



Newsletter of the Colchester Piscatorial Society 2021/2022

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AGM:

The Colchester Piscatorial Society's Annual General Meeting will be held on Thursday 19th May 2022 at the New Colchester Rugby Club, Raven Park, Cuckoo Farm Way, Colchester, CO4 5YX starting from 7.30pm. All members are welcome to attend.

Raffle tickets will also be on sale for the donated prizes from our local tackle shops. The clubs many trophies will also be on display for you to look at prior to the presentation to the winners. Please make the effort to attend, it is your club after all.

Membership Renewals at AGM:

Members who have not yet renewed their memberships will be able to do so at the above AGM from 6.30pm to 7.30pm

Obituary:

The Society sadly reports the passing of the following Members since our last Newsletter was published
Nigel Cuming – Previous Society President
Tim Soanes
Donny Ralph – Life Member
Roger Powell

Our thoughts and best wishes go out to their families

Chairman's Report:

Dear Members

Yet another horrible year of Covid has passed with no AGM, no Prize Giving and Committee meetings restricted, but we have coped under difficulties.

It is with sadness I have to advise you of the passing of our past President of 25 years, Nigel Cuming last October, our condolences go to Marion and her family.

On a brighter note, much has been achieved over the past 12 months.

Bucbricks Complex 1,2 3

Bucbricks is now under new ownership – S.R.C.

Bucbricks 3 Is being totally revamped under a Environment Agency project by Tom Baird, an Environment Agency Officer with the assistance from club members.

Bucbricks 2 The club has now received permission to re-landscape this water and make it safe and family friendly. As you will know we have had many problems on this water with fluctuating water levels, this has now been rectified.

Bucbricks 1 This water too is being improved by 3 volunteers, John Dodshon, Stan Beecham and Colin Moore. Our thanks go out to them.

All this work is being overseen by our Estates Officer Shaun Vandersteen. – If you can help, please contact him. It can be fun!



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Langham – As I am sure you are all aware, Langham is often referred to as “the jewel in the crown” for the C.P.S. For its beautiful environment all the year round. This has not come without years of club effort. Tree damage, flooding, poaching, trespass, to name but a few problems. However, under the diligent work of our Estates Dept., we manage to keep on top. So, I am delighted to announce that this complex has been designated an “Area of outstanding natural beauty” (AONB).

After 2 site meetings in January and February, it is hoped the Environment Agency will be able to develop the Second Pond.

You will also notice the addition of a toilet in the car park – Please treat this facility with respect and keep clean. A further toilet is to be installed at Bucbricks 2.

River Stretch

Over the past season the river has produced superb catches of Bream, Roach, Chub, and Pike. The river is cut and maintained by Barry Took and his son Darryl, and again our thanks go to them both.

Stratford Mill Pool

The vast improvement and development is entirely due to Keith Nixon, one of our Bailiffs (with some family assistance from his wife and son) and likewise we thank him for his tireless work. Here and as with all Club waters PLEASE KEEP ALL GATES LOCKED AT ALL TIMES.

Club Bailiffs

The club has introduced a Club Bailiff system – Please be in possession of your current Membership Card and Rod License whilst on club waters – You will be checked. If you wish to become a Club Bailiff, please contact our Estates Officer for details.

Saltwater Section

Under the leadership of our Saltwater Secretary Mark White, we can boast of a full boat, lots of fun, good catches – if the weather is kind – and at no cost to the Club. For further details contact Mark White.

Freshwater Section

You will note when you receive your Fixture List it is completely revamped, the reason is to include more juniors, Mums & Dads – We are a Family Club – No great stakes involved – Just a fun day out! For more details, please contact Cliff Sturley our Freshwater Secretary.

When writing my report, I and no one else anticipated at the end of February “Storm Eunice”. This storm created a great deal of tree damage on all our waters. It was deemed necessary by our Health & Safety Officer and senior Officers of the Club to shut all waters until they could be made safe. Within just over a week all waters were reopened. This magnificent turn round is entirely due to our Estates Officer and his team. If you can spare 2 or 3 hours to help on a Sunday morning, please contact Shaun Vandersteen. Your assistance is for the benefit of all our members.

In Conclusion

Over what has been a horrible 2 years for everyone, we are hopefully, turning the corner, but this has only been achieved by a very strong Committee and Officers and Loyal Club Friends.

