



NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2025

Our very first 'Give-a-Way' morning went well, and we made a lot of members very happy with their newly acquired rods, reels and tackle. We also raised nearly £200 with their kind generosity in our donation box. We still have rods and tackle left over, and will be looking to repeat this event in the Spring.

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Unfortunately we are still receiving reports of anti-social behaviour at Long Copse. In several cases non-members have been harassing members which is not acceptable. All our bailiffs are constantly in-touch with each other by WhatsApp, so can report any disturbance immediately.

On Monday 22nd September, an incident took place at Long Copse which we must regard with the utmost seriousness. The Surrey Police incident report reads as follows:-

On 22/09/2025 at around 18:00, a child has reported he was pushed into the pond by a group of three youths described as follows;

Male / white / 14 years old / 5ft 2 / stocky / short dark brown hair / bright orange t-shirt

Male / white / 14 years old / 5ft / stocky / short dark brown hair / bright orange t-shirt

Male / white / 18 years old / medium build / short brown hair

Members who may have been at Long Copse at that time are asked if they can shed any light on the incident. Members are also asked to keep an eye open in future for any sight of a group of youths answering this description.

If a member should observe any such incident in future, they **should not hesitate to call 999** as well as complete a **Clubmate incident report**. Members are also reminded to consider their own personal safety if tempted to get involved when witnessing any anti-social behaviour or the like.

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Fish of the month: PIKE

Now Autumn is here, fishing for pike, this is a good time of year.

I remember catching my first pike at Bury Hill when I was a young teenager. It was thrilling reeling in a . . . 2lb Jack, but it was a pike and an adventure to land it.

We have pike in the River Mole and at Ashtead Park. We would advise juniors who are not experienced to go in pairs with someone who is experienced. You must also have the correct pike tackle, as well as a pike rod and line, you need to know how to catch, land and release the pike. They have very sharp teeth, so you must read the rules.

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1. Choosing the Right Equipment

- **Hooks:** Use barbless hooks or modify regular hooks by flattening the barbs, facilitating a less damaging release.
- **Fishing Line:** Select a line of adequate strength to quickly reel in fish, reducing exhaustion and improving post-release survival chances.

2. Handling Fish with Care

- **Wet Hands:** Wetting your hands before touching the fish helps to preserve its protective mucus layer, which acts as a barrier against infections.
- **Gentle Handling:** Treat the fish with care, avoiding any squeezing. Support it horizontally to prevent internal damage.

3. Efficient Release Techniques

- **Hook Removal:** Use tools like needle-nose pliers for gentle hook extraction. If the hook is deeply lodged, it's sometimes safer to trim the line close to the hook instead of attempting removal.
- **Reviving the Fish:** Gently rock the fish in water to encourage water flow through its gills, releasing it once it regains its strength and swims away.

4. Environmental Considerations

- a. **Release Location:** Return the fish to where you caught it or a near-by swim.
- b. **Water Temperature Awareness:** Be wary of extreme temperatures, which can stress fish. If unavoidable, ensure a swift release to reduce the stress inflicted.

Catching a pike can be thrilling, but please heed these warnings – and tight lines. . . .

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Are there any of our river anglers out there who would be interested in participating in **River Fly monitoring** our stretches of the Mole? Would be just a few hours in the year. For more information visit the [Riverfly Partnership website](#).

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We have six more club matches between now and the end of the year, at Long Copse and Ashtead Park. Please be sure you are aware of these dates and the times the ponds will be closed for fishing to members.

In a few days you will receive an email and [booking form](#) for our annual **Xmas Match** on the 21st December. Places (18 pegs in total) will be awarded to members who have contributed to the club in various ways during 2025.

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If you have a good fishing story to tell or a photo of your best catch, please send in to me for the next Newsletter in November.

Tight lines

LDAS