



## WINTER NOTICE BOARD 2019

- ❖ **We have had** some High's and Low's over the last few months especially on the River Mole. At one point it was possible to walk several hundred yards without getting your shoes wet. Thankfully it is back up to fishable levels making it a good venue for leisure fishing and the club matches starting in January. If you have a good catch to report please send in details, or post a photo on our Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/groups/LDAS2014/>
- ❖ **The river tuition** which was rescheduled because of a dry river-bed, was well attended, and Phil Miles walked members along the bank to Pressforward Bridge, sharing tips and secrets of the best swims to use.
- ❖ **The Junior League Match** was won by Thomas Stratten for the 2<sup>nd</sup> year running, with an overall catch of 66.03lbs – well done Thomas.
- ❖ **The last social match** of the year is our popular **Xmas Match**, fun for all members of any experience – everyone leaves with a prize. Contact Eric now to reserve your place and to find out more about the day. T.01372 377654
- ❖ **We have had** some reports of dead fish at Ashtead Park, so please report any findings as soon as possible, and take a photo if convenient. **DO NOT** put a dead fish back in the water. Contact [info@leatherheadangling.co.uk](mailto:info@leatherheadangling.co.uk) or call 07850 465258 to report it.
- ❖ **Our AGM** will be held on February 26<sup>th</sup> 2020 at Ashtead Village Club. Further details will follow in an email.
- ❖ **All the River** match dates between January and March can be found on the Club calendar <http://www.leatherheadangling.co.uk/Calendar.php>
- ❖ **Club Matches 2020:** Our Match Captain, Peter Turnbull is stepping down from this position next season and the committee thank him for his hard work and enthusiasm over the years, arranging our matches on third party venues and the river. The club now has an opportunity to look at changing the structure of matches and where we have them. Firstly, we want these events to be more inclusive to all members. Our 'league' table format will change and we hope many leisure/pleasure anglers will take part in the format of 'leisure match angling'. We propose to book some new local venues, as well as some favourites, such as Willinghurst, but also use our own ponds more in the new season for these matches. Further details will be announced at the AGM in February.

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**BACK IN TIME** - LDAS has recently heard from David Mannall, a former stalwart member of the society and successful match angler at junior and senior levels during the 1960's (matches were all on rivers in those days). David, who now lives in Cyprus, has kindly recorded some of his reminiscences in the following article.

### Mole Magic

Late summer 1956, ten years old and football crazy – Wolves were my team. Resplendent in their black and gold, and my heroes stared back at me from my collection of cigarette Cards.

“Mum, John's said that I can go fishing with him and his Dad”. A new adventure was to be had. How could I have imagined where it would lead?

The day came and a car pulled up outside. John's Dad was a tweed-jacketed pipe smoker, straight out of a fifties cartoon strip. He owned an engineering company in Esher and drove (as I later learned), a shiny Humber. Leather seats and walnut dashboard. We were travelling 'Business Class'.

Down Young Street to the Bailey Bridge, where green bags were unfurled to reveal shiny wands. ("Rods", said John). Red whipped and split cane. (Again, John's superior eleven-year-old wisdom informed me).

John's Dad busied himself setting up the rods and floats. After some basic instruction I was let loose, and several tangles later I managed to plop the float in. More instruction, a patient wait, gaze fixed on the rise and fall of the float. Then; Strike! From those mysterious murky depths a tiny wriggling being was swung in, onto the grass. A jam jar with its pudding-string handle, was to be its home for a few hours. More followed, all minnows of course, their eyes staring back from their cloudy prison.

And that was it. Mole Magic had kicked in.

The next year was spent fashioning fishing rods from garden canes and tank aerials. Christmas the following year, there it was! A proper fishing rod, no doubt from the Trafford's Catalogue. The summer saw my first bike, a green Hercules, no doubt from the same source. Freedom! Rod strapped to the crossbar, haversack, sandwich, bread paste for bait, (made under instruction from John), and away. Over the next year the stretch upstream from the bridge to the LDAS boundary was my stamping ground. After discovering hempseed and wheat from Mr Busby in Bookham High Street, there was no holding me back.

One Sunday I decided to take a walk beyond the free stretch. Left my rod and tackle. In those days nobody worried about having stuff stolen. Onto the lower end of the LDAS' water, a loud shout, "Get down you're putting my fish down". None other than Dickie Vetterlein, I was directed down the bank to sit on one of his bait buckets. In the brief time I spent with him, I absorbed everything I could. Looking and listening, watching how he controlled the float and watching as he landed several dace. Over those years he became a bit of a hero.

It wasn't long before I joined the Society. I explored and fished every swim right up to 'The Tunnel' stretch. As a junior I started to fish the competitions and especially on the Mole managed to win a few. In the early sixties mixed bags were taken for granted. Shoals of Dace were everywhere, four to the pound.

Matches were 'Walk-Offs' so my hours spent walking and observing really paid off. Of course the way nowadays is a five hour pegged event. Not then, it was a day's fishing that doubled as a match. I was introduced to the Sunday away matches. The fug of the Weights and Woodbines stopped you as you boarded, passive smoking was invented on LDAS' trips. On the way to the venue, much talk and banter, mostly about how this or that method would 'take it apart'. On the way back, you can guess. River was too high, too low, wrong colour. "If only I had moved an hour earlier." Great fun nonetheless and I was learning all the time. Many memories stay with me sixty years on.

The Mole Magic has never left me. I guess much has changed and I understand from Geoff that Chub dominate the competitions. But how many walk the stretch and 'fish spot' during the close season? Maybe try it ... whatever you see will be part of your own chapter of 'Mole Magic'.

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On behalf of the LDAS Committee, we wish you all a Happy and enjoyable festive season.

**Tight Lines**

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[info@leatherheadangling.co.uk](mailto:info@leatherheadangling.co.uk)

NB: FISHING TACKLE; On the website under NEWS we have a few Items for Sale – just in time for Christmas.