing where they came from!

An incident of anglers being drunk & having apple fights at another venue plus of course the old litter & excrement problem.

But no real problems with juniors!

You are reminded, **NO MEMBERSHIP CARDS WITH YOU - NO QUESTIONS – IT'S NO FISHING!**

This will be strictly enforced.

Members are responsible for their guests & must ensure they have purchased a guest ticket **BEFORE** fishing commences.

No reported fish losses, apart from a couple of Pike earlier in the year, down to deep hooking or bad handling?

We would ask all members to be vigilant, keep you eyes open, and report any incidents immediately, no point a few days later. You have over twenty names on you cards. Please help us to protect your waters.

WORK PARTIES & MAINTENANCE: Thanks to those members who turned up to help on the 9th October, it is appreciated. Again a disappointing turn out with only 12 of you there, we were limited in what we could achieve. However we were able to continue extending the palisade fencing at Linton, cutting back & burning the old reeds at Staplehurst & carrying out some work on the Medway.

Let's hope we get a better response to the last one on **6th November!** We still have the lake path at Linton to construct.

MEMBERSHIP: This year we are slightly down on this time last year so we will leave the membership open till a bit later on.

GUEST TICKETS:

OK we know it's disappointing, I went into the reasons why on the Forum page but to remind you...

"The Bull Inn", Linton. NO LONGER SELLS GUEST PERMITS!

However there are now three tackle shops that do sell them.

Medway Tackle Supplies: 374 Canterbury Street, Gillingham, Kent. ME7 5JU. Tel: **01634-570740**.

Nick's Tackle Exchange: 10 Knightrider Street, Maidstone, Kent. Tel: **01622-673899**.

The Country Way: 56 - 58 High Street, West Malling, Kent. Tel: **01732-875515**.

GOOD NEWS: Local member **Dave Chapman** has also agreed to sell them.

As detailed on your card they can also be obtained from the following members:-

- **Chris Knowler** – Wansfell, 476 Red Hill, Watringbury, Maidstone Kent. ME18 5BE. Tel: **01622- 812502**
- **Tony Spall** – 62 Kit Hill Avenue, Walderslade, Chatham, Kent. ME5 9EX. Tel: **01634-862625** or **07771-987462**
- **Alan Croucher** - 30 Hillbrow, Bearsted, Nr. Maidstone, Kent. ME14 4AW. Tel: **01622-739840**
- **Alan Clark** – 49 Sheals Crescent, Maidstone, Kent. ME15 6TW. Tel: **01622-752837** or **07713-695822**
- **Dave Chapman** - 88 The Quarries, Boughton Monchelsea, Maidstone, Kent. ME17 4NJ. Tel: **01622- 749303**
- ***Jason Tuckey** – 7 Church Street, Boughton Monchelsea, Maidstone, Kent. ME17 4HW.
Mobile: **07841-914214**

*You can **ONLY** buy Linton Park Lake Night Fishing Permits (**Strictly Members only:** MONDAY to FRIDAY nights) from **Jason**, he keeps a log & records all these.

While we're on the subject one or two of you new members need reminding **NO GUESTS AT LINTON PARK LAKE**. (2nd year members can apply for non fishing membership for wives, partners, girlfriends or boyfriends for a small fee. Details are on the renewal forms)

MATCHES:

Duckweed on the Beult has caused us some problems where we've had to change the venue because of this. The Medway came to our rescue, producing very well at times. Again we could do with more of you entering, on average we get around 12 to 15, they are good fun & you can pick up some useful tips from our experts, why not give it a go? **Barry Andrews** our Match Secretary will be sorting out the format & venues for next year, if you have any ideas or suggestions please give him a ring.

The Summer Monday evening matches were a success, again all on the Medway. Amazing what you can catch in just a few hours. Overall winner was **Malcolm Paye**, he won 4 out of the 5 matches. His expert knowledge of the river was a distinct advantage!

I understand that **Mark Chapman** is thinking of running another series next summer.

No success on this year's KFCA championships held on the River Rother. Low weights & poor pegs put pay to our hopes, still there is always next year.

THIS WEB SITE:

We try to carry out updates, match results, photos etc. in a once a month hit, a lot easier to control, so if you have anything (photos, articles, tips, stories etc.) that you think is suitable please send it in to **Chris Knowler** or myself.

As you are aware the new **Forum page** has been very successful, we are now using it for any "News Updates & Announcements" also "Sales & Wants", you can now control your own adverts, makes it much quicker.

WE WELCOME COMMENTS, VIEWS & TIPS FROM ALL INCLUDING NON-MEMBERS, JUST REGISTER, LOG IN & FIRE AWAY!

Once again our thanks go to Webmaster **Warren Muckall** for his expertise in running our website. Remember if you need any advice or want a web site set up he's your man.

Tight lines for the rest of the season; now's my favourite time of the year to fish, also hardly anyone on the waters!

Tony Spall

Vice Chairman

14th October 2005