May I ask you to keep in touch with the Club Website.

Wishing you well for the new season and Tight Lines.

KEEP WELL AND STAY SAFE

Mick Barwood



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Club Secretary's Report:

Hello everyone, just a quick line or two wishing you all well.

I wondered if you members out there would help us out where you can, whether it be one a work party, supporting our fishing matches (both fresh and sea water,) telling your friends about the waters or even just reporting your catches however big or small.

Aside from that, I hope you all enjoy a day's fishing in our waters soon especially now the weather is improving.

Tight lines all

Barry Took

Estate Officer's Report:

Hi Members

What a couple of years we have had. I would firstly like to thank all the members that have given me a hand whilst working under the restrictions of Covid to keep on top of waters as best as we could.

In particular I would like to thank Ian and Wayne and the bailiffs for all their hard work in checking lakes whilst in lock down and in addition helping with various jobs we had to do.

As you would have seen at Pond house, we have done the swims on the close bank to the car park. There is some tree damage we will be dealing as soon we can.

Langham bridge from the car park has had replaced with a non-slip material and a port a loo is now on site. Please keep this clean and tidy. You will need to bring your toilet paper.

We are currently working on clearing the damage caused by the storm on the whole complex.

We are also in the process of sorting out a restocking programme on Langham 3.

I have a port a loo which will put on Buc bricks 2 in the next few weeks. The swim work on the field side is being done over a 3-4-day period at the beginning of May. You still able to fish but only on the roadside of the lake. Please stay away from the digger as we can't be held responsible if anything was to happen.

I would like to thank John, Colin, and Stan for the work which they are doing on Bucbricks 1 and 2, they are nicknamed the 3 amigos. They spend a couple of hours a week pottering about doing swim and step work. If you see them go and say hello.

Bucbricks 3 We are working with Tom Baird from the environment agency who is using this lake as a project to turn this into a traditional lake, the main stock of fish will be Tench and Crucian Carp. Around 250 of each have been introduced to the lake. Part of the fish management on the lake means that we will be netting it and will moving some of the smaller silver fish into Bucbricks 2.

The river and mill pool is being looked after by Keith and Barry along with their family members, again big thank you for all you do. We get some many compliments about how well its maintained.



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cpsangling.gov

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Working parties this year are being listed on Facebook and Website. Unfortunately, I couldn't list dates to far in advance due to having to work round availability of people machinery and equipment. If you wish to get involved in working parties, I do have a whats app group, if you wish to join the group, please message me on 07493104944 and I will add you to the group.

Finally, I'm always on the lookout for materials (metal poles scaffold boards etc) if you have anything please let me know. I can collect if needed.

Hope you all have a good session and look forward to seeing you on our waters

Tight lines all

Shaun

CPS ESTATES OFFICER

Membership Secretary Report:

Please note that payment for Membership Renewal this year is preferred by Bank Transfer if you can please.

Use your Membership Number (found on the back and front of your membership photo card) and Surname as payment reference.

Angela Barwood

Freshwater Match Secretary Report:

As the new Match Secretary, I would firstly like to express my appreciation and thanks to all those members who supported the competitions this season. However, this coming season we really could do with some more of our members to come along and join in the fixtures arranged so that we can maintain its integrity and continuance of this section within the Society.

Currently, there are several trophies not fished fish for and I would like to get them back on the Fixtures list in respect of our past members who kindly donated them.

Our competitions are for all anglers of all abilities who just enjoy fishing and meeting up with other members and sharing the experience of the fish they catch in our waters at weigh in.

We are yet to appoint an Assistant Match Secretary. Once we do, we can then increase the number of competitions providing we get an increase in participants.

If anyone would like to put themselves forward for Assistant Match Secretary, please contact me.

Our Membership Secretary reports that many new families have joined us over the past 2 years which is great news, and hope that our Seniors will help provide some encouragement and support in getting their children to participate in our scheduled Junior Competitions this coming season and Family Pairs Day. Juniors are potentially our future Society Senior Members, thus help keeping CPS functioning.

Please note that during Junior Competitions, a Senior can assist a Junior in setting up and landing fish, plus assist in the unhooking of a fish, like with a disgorger. Seniors can also coach and show how to cast etc. However, the Junior must always be holding the rod or pole whilst fishing so that it is them that hook the fish and get it to the landing net or bankside.

