



Leatherhead & District Angling Society

SUMMER NOTICE BOARD 2020

We hope this Newsletter finds you and your family well, and that you are returning to 'the new normal', now that we have come through the first five months of the pandemic.

It has been a disruptive year for all of us but we hope that you are now able to enjoy some of the more social activities you have been missing.

- ❖ Angling Clubs were given the 'green light' to open club waters on the 13th May, and it seems everyone was keen to 'get out there'. The good weather following the relaxing of rules, and because many members were on 'furlough', and the schools were closed, meant our ponds, especially at Long Copse, was oversubscribed for several weeks. We put into place some emergency 'social distancing' rules as recommended by the Angling Trust, and enforced a floating bait ban at Long Copse. Floating bait, mainly bread, was a huge problem for our bailiffs. Dozens of young ducks were at risk from a fouled hook, but the public was also feeding the ducks and the fish. Consequently, the ponds were littered with bread and rubbish left not just by our members but the visiting public having picnics.
- ❖ Bread baits have long been an issue at Long Copse, so the bailiffs and the committee have agreed to continue the bread ban for ALL methods until further notice. The rule will be enforced by the bailiffs.
- ❖ On the subject of litter; please do not leave empty meat cans or corn packets at the ponds, and now, especially 'wet-wipes' and tissues. All bait must be prepared before arriving at the ponds.
- ❖ The COVID 19 situation had also interrupted our Work Party calendar. We did, however, have a team at Long Copse recently where twelve members gave their time to make the area cleaner and safe for us all. Our thanks to all who attended. We have one other work party arranged for **Ashted Park** on the 24th October. Meet in the main car park or at the viewing platform at 8.30am.
- ❖ Dave Tarrant, our fisheries officer, and a small team of helpers built and reinforced three 'swims' on the River Mole near the weir. This was heavy and demanding work, involving a mechanical digger and many tons of stone. Dave says this is Phase One of an ongoing project to 'shore-up' our stretch of the Mole, and make it a safe and enjoyable experience for our members to fish.
- ❖ Many thanks to member Graham 'Mac' and Doug Simpkins for rebuilding a much needed 'swim' on the small pond at Long Copse recently.
- ❖ A sewage overflow in Eastwick Drive recently caused concern. A member was quick to call and report it. Geoff Ballinger, David Balaam and Doug Simpkins assessed the situation at around 8.30pm on Wednesday evening and Thames Water arrived at 10.00pm to plug the overflow. As a quantity of sewage had escaped into our pond Thames Water returned the following morning and installed three generator-powered aerators which ran for 24 hours, over two days, to clean the water. Luckily we have not lost any fish and we thank Thames Water for acting quickly to resolve the situation.
- ❖ Our new match calendar has also been disrupted by the COVID 19 situation, but we have several matches for the remainder of the season, both at Long Copse and at other fisheries. Please visit the website for full details.
<http://www.leatherheadangling.co.uk/NEW-Away-Matches-2020.php>
- ❖ Likewise, the four junior matches are going ahead as planned, although the last one has been changed to the 28th August because of the new school term start dates. Please book your place asap:
<http://www.leatherheadangling.co.uk/Junior-Matches-2018.php>

On behalf of the LDAS Committee, we wish you all a safe and enjoyable summer.

Tight Lines

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