



MAY 2016 UPDATE

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

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Plenty of news for you this month, for although the rivers are closed, spring is the time for the AGM and the big push on fishery maintenance. There is no Catch Report this month – there wasn't any news to bring you! Is it all quiet or are the Causeway and Pavilions' secrets not being shared? Remember that it is important for the Club Committee to hear about what is coming out of our waters, so that we can understand the benefit gained from maintenance and working parties. Ultimately we have to make decisions on renewing fishery licences and leases and the costs that go with that. We can do this much more effectively with good information on the fishing to be had on our waters. Don't think that you can only report big fish catches; it is also very useful to hear of good nets of silver fish or smaller species - plenty of our members like to get bites and assemble a good mixed bag. So do feedback on your fishing, direct to me or via the TDFC website Forum or Facebook page (which is now a public page, so no bar on accessing it).

Report on AGM 2016

This year's AGM was very well supported, with more than fifty members attending. After a welcome from Club President Bryan Edgley, Ian Crook took the Chair and outlined the format for the evening. Presentations were kept to salient points, with Steve Double covering all the subject matter other than Fisheries, which Garry Brecht dealt with admirably. The Club is in good fettle, with membership numbers up and substantial investment in fisheries maintenance through paid contractors and working parties. Garry thanked all those who had given their time to attend a Working Party or two – the commitment in the past year was excellent.

Dave Johnson was recognised for his superb efforts in setting up and running the Open Day, with the award of the Foster Memorial Trophy. Mark Lauri was mentioned in despatches for great work on a number of fronts – Pavilions restoration, Junior angling promotion and R&DAA liaison. Yours truly also got a commendation from the Chairman for the work on Club communications, particularly this Update and the Newsletters – which was nice and much appreciated!



A happy Rod Needs accepts the Pole Trophy (not the FA Cup!) from Club President Bryan Edgley ...



... and a delighted Dave Johnson receives the Foster Memorial Cup for outstanding contribution to TDFC from Bryan.

AGM guest speaker Paul Garner



Recent AGMs have included a guest speaker and this year we were treated to an excellent presentation for Dr Paul Garner, renowned fish scientist, angler, tackle reviewer and writer. He gave some great insights into fish behaviour and how our rigs, tackle and feed behave underwater. Paul has pioneered the use of small cameras to film fish and underwater settings, with some fascinating results. Thanks are due to Paul from all of us at TDFC for his generosity in sharing his findings. If you want to learn more,

then Paul's recently published book is a good read. You can find more details and links to purchase it via: <https://drpaulgarner.co.uk/books-2/>



Pre-baiting – what are your thoughts?

At the AGM Dick Simpson raised the issue of pre-baiting, as he did at the 2014 AGM. He clearly feels that there is a problem with members pre-baiting heavily and thereby spoiling the fishing – and that the Club should take some action. Chairman Ian Crook explained that the topic was discussed at two Committee Meetings since the 2014 AGM. It was noted that no specific incidents have been reported and that in any case control measures were likely to be unenforceable by the bailiffs. However, this is a topic that may bear further investigation, so Ian invited members to share their thoughts on this issue. So, do you think there is a pre-baiting problem or not? If so, what evidence do you have that it is occurring and that it is problematic? Furthermore, what measures would you like to see to control this activity, if any? Please send your comments to **Stuart Spindler at 07774 235 381 or stuartspindler@btconnect.com** and we will give them an airing in future Updates/Newsletters.

Fisheries investment

This time is always busy for me as Treasurer, working closely with the Garry (Fisheries), agreeing the procurement of new equipment and major works that require contractors to help execute our plans. With this in mind, at this early stage we have invested in two new petrol trimmers that will allow work parties to have the correct equipment to assist with clearing bankside growth across all our waters. On the River Thames, we have instructed a contractor to erect a barbed wire fence in the top field (peg 1 onwards) to stop the cattle getting in the river and also getting to us anglers!!! He will also remove the wire that is currently in the water. The fence line will be in keeping with the contour of the river. **Ian Hardwick – Club Treasurer**

Grand tackle sale

Hi – the name's **Mike Townsend**. I joined the Club some 40 years ago, in the mid-70s. I'm in my sixties now, which means I have fished for just over fifty years. During this period I have tried most varieties of fishing available in and around the UK. The result is that I have collected a large amount of fishing tackle, most of which will never be used again. Last year I sold off a few items by word of mouth. I now offer the rest at reasonable prices to the membership. Tackle available covers pole fishing, salmon and sea trout fishing, barbel fishing, general coarse fishing, trout boat and bank fishing and light sea fishing. There are a few items of clothing and luggage – and a large quantity of fly-tying materials. If you are interested and require more information, please phone me (evenings preferred) on **0118 979 0509**. Enjoy your fishing – tight lines.

Working Parties underway

The first of the close season working parties has been completed on the Lavells stretch of the Loddon. We have another 10 working party events that are open to members. As you are aware volunteers are essential to the success of these events, so do not hesitate to get involved. Please

take a look at the working party schedule and work out which you can attend. It is helpful to let me know who is planning to attend on any given date; then I can ensure we have enough and appropriate tools on hand.

Outside of the scheduled events we are planning further specialist activity to remove heavy or "in water" debris along the lower Pats. The first of these will be on Sunday 8th May. A number of club members with fisheries management expertise will be working their way in a boat along the Pats removing broken branches, cutting back growth that is impacting fishing and clearing choked swims. There efforts will release three blocked swims and increase the enjoyment to be had in this productive stretch of water. In June we will also be bringing in heavy equipment to clear further woody debris that can't be shifted through human effort alone.

A new fence is being erected at the upstream end of the Thames swims. This fence will span approximately 300 metres of field and will provide added security to members using this area. It is intended that these efforts will substantially increase the amount of match fishing pegs available to us next year. All gates and locks will be reviewed and oiled during May/June and the car parks weeded and cleared. Please let me know if you spot anything that needs attention.

Kind regards. **Garry Brecht, Fisheries Officer 07833 447 034**

Future working parties - 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:

- 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 – some great angling demos

Ian Law will be helping us again with the Open Day, he does the carp fishing demo on the Thames. Sam Meeuwissen has once again offered to stage a demo on the Pats. Paul Monaghan has confirmed that he'll be there with his pike fishing demo. 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**

Assistant Editor opportunity

The Club Members clearly welcome the more frequent communication that the Monthly Updates offer, along with the more comprehensive information in the periodic Newsletters. As Editor, I am keen that this should not just be a one-man publication, so it would be good to have an Assistant to work with me on compiling these communications. You don't need to be an expert angler (I leave that to others better qualified than me!) but you should have an interest in writing and some ability to use a computer. If you'd like to know more about what is involved, please contact me, **Stuart Spindler** at **07774 235 381** or stuartspindler@btconnect.com

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.