

Summer newsletter 2011

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Message from the Chairman

It is with a certain amount of pride that I write my first "message from the Chairman" having been associated with the Society's committee for more years than I can actually remember. My first duty is to thank John and Pat Purdy for the tremendous work they both put in over a great many years.

Few people are aware of the vast amount of time and effort that John put in to supporting the Society and if it was not for the careful stewardship of the finances by Pat the current challenges facing the Society, such as the provision of otter fencing, would be significantly more difficult. It was very fitting that their efforts were recognised by being presented this year's TIGER Trophy award for making an outstanding contribution to the Society.

Turning to the challenges that face us, the committee have two which are particularly pressing. Firstly, the Otter problems at Reydon. Predation has become a significant problem, particularly on Denny Lake (4) but increasingly on the other waters. Otter proof fencing is the only real option open to us but is enormously expensive and a huge task.

However, it was great to see such overwhelming support for the committee at the recent A.G.M. With this support, and the enthusiastic pro-active committee which you have, I am sure the Society is up to the challenge.

Message from the chairman, continued from front cover.

As I write I can confirm that a fantastic start has already been made with work to Paisleys Pond (3) virtually complete, Denny Lake (4) 60% complete and about 40% of Kingfisher Lake (2) completed.

None of this would have been achieved without the drive of Jed Gerrell, our Head Water Bailiff, and those attending the work parties. Thanks to all who have helped and in particular to Derek Baggott whose efforts operating the digger have saved a great deal of time and money.

As well as providing practical help, some members have shown considerable generosity in making additional donations. The committee wish to continue to build on this and have put forward the idea of giving members the opportunity to "sponsor a fish".

Full details of this innovative idea appear later in this newsletter.

On behalf of the committee I wish to thank those of you who have already contributed. With your continued support in providing both manpower and finance, a comprehensive restocking programme will start in the Autumn, initially on those waters where the work has been completed.

The second challenge facing the committee revolves around the waters at Henham and Kessingland. Should the Society retain them or not? Could the money being spent be put to better use at Reydon?

Those of you who renewed your membership this year, rather than those who joined for the first time, will be aware that a specific question was asked about the retention of these waters on your paying in slip.

There are positives and negatives for both. Henham is the original home of the Society, has easy access for those less able to walk, is relatively safe for children and provides easy fishing.

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Message from the chairman, continued from page 2.

On the other hand, lease arrangements have to be renewed on a 12 monthly basis, the water is closed for special estate events, a section of bank is unavailable for members to use and, of most concern, water levels have become increasingly low over recent years leading to poor conditions for the fish.

Kessingland is a nice sized water and is ideally situated to serve most of the membership. On the other hand it is very prone to predation and requires continuous stocking. It is also considered by some to provide difficult fishing and some have expressed concern about the owner erecting a summer house.

At the time of writing, the results of the member survey are not available, but once known they will assist the committee in taking the matter forward with a view to making a recommendation as to retention or disposal at the 2012 AGM.

Whatever the outcome I will do my best to ensure that the recommendation of the committee is in the best interest of the Society.

In conclusion, a challenging but exciting Society year ahead of us all. I hope to see as many of you as possible at the Open Meeting on the 4th July and in the meantime hope that you enjoy the rewards of your continued support of the Society and have a cracking fishing season.

Barry Reid - Chairman

News update

AGM, rules and reminders

48 members attended the Society's AGM in April at the British Legion club. The Committee's recommendations were approved, and rules changed to allow keepnets to be used at Kessingland; to strengthen the rules relating to closing gates at all times; and to permit the committee to restrict matches to certain parts of waters if required. The last recommendation affects matches on Reydon No.1 for this season, so do ensure you read and understand the rules. Our club provides fishing for all anglers, so please respect everyone else's interests.

On the financial front, membership fees have been kept as low as possible, and a one-off levy of £10 was approved to help the Society raise funds towards the fencing programme at Reydon. To compensate members for this additional cost, the new members' joining fee was also raised so new members also help fund the required work.

A new treasurer also volunteered their services, which will be a tremendous help in managing the Society funds over what will be challenging times.

The date for next year's AGM has been included in your membership book, so please come along and have your say on how the Society is managed.

Money, work parties and progress

As the Chairman mentioned in his report, some members have made very generous donations to the Society which will help restock and manage the waters we have. If you might be able to help with a gift, see the "Sponsor a fish" initiative.

The committee are determined to make every penny count, and to stretch funds as far as possible. There is also great determination to make the necessary changes to the Society waters so we can continue to offer—and improve—safe, secure, quality fishing in a peaceful and pleasant environment.

Continued overleaf

News update, continued from page 4.

This isn't easy, particularly as we have to do so much of the work ourselves. The simple truth is the more of us that help and the more money we raise, the quicker we will get things done. Some members have helped a great deal during the close season, and made real progress in the Reydon works. Jed Gerrell has given up every single Saturday during the close season to run work parties, but there is still much to do.

