



JUNE 2016 UPDATE

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

www.tdfc.org.uk

Summer officially starts on 1st June and this year the weather seems to have improved on time. So there are a couple of more weeks in which we can focus on our still waters, before the rivers re-open for business. The catch reports have been few and far between for Causeway – nothing new there, some would say! At Pavilions Ponds in Ruscombe the fishing has been good, according to Forum postings by Ian Grant, Mark Lauri and others. Meanwhile members have put in a great effort with the working parties this close season, as Garry Brecht reports below. That shows some good spirit and willingness to contribute by a goodly proportion of the membership, so well done if you've stepped up. Don't forget that only a week or so after the Glorious 16th we have this year's Open Day, a treat for members and non-members alike. Hope to see you there!

Fisheries update June 2016

With only a couple of weeks to go before the new season most of the working parties have been completed. The work has gone well and the venues are all looking good and ready to go, with the exception of the Lower Pats where we are holding off completion subject to the landowner taking his hay cut. Weather permitting this cut should happen in the next week and we will then deploy our grass cutter and other equipment to get the venue looking good.

We have had over 60 people attend working parties so far this year and I predict we will top 70+ when we take into account the remaining working parties on the Loddon at Charvil and the Lower Pats rescheduled work. My thanks to all our volunteers for doing a great job, we have had no accidents or people falling in and the feedback from people who have attended has been very positive. These events always have a social element to them and I think people learn from talking to others while working the swims.

I would particularly like to commend Steve White who has worked throughout the close season clearing woody debris from the Thames, St Pats and the Loddon, he has laid rubber matting in areas to improve safety, he has walked the venues with myself, Colin Rumney, Brian Edgley and Ian Hardwick discussing ideas and options which I am sure will benefit the club in the years ahead, he has started a project to reduce the amount of Himalayan Balsam we have to cope with and he has strengthened and sometimes replaced old or dangerous platforms. Worthy of separate note, his efforts in tidying up the Sandford venue were so effective that we were able to redirect the planned working party on that day to the Lower St Pats where we have had delays. Great work Steve, on behalf of the club and our members, thank you.

Finally, as the season gets underway I will repeat my appeal for feedback. The fisheries team of volunteers is growing and we are working hard in some venues to push back the ingress of shrubbery, trees and weed. In some places we have changed the flow of water considerably; take a look at swim 55 on the Pats, the culmination of a full day's work and the efforts of 8 people. We need to know what you think and it would be great if we could get some feedback on catches.

That way we learn and improve. Regards.

Garry Brecht - Fisheries Officer

TDFC Open Day – Saturday 25 June, 8.00 am until late – not long to go!

Now firmly established in the Club calendar, the Open Day is an opportunity for members and non-members alike to get together, meet new friends and perhaps learn something. Ian Law will be running the carp fishing demo on the Thames, Sam Meeuwissen has once again offered to stage a demo on the Pats and Paul Monaghan has confirmed that he'll be there with his pike fly fishing presentation. You are very welcome to come along – and do bring anyone, young or old, who might be interested in fishing our waters. Non-members fish *free of charge* on this day. Free burgers and sausages will keep you well fed, if you need any more incentive! The 'nerve centre' for the day is the Club car park by St Patrick's Stream, off Loddon Drive.

Alternatively, if you are interested to help out with the organisation of the day, go to the TDFC Forum page 'Open Day 2016' or contact **Dave Johnson** on **07941 603 384**

The Thames Fence

Following problems in the last year or two with cattle in the field by the upper reaches of our Thames fishery, a barbed wire fence approximately 300 metres long has been erected between the river and the 24-acre field. The Thames Fence provides a barrier to keep the cattle off the Thames river bank. This releases 12 prime pegs in the top field that have in recent years been under fished.

Access to the Thames is from a gate near the river bank in the middle field or the small field at the top of the stretch. There is no access from the



cattle field. Please remember that the access is narrow in parts and other anglers may need to pass your fishing position, so please keep the path clear. We have already had some walkers along the bank so remember to keep all gates shut and locked.

The current peg layout of the upper and middle sections of the Thames is below:

Top field (ie upstream): Pegs 1 – 3 shallow water, Peg 4 is good, 5 is shallow so needs wading, 6 – 12 are all good, with 7 requiring wading. Fence line is between 12 and 13.

Middle field: Pegs run from 13 to 21, with 16 onwards based on platforms. All swims rate as OK. Fence line is between pegs 21 and 22.

The Copse field pegs are 22 to 30, with 22 a shallow swim and the rest rating as OK.

Please note that the pegs from 27 onwards require some work. The middle field was ploughed near to the bank last year and it is difficult walking along our normal access path so take care when accessing this part of the fishery.

If the Thames fishes as well as it did last year, the new pegs should add some excellent results for pleasure and match anglers. Please report any catches from this area.

Many thanks to Bryan Edgley, Ian Hardwick, Garry Brecht, Steve White and Colin Rumney, to name but a few! **John Green**

Our Fisheries Officer shares his targets for the new season.

These are my top ten goals for the 2016/17 season.

1. Fish at least 3 club matches
2. Fish with one rod for the majority of my fishing trips
3. Learn how to use my new centrepin reel to trot a float
4. Catch as many barbel in daylight as night.
5. Catch more than one barbel over 15lb
6. Catch more than one barbel in any session on the Loddon (any club stretch)
7. Catch a chub over 7lb
8. Catch a roach over 1.5lbs from the Thames
9. Catch a perch over 2.5lb from St Pats
10. Catch at least 2 brown trout over 5lb (any club venue)

A great start will be for me to get to our Open Day and pick up some good tips on trotting. I can't wait to tick some of these off, I think the hardest will be number 6.

Do any of you guys have a similar list?

Garry Brecht

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.