



APRIL 2016 UPDATE

What's happening this month, plus Club news and other dates for your diary

www.tdfc.org.uk

So another river season is behind us and we are close to the Annual General Meeting. Reports on the river angling year have been mixed, but there is plenty of good news to share. There have probably been fewer big barbel caught than in some previous years, but some good 'uns have come out - and several in the daylight. Whether this is a change in fish behaviour, or just more anglers out in the daylight, who knows? The chub fishers have banked some hefty specimens, up to 8lbs, and the regulars are saying that a 6lb chub doesn't generate a great deal of excitement these days! The determined pursuit of other species has been an interesting development, with Ian Grant's targeting of roach a good example. He has had some lovely redfins, with our section of the Thames showing great form for this species. Perhaps Club members would be attracted by the formation of special interest groups for fish other than barbel, chub and carp?

Attention has now turned to the Club's stillwaters, Causeway and Pavilions, so it will be fascinating to see how they fish through the spring. Just make sure that you leave a little time and energy for one of Garry Brecht's working parties. You'll meet fellow members, learn more about our waters, have some fun and earn yourself a £10 discount off next year's membership in the process.

AGM 2016 – Wednesday 20 April - with guest speaker Paul Garner

The Annual General Meeting is your chance to hear from the Committee about the work they have done on your behalf over the past twelve months and the plans for the coming year. The AGM papers will be coming through the post to you in the next week or so.

Two important things to note:

1. We have a great speaker for the second half of the evening: Dr Paul Garner, well known fishery scientist, all round top specimen angler and author. If you want to know more about Paul, here's the link to his website <http://drpaulgarner.co.uk>
2. Any other business – All AOB topics together with a brief description of the topic and expectation/outcome to be provided to the Club Secretary by 16th April 2016. No AOB topics will be accepted or discussed on the night; this has taken up unnecessary time at previous AGMs. The committee will prepare a response to anything pre-notified and a sensible, if time limited discussion can be held.

Contact **Peter Sullivan – Club Secretary** Tel: 07885 930672 email: secretary@tdfc.org.uk

Why not become a TDFC Bailiff?

Would you like to help your club, and become a bailiff? Head Bailiff Ian Grant is currently looking to recruit bailiffs from the start of the coming season for all club waters, but particularly the River Thames and the Causeway Lake. There are no particular requirements, other than enthusiasm and a friendly disposition, but also the resolve to deal with issues firmly if the situation should require it. It will mean at least one patrol of an allotted water per week, which is not fixed to a specific day. Over and above that is up to you, but extra patrols are gratefully received. Also a report to me once per month, by whichever method you choose to deliver it to me i.e. e-mail, text, etc.

After one year's service on the team, you will be entitled to a free permit for the following year, and subsequent seasons thereafter. Contact **Ian Grant** on iangrant59@gmail.com or on **07913 752 524** to have a chat about what it all entails.

'The Big One' Exhibition

On Saturday 19th and Sunday 20th March, The Big One tackle show certainly lived up to its name, with over 20,000 anglers attending. Club Secretary Pete Sullivan organised our stand and there were plenty of visitors, both existing and prospective members. Membership Secretary Chris Jeffrey has already received several applications to join TDFC from visitors to our stand, so the active promotion is paying off. Well done to all who helped.

A tail end day to remember ...

Aaron Brittan has been at it again with this lovely brace from St Pats just a week or so before the river season ended. Well done Aaron, what a finish to your excellent season. I hear that Fisheries Officer Garry Brecht is now your official photographer!



Aaron's PB Chub of 6 lb 8 oz, followed by ...



... a 12 lb 8 oz barbel on same evening!

Fishing For Forces charity lunch

FFF is one of the Club's favourite charities and they have asked Dave Johnson for the Club's help in publicising the following event. "Taking the wounded to the waterside" is a Special Lunch with The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment at Knightsbridge Barracks on 4th May 2016, starting at 12.00 for dining at 12.30. Due to the success of the previous lunch at this superb location FFF Founder Bill Howell has secured the venue again. There is also the opportunity to include a guided tour taking in the Farrier's Workshop, Stables and stunning Museum, returning to the Parade ground gallery in time to see the Troopers dismount. The Tour commences at 11.00am sharp and has proven very popular. With a maximum of 45 places booking early is strongly advised.