You do not need to be a member to supervise your child/grandchild participating in a Junior Competition if their Parent or Grandparent Member cannot make the day. However, you must still be their Parent or Grandparent due to Child Protection Rules.



Newsletter of the Colchester Piscatorial Society 2021/2022

cpsangling.gov

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Our Family Pairs Competition which went down well last year. Both a Senior and Junior fished together at the same peg.

See our Fixtures List and put the date in your diary now and book early. Only 8 places available (16 fishing in total)

Finally, the Specimen Fish Night Trophy on Langham 1 will continue this coming season but will be held in June not May. There are only 6 places available so again book in early if you wish to take part as I have 4 entries already.

Going forward, if anyone has any suggestions or recommendations for the future fixtures in 2023/24, please let me know. I have included a mid-week match but maybe some feedback on whether mid-week and/or late afternoon/evening fixtures should be increased would be welcomed as we do not always have to fixtures on a Sunday if that would attract more entries. Please Email me via the Website Contact Page if you would support this.

Have a successful forthcoming season everyone.

Kind regards

Cliff Sturley

Saltwater Match Secretary Report:

What a year that was so many trips planned and so few outings materialized the wind seem to be there for most of the boat bookings. When we did manage to set sail, the fishing proved quite successful with Bass, Thornbacks and Smoothhounds caught. We did manage one beach match which was quite well attended, and I think more will have to be arranged for next season.

I have tried to reduce the killing of small fish on all the boat trips and have made all sizeable whiting weigh just 4oz, they can be returned to the sea. This will be useful with the Olivant Cup as this trophy should be fished over three rounds for a combined weight. For the other boat trips, we are now fishing with the heaviest fish wins the day. In the beach matches all fish count and points are awarded for the length and species caught they then can be released.

Sadly, I did have to cancel a couple of trips due to some of our few regular sea anglers having other commitments and illness. It maybe that the boat side of the sea section will have to cease as I cannot make bookings some 12-18 months ahead if we have so few boat anglers.

So, if you would like to come and enjoy the sea breeze. Friendly banter and catch fish then please put your names forward.

Regards

Mark White

CPS Website Report:

Our website continues to be our members first reference area for communications, events, and your catch photos. Our Facebook page also show duplicates of some of these communications too.

We are now administering guest day tickets via our website if you can pay by bank transfer. Just let me know via the contact page and I will send you the information required and then I will return your authorised ticket via email to print out and take with you. Please give at least 2/3 days notice.

Kind regards

Cliff Sturley



Newsletter of the Colchester Piscatorial Society 2021/2022

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General Information:

Angling Trust Coaching Initiative

We have enrolled in promoting this scheme which is for Juniors and Adults.

Kelvedon, Maldon and CAPS are also involved, and coaching sessions take place across these club waters.

CPS will be risk assessed for coaching sessions on our waters for 2023/24 season.

The scheme needs experienced anglers to assist with coaching and level 1 & 2 coaching certificates are on offer for those wishing to volunteer.

For further information:

Please visit <https://anglingcoachinginitiative.co.uk> and <https://kdaa.co.uk/coaching>

Monthly Catch Reports on our website:

We have had some members sending in catch reports as requested via the website contact us page and Facebook, even if they blanked. These are collated and posted each month. We started this in February 2022

However, we would really like to get a lot more coming in each week as we know more of you are fishing than the reports show. Once we get a good flow, we could even start to post weekly rather than monthly, and this will ultimately help fellow members on where to schedule a productive day out fishing within our friendly Club.

Guest Day Tickets:

As detailed in the Website report, these can now be organized online and sent to you by email if you can pay by bank transfer.

Contact Cliff Sturley via CPS website contact page and Cliff will organize for you.

He will need your Membership Number, the Name and Address of your Guest, the water you are going to fish with the date and approximate times.

Cliff will also need the Car Registration number of your guest if travelling to the car park separately from you and your confirmation that your guest holds a valid Rod License, and the day fee has been transferred.

Bucbricks Complex & Langham Ponds:

A reminder for the 2022/23 season that the above venues will be available to fish throughout the CPS traditional close season. This excludes all River Stretches.

However, the use of Keepnets is Prohibited during the closed season.