

Chairman Barry Reid welcomed around 50 members of the Southwold & District Freshwater Angling Preservation Society to the society's 42nd annual general meeting held at the Sole Bay Bowls Club. He went on to reflect on a successful season which had seen the final stage of the £30,000 otter fencing project completed. This had allowed the stocking of Paisleys Pond to be finalised with an additional £1,000 worth of small tench being introduced. Stocking of carp into pits 3 and 4 pit had been completed the previous year and the committee were now turning their attention to increasing stock in number 1 pit with bream already being pre-ordered for next winter.

Kessingland Lake had also received a stock of carp last winter and although they hadn't shown much through the season the exercise did have a positive effect on the existing stock with an increase in catches of both tench and bream being reported. A further stocking of carp was introduced this March and all were eager to see what effect this would have. This programme would continue on an annual basis and tench had been pre-ordered for next winter.

Last season benefited from a lovely summer but that had brought with it the problem of prolific weed growth. The planned methods of control had been put in place but nobody had expected the amount of growth that had been experienced. This would be a priority for the coming season along with ongoing work to reinforce some of the banks suffering from erosion. Some materials had been ordered but many more would be needed and, due to limited support at work parties, there would need to be an increasing reliance on contractors.

Whilst it was recognised that the Society continued to move forward it was also recognised that the emergency reserves had been exhausted in responding to the predation problem and there was also a need to ensure there were sufficient funds to carry out the required works, stocking and rebuilding the financial reserves. It was also noted that the profile of the membership had changed considerably over the last ten years where the number of concessionary members had increased from 25% of the membership to 45%. Having considered this information the proposed £10 increase to all classes of membership received unanimous support from all of those present. Members are reminded that subscriptions are now due and must be paid by midnight on the 15th May. Application forms to join the Society are reviewed after May 15th with forms available to download from the Societies website at southwoldanddistrictfaps.onesuffolk.net/

The TIGER Trophy, which is presented to those making an outstanding contribution to the society, was awarded to John and Pat Purdy. Together they had served the society for many years with John having held the positions of both secretary and chairman whilst Pat held the financial reins as treasurer. Between them they had given huge amounts of time with their only reward being to see the enjoyment of those making use of the facilities provided. Accepting the award John thanked the society members and said that although the society faced some difficult challenges he felt the right people were on the committee and they were doing a good job.