Tickets for the three course lunch are £120pp or £1,000 for a table of ten (all tables will include a guest from HMAF). This is the perfect opportunity to entertain valued clients and friends in stunning surroundings steeped in history. For more information and to book please contact

Bill Howell on bill@fishingforforces.org or **07850 373 760**.

Update on Heron's Reach environmental damage

Many of you will be aware of the devastation caused to our Loddon fishery at Herons Reach during October 2015. This was subjected to an unprecedented and unwarranted destruction of habitat through the removal of all overhanging branches along its entire length. During the exercise a club platform was destroyed and its foundations removed from the water. As a result of this work our stretch of the Loddon from Herons Reach down to the confluence with St Pats has been left without natural cover for species such as barbel and chub.

The full story is too convoluted for this Update, but in short the Club, led by Garry Brecht, our Fisheries Officer, worked hard to deal with this activity and liaised with key representatives of a number of bodies, including Loddon Residents Association, Thames Water and the Environment Agency. Of course the damage cannot be reversed, but important controls and undertakings are now in place to prevent this sort of action happening again. The club extends its sincere thanks for the support given throughout its campaign by Martin Salter of the Angling Trust, Geoff Hardy from Fish Legal, Martin Moore from the Loddon Fisheries Consultative and Kim Potter from the Loddon Residents Association. If you are interested in understanding the full story (and it is quite detailed and complex) or have any questions, please address them to Garry on gwbrecht@yahoo.co.uk or **07833 447 034**

Working Party Dates 2016 - your help is needed

We are continuing with our usual close season working parties to cover swim clearance, flood damage, fallen trees and rubbish collection. The Club needs enthusiastic volunteers to help with all of this work and asks that you please give consideration to any of these dates. All volunteers will receive a £10 voucher redeemable against your next year's membership fees.

This year's close season working parties are as follows:

- Saturday 23rd April (09:00 – 14:00) – Loddon Lavells
- Weekend 14th/15th May (09:00-14:00) – Pavilions Ponds
- Wednesday 18th May (18:00 – 21:00) – Causeway
- Sunday 22nd May (9:00 – 13:00) – Upper Pats Swim Clearance
- Wednesday 25th May (18:30 – 21:00) – Thames
- Saturday 28th May (09:00 – 13:00) – Lower Pats Swim Clearance
- Sunday 29th May (09:00 – 13:00) – Blackwater
- Wednesday 1st June (18:30 – 21:00) – Loddon (Causeway)
- Saturday 4th June (09:00 – 13:00) – Loddon (Charvil)
- Sunday 5th June (09:00 – 13:00) – Loddon (Sandford)
- Sunday 12th June (09:00 – 13:00) – St Pats & Thames-Walk Through

There will be additional working parties through the season to cover the removal of Himalayan Balsam, match preparation etc. All equipment will be provided but is limited, so if you have a petrol trimmer or brush cutter and you are happy to use it on a working party, please let us know.

If you would like to be involved in any of these events please contact **Garry Brecht** on gwbrecht@yahoo.co.uk or **07833 447 034**

TDFC Open Day reminder

Save the date, it's Saturday 25th June 2016. If you are interested to help or have ideas to make the day even better than previous years, go to the TDFC Forum page 'Open Day 2016' or contact **Dave Johnson** on **07941 603 384**

Tackle Box now offering a wider selection of baits

The unfortunate demise of Reading Angling has had the benefit of generating extra custom for Steve Shave at Tackle Box, the only generalist tackle dealer on the Twyford side of Reading. In response to this increased demand, Steve has changed bait supplier and he routinely stocks maggots, casters, pinkies and squats. He can also do deals on larger quantities of bait, as long as ordered in advance. Remember that you can use the neighbouring Three Tuns car park – you don't have to go in for a drink!

Contributions, comments, complaints?

Thanks to those members who have taken the trouble to pass on complimentary comments about the Monthly Updates and especially those that have submitted catch information or other thoughts. These really are much appreciated. As always, please convey any information that you want shared or thoughts you have on the Monthly Update, good or bad, to the Editor:

Stuart Spindler at 07774 235 381 or stuartspindler@btconnect.com

If you change your e-mail address please help keep the Club's records up to date, by sending the details including your Membership Number, with NEW EMAIL ADDRESS in the subject line, to membership@tdfc.org.uk.

If you do not wish to receive future editions of this Monthly Update, please send a message to stuartspindler@btconnect.com with UNSUBSCRIBE and your Membership Number in the subject line.