

Southwold & District Freshwater Angling Preservation Society Newsletter Winter 2010/11

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Letter from the Committee

Dear members,

Chairman standing down

Our chairman, John Purdy, announced to those members present at our Open Meeting earlier this season his intention to stand down from his role as Chairman of the Society at the next AGM in April 2011. John has performed the role for a long time, and has truly made an outstanding contribution to the Society. John's wife, Pat, will also stand down from her role as Society Treasurer at the same time, so that the two of them can concentrate on other things in life. We know these have not been easy decisions to make, but John feels the time is right to let others take up the reins of the club and guide it onwards. Happily, John and Pat will continue to help out the Society with advice and involvement whenever we need them.

Another longstanding committee member, Cliff Waller, will also stand down at the same time. We thank them all for the work they have put in on our behalf. There is a lot of unseen work performed by committee members, all carried out on an unpaid and purely voluntary basis, and the Society relies on people who care enough about it to take on these roles.

The need to adapt

The Society currently faces many challenges, and must adapt to survive and thrive in the future, which is what we are aiming for. We have to recognise that the landscape has changed forever with the successful re-introduction of otters to England's waterways, and our club has suffered as many others have. However, because of John and Pat's careful stewardship and sound financial management of the Society's funds, and our ownership of some of our waters, we are in a better situation than most clubs to adapt, and to thrive. The committee have worked hard this year considering our options as a club, and looking at what we must do to survive. To do nothing would mean a slow death for the club as our fish stocks dwindled and members left. Committee members have been spending Thursdays and Saturdays this Winter installing otter-proof fencing around Pit 3 at Reydon—phase 1 now finished. We have proven that as a club, if we work together and are committed, we have the necessary wherewithal to protect our waters.

A strong future

That's what this newsletter is all about—our plans and priorities. We have a core of committee members who want to protect your fishing, but every single member of the club has a role to play. The more support we have, the stronger we will be. In practical terms, that translates to our fisheries being protected quicker, and the less damage we have to suffer before things improve. There are difficult decisions to make, and the Society will have to adapt. Please read this newsletter, and let us know your views. The **Open Meeting on January 17th** is a chance to have your say, or write to us, write a note in the Members Log books we've installed at Reydon and Kessingland, or talk to a committee member.

Yours sincerely,
The Committee

Committee Priorities

- To ensure the future success of the Society by developing and implementing longer-term management plans that recognise the threats posed and opportunities available
- To provide secure and sustainable fishing for members, protecting fish stocks from predators wherever feasible
- To manage and develop fisheries for the benefit of all members, and to recognise and respect all types of angler
- To encourage greater junior member involvement
- To make difficult decisions where necessary, in order to protect, develop and ensure the long-term viability of the Society
- To prioritise the protection and development of assets owned by the Society, and those with secure and sustainable lease agreements—under the direction of the Chairman
- To encourage the support of all members to develop the Society by providing an ongoing programme of work parties and opportunities to get involved - under the direction of a Head Water bailiff.
- To operate within available finance at all times, raise funds to carry out works required, and provide realistic and fairly priced fishing for members—under the direction of the Society Secretary and Treasurer
- To undertake stocking programmes into waters - under the direction of a committee member with Fishery Management responsibilities
- To manage, maintain and develop the lakes and land for their conservation and amenity value—under the direction of committee members with Estate Management responsibilities

Management Planning—note: timescales are not included as rate of work is dependent on amount of membership involvement.

Reydon

To recognise and develop Reydon as the Society's prime asset.

Protect fish stocks at the Reydon Complex by installing otter proof fencing around all 4 lakes.

The cost to install fencing by a contractor would be £35k. The club has reserves of £15k. The Committee have agreed to pay a contractor to install fencing along the difficult and dangerous sections of Pit 2 that we could not do ourselves. Remaining funds will be used to purchase materials we can afford, and keep some contingency money in reserve. Additional materials will be purchased as funds allow, and fencing installed by the Society members.

Pit 3—Develop a highly-stocked, mixed species, easy water. Carry out reed management to open up water and landscape to provide approx 12 individual swims, for match and pleasure use. Phase 1 fencing completed (committee members have installed this Winter).

Pit 4—Restock water with carp to develop a well-stocked, carp-focused lake. Carry out lily and reed management works with fish hooking and welfare in mind. Requires programme of works by members to improve fencing and install fencing to footpath section.

Pit 2—Selectively restock with carp, and maintain as a high-quality, all-species specimen water for pleasure anglers, matches and specimen hunters. Pay external contractor for fencing along footpath section. Members to carry out programme of works to complete rest of pit.

Pit 1—Implement stocking programme with tench, bream and silver fish, remove smaller carp, and maintain high fish stocks for a well-stocked lake suiting all fishing types. Members to carry out programme of fencing works around pit.

Carry out ongoing fishery management works to maintain and develop the complex as a safe, secure, high quality fishing venue for all members. Accept that restocking and fencing works progress is dependent on membership funding and involvement.

Buss Creek

Accept that fencing is unviable. Consider future silver-fish stocking scheme as funds permit, accepting that this is partly sacrificial.

