



Newsletter - March 2004

Dear Member

May we take this opportunity in welcoming you to another season with the Linton Angling Society. Firstly, let's start with....

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING:

This was held at the Bull Inn on Wednesday 11th February 2004.

It was attended by only **40** members, disappointingly low turn out.

Our Chairman, **Norman Young** opened the meeting with the sad news that **Doug Daw**, our Treasurer, had died suddenly whilst on holiday in New Zealand, an obituary was then read out by the Vice-chairman **Tony Spall**, this was followed by a two minute silence.

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

Chairman's Report

FISHING:

Norman went on to say, fishing wise it had been another good one, all our waters fished well this season; Toke especially now there isn't quite such a weed problem, the River Beult produced some good catches of Roach & Tench + quite a few reasonable Carp for those doing a bit of night fishing, however the weed was a problem in the summer.

We did suffer with a lack of water on some venues – generally we need more rain.

Our stretch of the Medway continues to produce good bags of Bream & some nice pike up to mid twenty's, talk of a 30lb + carp being caught!

The Park Lake threw up a few good Carp. **Andy McCulloch** had the best at 32lb. There was also a few 7lb+ Bream & good Tench caught.

Staplehurst, reports of a 26lb Mirror. Manor again produced very well at times,

Dean Underdown had a 27 ½ lb. Mirror; however the waters did have their quiet periods towards the end of the year.

John Carter our local bailiff the at Woodchurch venue reported it had again provided some reasonably good sport, mainly Roach, Rudd, Perch, Tench & small Carp.

CHANGE OF WATERS:

Unfortunately we lost the (No: 5) stretch of the River Beult, the fields/river were sold, we did contact the new owners but they did not want to lease the waters, they have their own plans for it.

At the time of going to press we envisage retaining the fishing rights on all our waters for the next season, you will be advised should there be any changes.

We are always looking into leasing/purchasing another reservoir/lake. (If any members hear of anything suitable please let us know a.s.a.p.)

WORKING PARTIES & MAINTENANCE:

Again this year it is compulsory, (however, we are going back to splitting it into two groups in the following 2005-2006 season – Surnames A to H & I to Z)

This year we have a reasonable amount of work to do. River Medway where the recent high water had washed away some of the swims. Rebuilding of the path /bank swims at the Park after the clearing of trees at the North end in autumn of last year.

In 2003 we were able to renew the track & part of the car park at Manor, repairs to the gate at the Park, Handrail at Staplehurst.

CLOSED STILL WATER PERIODS:

We are retaining the closed periods as detailed in the fixtures/membership card
Remember that **Manor Reservoir** will be closed for all of **MARCH** this year.

The Rivers will remain closed as normal 15th March till 15th June.

BAILIFFING & PROBLEMS AROUND THE WATERS:

Every year the bailiffs report a number of incidents.

Night Fishing: A reminder to juniors. “**NO Juniors* are allowed to night fish unless they are accompanied & supervised by an adult member at all times.**”

(*those under 17 years old.)

Intimidation: By deliberately casting over anglers lines after they've just turned up in an effort to make them change swims or go, this has happened at Manor.

Litter & Excrement: Although not as bad as previous years we still keep finding litter & you still use Staplehurst orchard & the Park as a toilet. DON'T – If you're doing night secession & have to go, take a small trowel or fold up spade with you & **BURY IT**, well away from where people walk & fish!

(NOT within the confines of the tree lined Reservoir or ORCHARD at Staplehurst.)

The Litter on the River Medway has also become a problem. Not always our members!

Unfortunately we had to expel two junior members for deliberately leaving litter & other offences. We had to write & issue official warnings to a number of others for various night fishing offences.

Any problems, you must ring the bailiffs or officers immediately, you've got 20 telephone numbers on you membership card!

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.

We now have a number of additional bailiffs helping **Alan & Jason**.

John Carter looks after Woodchurch, There is also **Mark Howard, Mick Harber, Chris Moreton, Andrew Hitchcock, Paul May & Andy Underdown**.

A reminder to you all, read the directives of the Society!

PARKING: Earlier in the year the **Parish Council** again complained about some of our members parking in Wheelers Lane. Please use your brains when parking, don't block or park **OPPOSITE** drives. We prefer that you **DO NOT PARK IN WHEELERS LANE**.

Please park your vehicle sensibly, especially in wet conditions. Don't block tracks or entrances; We get quite a number of complaints from farmers & landowners about this.

THINK BEFORE YOU PARK!

NEW RULE BOOKS / IDENTITY CARDS: This season we are issuing all members with new ones. (That's if you remembered to send in your new photograph. If you didn't you will not have been issued with one & therefore can't fish any LAS waters until you do!) This is in booklet form & contains all Linton's Rules & Directives; it also has a fold out I.D. photo card section.

