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Newsletter for December 2020

Dear Members,

As the impact of the Covid 19 pandemic continues to influence all of our lives, it is with regret that I must start this newsletter with information on the 2021 AGM which would usually have taken place in late February.

After much deliberation and with the continued uncertainty over what will and will not be permissible over the coming months, the Committee have decided to postpone the AGM until such time as things have changed for the better and meetings of larger numbers of people are again both viable and safe.

In the meantime, the usual attention to such matters as dealing with the end of year accounts and preparation of annual reports will still take place, in readiness for a point in time when they can be presented to any member wishing to attend the 2021 AGM for which full details will be issued at the appropriate time.

Those members of the Committee who would usually present a report at the AGM will supply me with a brief outline of things which are of interest or relevance since the last AGM and I will include these for your interest in the next newsletter in the first quarter of 2021.

It is clearly disappointing to have to make this decision but at present, such matters are entirely outside of our control and your understanding is greatly appreciated.

Any member who wishes to put forward any suggestions or proposals, is invited to submit them, in writing to myself by post or email to secretary@chichester-as.co.uk and the members of the Committee will fully discuss them during the monthly meetings which will continue to take place via a group WhatsApp facility until such time as face to face meetings are again safe and viable. This ensures that any matter which needs to be drawn to the attention of the Committee members can continue unaffected by any COVID-19 restrictions.

The members of the Committee have also decided to cancel the usual election of officers which forms part of the AGM process and all existing elected members of the Committee will serve one additional year with elections hopefully proceeding in the usual way at the end of 2021.

It is standard practice to include a copy of the renewal form to the back of the AGM agenda for members who wish to deal with this early and obviously without an AGM there will not be an agenda. I will however prepare a further newsletter in late February/early March of 2021 to update you all on things of relevance and importance and a copy of the 2021-2 renewal will be duly included in this as well as being made available on the website and Facebook page in due course. This does not replace the hard copy renewal reminders which will still be sent out by the Membership Secretary in the usual way at the appropriate time next year.

One final note on the relentless subject of COVID -19 concerns members attendance at the complex. It has been a real boost to people's morale to be able to keep the complex open as usual but for this to continue, all members must completely observe all the government guidelines at all times. The biggest question as we continue into Winter will be what is acceptable if members live in an area of the UK which is subject to different restrictions to those applicable to the Chichester area where the lakes are situated. As a rule of thumb, every member must adhere to the restrictions applicable to their registered address at all times i.e. if your home falls into a high tier whereby travel is restricted to essential journeys only then you must not visit the complex. Equally, if the Chichester area falls into a high tier then members in lower tiers will also need to stay away to ensure we remain fully compliant. The Committee continue to juggle what is viable but our bailiffs cannot be expected to be put at any unnecessary risks and your co-operation with this directive ensures both the continued availability of your fishing over the coming months and the safety and well-being of your fellow anglers. At the time of writing this newsletter, all of Sussex, Surrey, Hampshire and the London boroughs are in Tier 2 and therefore angling is still very much available to the vast majority of our members thankfully but please do keep a constant check on your own location for any changes and react accordingly. Only by every member taking responsibility for their actions and working within the government guidelines at all times can the complex continue to offer you all a safe haven at a time where so many of the things we all used to take for granted have been denied us.

And now to other matters: -

Whilst it has been refreshing to see so many members adhering to the rules in the Membership Book this season, it has been necessary to suspend two individuals who left their rods unattended while leaving their swims for a period of time. Please do not fall foul of having this sanction served on you. If you need to leave your swim unattended for any reason then it is essential that you wind in all of your lines for the duration of your absence.

We are still finding large volumes of litter being left around the complex and yet again I ask all of you to please take your rubbish home with you. Without any regular refuse collection on site, it is currently falling to the Committee to organize regular litter picking and this really should not be necessary. I am sure you all enjoy visiting the complex and finding your chosen swim to be free of other peoples discarded rubbish but to ensure this continues into the future, you do all need to ensure you check your swim as you leave on every visit and take away anything that does not belong. If it proves necessary to employ a dedicated person to regularly pick up rubbish around the complex then the cost of this will need to be covered by an extra over increase in the annual membership fees. This really should not be necessary if everyone observes due respect for maintaining the complex by taking their rubbish home with them.

It has also become apparent that with the complex being so much more busy than usual this season, car parking has, on occasion been an issue. Can all members please make sure that they only park their vehicles on the shingled area of the top or bottom car parks and not on the verges. In the Winter months the verges get very wet and boggy and the constant weight of vehicles quickly creates a muddy mess so your adherence to this request is much needed.

The Committee wish to ask you all to spare a few moments to remember those who we have lost this year. Many of you will have known long term members Danny Lake and Glen Latter who will, I am sure, be sadly missed by many of you. Our thoughts go out to the families of every member who is no longer with us.

Members who are registered on the Society's Facebook page will already be aware that delivery has now taken place of a further 30 good sized carp which have now found a new home primarily in Whyke Lake but with a few additions to Churchyard. It is hoped that members will enjoy the opportunity to try to catch these new specimens which have all been photographed and full details can be found on both Facebook and via a link on the homepage of the CDAS website for anyone who is interested to take a look.

Despite another long hot Summer, due primarily to the fact that the Committee opted to take decisive action by the regular and continued running of the aerators over recent months, the complex has managed to avoid any repeat of the problems encountered in 2019 on Whyke Lake. Water quality did deteriorate quite markedly in late Summer and as a result the restriction on spodding was re-introduced. Many members have asked why the spodding ban still remains now that water quality has improved and the straight forward answer is that with so many more members using the complex with the continuation of the furlough scheme, it is vital to ensure that levels of bait entering the lakes is closely controlled. A handful of members spodding would not be an issue but with the car park regularly approaching capacity at the moment it is clear that a much higher number of anglers than usual are still regular visitors and if all of them started spodding again then this could easily create a problem further down the line. Please continue to observe the spodding ban until the Committee make any announcement to the contrary. It is not an attempt to curtail your enjoyment but rather to try to ensure that potential water quality problems are avoided.

All that remains at this time is to wish you all as enjoyable a Christmas period as you possibly can in these highly unusual times and to hope that 2021 will see life return to something closer to approaching what we would like it to be. Stay safe and well and enjoy the remainder of the Season which I am sure will continue to offer good fishing opportunities for you all.

Kind Regards

Carole Baker
Secretary