Henham

Make final attempt to persuade owners to carry out necessary water improvement works, and sign up to a long term lease. Failing this, seek views from members as to value to the Society, and make decision whether to renew lease in future.

Kessingland

Make representation to owner to install otter-proof fencing, or review lease terms. Seek views from members as to value to the Society, and make decision whether to renew lease in future.

River Waveney

Expect to continue as per current arrangements. Seek views from members as to value to the Society, and make decision whether to renew leases in future.

Funding and membership price proposals

Cover necessary costs for Reydon works, and other leases. Review membership rates annually. Recommence stocking programmes into lakes as and when they are protected. Raise standard adult membership fee by £2 next season, to £38. Senior Citizen by £1 to £20. Juniors by 50p to £11. Introduce one-off levy of £10 for all Senior and Senior Citizen Members next season to enable the required Reydon fencing materials to be purchased. To ensure fairness for members who have paid for necessary works, and to encourage longer term members, raise future joining fees to £25 for next season, and review annually.

Proposed Committee roles and volunteers for 2011/12 (as of Jan 2011)

Chairman—Overseeing the development and management of the Society, negotiating waters — Barry Reid

Secretary and Treasurer—Administration, organisation and management of Society affairs and funds— Steve Lerpiniere

Head water Bailiff— Protecting members' fishing, development and management of programme of fishery works, work party co-ordination—Jed Gerrell

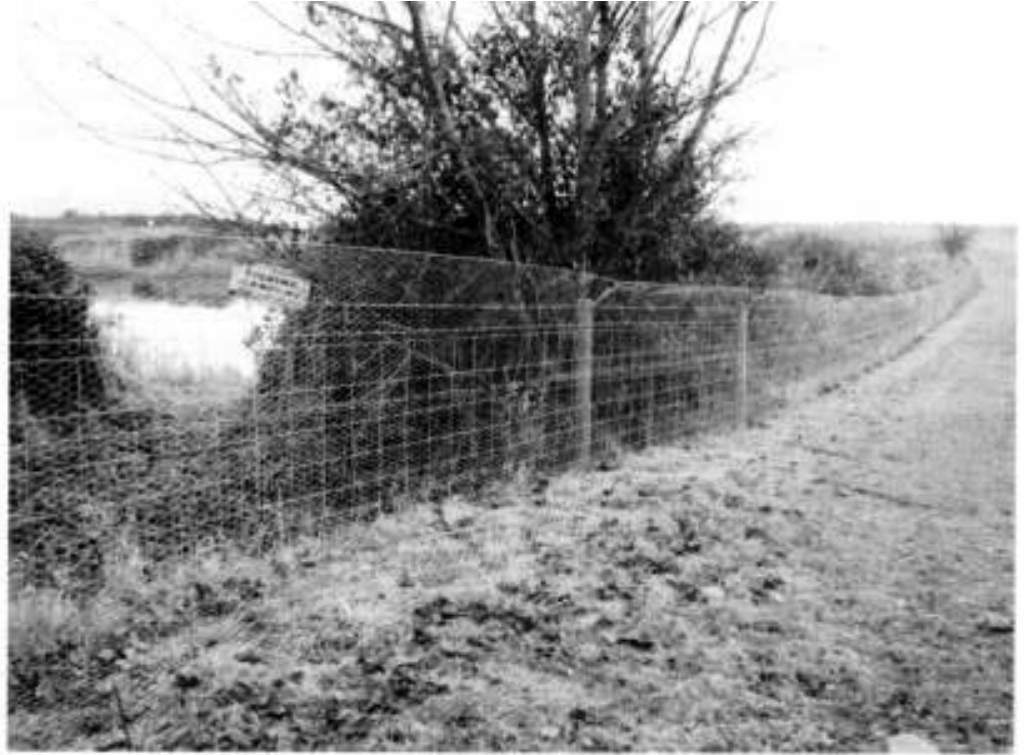
Committee—Fishery management—stocking policies and management—Dean Bridges

Committee—Estate management—ongoing maintenance of land—Laurie Baker, Rodney Goldsmith

Pit 3 Fencing

Part of the otter proof fencing that has recently been installed by committee members and others around Pit 3 at Reydon.

Where fencing is to be installed around our other lakes without any existing fencing a different specification will be used—a 6' high fence is planned as the default height.



Notes, notices and information

To write to the committee, please send correspondence to:

Steve Lerpiniere
Secretary
Southwold and District Freshwater
Angling Preservation Society
6 Thornycroft Gardens
Carlton Colville
Lowestoft
Suffolk NR33 8GE

Work parties

Will commence with immediate effect, and will be run on selected Saturdays and Sundays under the direction of Jed Gerrell, Head Water Bailiff. Please ring Jed to register your interest and available dates, and he will arrange the work parties and schedule of works.
Jed Gerrell 01502 723934

Open Meeting

Monday January 17th
2011.

7.30 for 8.00 p.m.
Royal British Legion,
Blackmill Road,
Southwold

Junior involvement

We would really appreciate anyone who can give up some time or provide ideas to help us

revitalise the Society's Junior membership, particularly involvement in matches and events.

Get in touch with Jed Gerrell or Steve Lerpiniere if you can help!