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Newsletter for September 2020

Dear Members,

With the season now well under way I would like to start by saying on behalf of the CDAS Committee, a massive thank you to everyone who has been using the complex since the start of the season for your observance of the extra requirements it has been necessary to impose this year due to the Covid 19 pandemic.

It has obviously been a challenge to get the complex compliant to the Government guidelines and your readiness to embrace the use of the hand sanitiser facilities as well as observing the necessary social distancing measures has enabled every member to feel confident to come along to the complex in the knowledge that they will be safe regardless of age and health issues which might otherwise have made some members very nervous indeed. Clearly the ramifications of this virus are still evolving and it is without question that it will continue to challenge the way in which we operate. Every endeavor will be made to keep the complex open and operational unless government directives dictate we must take a different course of action.

Many of you will be aware that a massive amount of cutting back work was undertaken in the close season this year and I hope you will agree that the complex is looking great as a result. After an unseasonably wet winter and early Spring, the late Spring and Summer weather has continued to challenge with high winds bringing down trees in months when it would not normally be expected. As we now move back into Autumn and Winter it is inevitable that there will be occasions when it will be necessary to close off some swims for essential ongoing maintenance and your continued willingness to comply with requests to avoid areas of the complex as and when required is greatly appreciated.

It will undoubtedly be of interest to our carp anglers to know that we are hoping to take delivery of another 30-specimen fish later in the year, which will be going into Whyke and Churchyard lakes to compliment the current stocks. It is the intention of the Committee to photograph these new additions and post the details on the Facebook page and website so that they can be identified easily as they are caught and it is hoped that these additional fish will add to your pleasure of using these particular areas of the complex.

The Committee have discussed the future production of these newsletters and as I am sure you can appreciate, the cost involved is not insignificant with postal rates constantly rising. At the present time and with the need to impart information to every member, the quarterly newsletters will continue but I would ask as many people as possible to either sign up to the Facebook page or become familiar with the Society's website as these will be the two places where all important and relevant information will be posted when we stop the paper format. An annual AGM agenda will obviously still be posted out to every member in early February.

There will regrettably not be another pike teach-in for any member wishing to undertake this type of angling when the pike fishing season commences this year. Due to the continued restrictions imposed by the Covid 19 pandemic and the high level of fish handling involved to make the teach-in sessions viable, it is simply not possible to conduct them at this time. Any member wishing to register an interest in attending a teach-in when it is possible for this to be organized, should send their details by email to pike.teachincdas@gmail.com. Unfortunately, any member without a stamp in their books to show they have attended a historic teach-in, will not be permitted to undertake this type of fishing until such time as they have had the opportunity to attend the necessary teach-in when it reconvenes.

Unfortunately, for much the same reasons it will not be currently possible to organize any carp teach-in socials which some members availed themselves of last season and greatly enjoyed. Again, these facilities will be re-introduced when it is viable and full information will be posted on the Facebook page, the website and the noticeboard to give members the opportunity to get involved if they wish to.

There are a few things which I am asked by the Committee to raise in this newsletter: -

The availability of day and 24-hour guest tickets will be re-introduced on 1st October 2020 with SAS, Arun Angling and Aldwick Angling all carrying supplies of day tickets which can be purchased over the counter in line with the guidelines set out in your membership books. 24-hour guest tickets can now only be purchased from SAS in Donnington and once again, supplies will be available for purchase over the counter from 1st October. It is hoped that this will be an easier way for members to acquire their 24-hour tickets than having to use the postal system to obtain them via the Secretary which involves the need for some advance planning which is not always possible.

The 3 Counties match in your membership book which is scheduled for Little Long Lake on 11th October will now take place on the same date but on Long Lake and therefore Little Long will be open on that date but Long Lake will be closed.

The spodding restrictions will remain in place for the foreseeable future. Water quality is improving but there is still a concern as the warm weather continues and oxygen levels are changeable. When it is deemed sensible to allow spodding to re-commence, notification will be made on Facebook, the website and the front gate.

Following a recent incident at the complex whereby a member was in need of urgent medical assistance, it transpired that the first question asked by the ambulance control room was the post code of the site and this information is currently not included in your membership books but will be when they are printed next year. In the interim period, can you please all make a note of the postcode PO19 8PB in your books. Hopefully it will not be needed but better to be safe than sorry.

New members may not be aware that we are allowed by law to control the level of cormorants on our waters and it is probably a good time to remind you that on occasion you will hear gunfire around the complex and should not be alarmed as this will be our dedicated control people and you are entirely safe to continue your fishing throughout this process.

There appears to be a high level of confusion over where it is permissible for members to fish with minors and every member who visits the complex with a child must familiarize themselves with the rules relating to this.

Under 12 members in possession of their own membership book can fish anywhere on the complex during daylight hours but must be in the same swim as their parent or guardian and using only one rod. They must remain in the company of the parent or guardian for the duration of their time on the complex including visits to the toilets and if they remain on the complex after dark, they must cease fishing themselves at dusk.

Under 14s brought onto the complex without their own membership must remain in the company of their parent or guardian for the duration of their visit and are the total responsibility of the accompanying adult. Such minors must fish in the same swim as the member and with only one rod. Such minors can only fish during daylight hours and only the area of the complex encompassing Little Long and Long Lakes along the Whyke Lake bank– such minors must not enter any area of the complex which involves passing through any of the locked gates and are also excluded from Quarry, Whyke and Churchyard lakes.

Members who have non-fishing guests recorded in their membership books are responsible for their guests at all times and such visitors to the complex have no fishing privileges but may remain on the complex overnight in the same swim as the member. Such guests must not be allowed to leave the company of the member at any time, including visiting the toilets when they must be accompanied.

And finally, and sadly, a few negative points which need addressing and really shouldn't: -

Some members are using the complex for the consumption of excessive amounts of alcohol and to partake of recreational drugs. Moderate drinking as part of an angling session has always been permitted on the complex but excessive drinking which can cause offence to other anglers and potential health and safety implications cannot be sanctioned and no member should use the complex to partake of any form of drug related activities. Any member found in breach of these particular rules will be excluded from the Society with immediate effect.

It has come to light that some members are still taking it upon themselves to move fish between the lakes. This is not in any way permissible and any member found to be undertaking this action will be permanently expelled from being a member of the Society. All fish movement is sanctioned by the Committee under the control of the Fishery Manager.

Some members seem to think it necessary to relocate the rat boxes which have been placed around the complex and this causes problems for the person who takes responsibility for rebaiting them. Please do not move any of the rat boxes which are always placed so as to be as unobtrusive as possible but which are absolutely vital to keep our furry friends under control.

While the vast majority of members are now fully embracing the use of the dip tanks on each and every visit, there have been incidences where the level of attention to this vital process has been less than ideal. All members are reminded that every piece of their equipment which comes into contact with the fish in our lakes must be completely and fully immersed into the Virkon liquid provided. There can be no exceptions to this requirement if we are to continue to keep our complex free of disease and your continued vigilance is greatly appreciated.

Finally, all that remains is for me to say a big thank you to each of you for adhering fully to the additional restrictions and requirements this year due to the Covid 19 pandemic, as well as the rules and bylaws in your membership books and that I hope you will all continue to enjoy some great Autumn and Winter sport in the months ahead.

Kind Regards
Carole Baker
Secretary