Building links with the Environment Agency

The Environment Agency have been taken on a guided tour of the Reydon complex by committee members, and were impressed with what they saw and heard.

They are particularly keen to support natural waters with open membership, and we hope they will offer practical support in a number of ways in the near future.

Fishery Management works

Please be aware that it is possible that some waters will need to be closed for short periods of time during the fishing season to enable management works to be carried out; notices will be erected on site when this is happening but prior notice won't be possible in most cases as jobs are weather dependent.

We will ensure that plenty of pegs are always available and open so you can continue to fish even if works are going on during your visit.

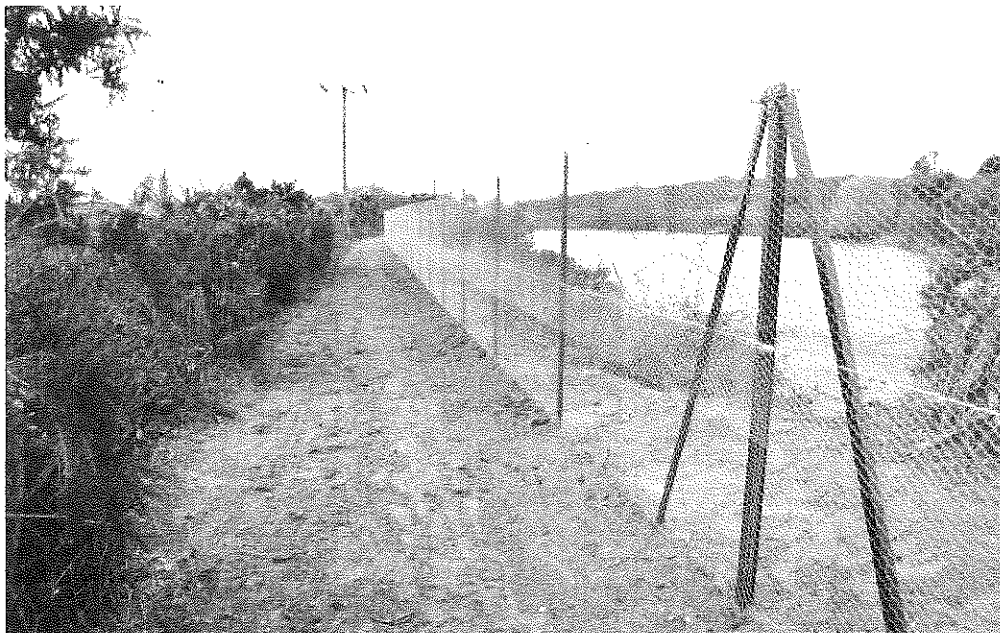
Hopefully no-one will be adversely affected by these jobs, but before any members complain, do bear in mind that if more members took part in work parties during the close season then these works wouldn't need to be carried over into the fishing season.

Support the Society matches

Finally, it would also be great to see new faces taking part in Society matches this season, so do come along and have a go.

Have a great season!

Steve Lerpiniere - Secretary



Above: New fence installed along footpath at back of Pit 2

Below: Digger helping to clear the bank along the footpath section of Pit 4



FISH SPONSORSHIP INITIATIVE

Southwold & District Freshwater Angling Preservation Society

There is an opportunity to sponsor a carp in our latest fish stocking programme for Reydon Pit 4, or to make a contribution to the restocking of Reydon Pit 3 silver fish, (e.g. roach, tench, crucian carp, bream, perch).

Sponsors of carp will be given the opportunity to name their fish and included in the package will be the fish details and a photograph.

Fish will be sourced from V S Fisheries, one of the leading fish growers in the country, and both the carp and silver fish will be ordered for delivery in Autumn 2011.

Sponsorship will be £35.00 for each carp, and any size donation for the silver fish would be very much appreciated.

All cheques made payable to Southwold and District Freshwater Angling Preservation Society and should be returned with the completed form to:

Steven Lerpiniere
Secretary SDFAPS
6 Thornycroft Gardens
Carlton Colville
Lowestoft NR33 8GE

Closing date: 1st August 2011.

IMPORTANT: Please note that any fish stocked into waters become the property of the owner of the water. Hence, any fish stocked into Reydon Pit 3 or 4 become the property of the Society and are not the property of their sponsor.

Fish sponsorship form

Sponsor name.....	
Sponsor address	
I would like to name my carp	£35.00 each
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
Carp total £.....	
I would like to make a donation for the Pit 3 silver fish restocking programme, and enclose a cheque for	
Silver fish total £.....	
Grand total £.....	

Please make cheques payable to **Southwold and District Freshwater Angling Preservation Society**.

Send completed forms and cheques for the full amount to the Secretary, address overleaf.