NEW STYLE OF MEMBERSHIP CARDS: Last season we introduced a new style membership card with all the information you'll need to know on it. This has proved to be popular & a great success with members.

NO EXCUSES NOW, with both cards you now have all the Society information with you at all times when you're fishing!

MATCHES & COMPETITIONS:

Thanks to **Mark Chapman** for running these, 10 league + 4 others.

All who entered enjoyed themselves, especially Barry Andrews who nearly swept the board, well done.

CARP COMPETITIONS: These were all cancelled in 2003 due to lack of competitors, obviously not what you want!

Unfortunately no KFCA championship team entry last year, first time for many years, I think everyone was busy with other events. We must enter a team for 2004!

You'll receive a full list of confirmed Match dates for the 2003 / 04 seasons on the new membership card.

JUNIOR SECTION:

The junior section continues to grow, a total of 87 juniors thanks to the hard work of **Malcolm Smith & Andrew Tate**. The matches did need more entries though. They've suffered so much so that there has been a rethink with the type of events.

i.e. now to be "Junior Fishing Days". Details are on the new membership card.

Andrew & the **E.A.** ran a series of "teach-ins" for some of the Staplehurst juniors on the River Beult during last summer; I understand they were a great success.

NEW ADDRESS & NUMBER:

Chris Knowler our Secretary, moved house last year. Take a note of his new address & telephone numbers.

MEMBERSHIP:

The membership was slightly down on last season. However the numbers are about right for our waters & size of club.

We are able to maintain membership numbers thanks mainly due to the Web site, advertising in the Freshwater informer + some from the tackle shops, this all helps.

SUBSCRIPTIONS:

This year we have had to slightly increase these; **Tony** went into the reasons in the Treasurers report. 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.

MONTHLY RAFFLE:

This has been quite a success, As you see this was beneficial to the Society & to the lucky members who won. However we do need more of you to participate.

More that enter the larger the prize money.

WEB SITE:

We now (from November 2003) have a new "Webmaster" **Warren Muckall**. A keen angler & society member, he has agreed to look after & updating our site. He runs his own company can be contacted directly on [warren@aumworks.co.uk] should you require his services.

We need more of you to contribute.

Member's Shop: - If you have any decent tackle you wish to sell or want, you can advertise it free in this section. If you don't have the use of a computer then send the details to **Chris** & he'll put it in for you.

Hall of Fame: - If you have any decent photos of yourself or friends with fish caught at a Linton water, past or present, we'd be very interested? Why not send them in, putting your full name & address & details of the catch on the back.

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. (At a £20 nominal fee of course, not bad for a whole years advert on the 'net')

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

Treasurers Report:

The accounts & report on last year figures was presented & read out by **Tony Spall**. Again there was an excess of income over expenditure. Although the Societies financial state is still reasonably strong, most of the excess will be used for the increase in rentals & maintenance costs. The Society is still looking for another suitable still water to replace the Reservoir we lost therefore it will need the extra income generated by the increase in subscriptions & a good financial reserve to be able to act quickly if needed.

Elections:

The following members were re-elected onto the Committee to serve for another three year period.

They were:- **Alan Clark, Martin Worrall, Colin McKinnon & Paul Stevens.**

Any other Business:

Members raised the following points.

a) The present condition of Park Lake regarding the removal of trees & shrubs at the Northern boundary end of the lake. This work had been carried out by the Estate Land Management, basically to bring the lake back to its original state i.e. 'so it can be seen from the house'. It will be necessary to rebuild the path.

b) "Non fishing membership" This is for Wives, Partners, Parents or Carers who wish to accompany members whilst they fish at Park Lake. This is to cover for requirements in our lease agreement.

John Smith of the 'Environmental Agency' gave a talk basically on "The E.A. Angling & where your license money goes" with questions & answers afterwards. It was very interesting & informative, our thanks to him & those who participated.

Trophy Presentation:

Mark Chapman presented the **2003** trophies. Congratulations to **Barry Andrews** for 'Premier Cup' Overall point's winner, K.O. & Summer Trophy Winner + 4 other awards.

Paul Smy – Runner up, Winter Trophy Winner, President & Bull Cup holder.

Further copies of 2003 Trophy winners & Points chart are posted on our web site or can be obtained by sending an S.S.A.E.

COMMITTEE CHANGES: At the Committee meeting on 17th February the following changes were agreed.

Andrew Tate has kindly taken over as Acting Treasurer (he will still be looking after junior events & matches).

Don Brown has been co-opted onto the committee to take the vacant position.

Final reminder...

MONTHLY RAFFLE: You've had an entry form! or you can download one from the web site. Come on, it will only cost you £12 for a whole year's entry; that works out at only 25p a week! ANYONE can join ANYTIME & have as many entries as they like.

The more entries we receive the bigger the prizes!

Anyway, here's wishing you all 'tight lines' for the forthcoming season.