

## Chairman's page

Hello all, finally it looks like we are going to get a break in this weather, which I think all anglers will appreciate. I know that from a management perspective it will take the pressure off a little, although we do currently still have the threat of thunderstorms to contend with.

The hot weather has resulted in some members putting forward a few ideas about how to ease the problems this can cause. With the exception of conversations on the bank I realised some of the questions don't get the full answers they deserve. So here are a few of the popular topics.

Q. Can we increase the flow of our borehole?

A. We are restricted by law to the amount of water we can pump in any 24-hour period. We are pumping this amount already. If we can obtain an extraction licence then the equipment we had installed is capable of pumping more. However, a successful application is doubtful as we are not a food producer, but we are looking at it.

Q Can we do something about the weed in Churchyard Lake?

A. We are already in conversation with a weed cutter. However this is not without its problems. Rather like your lawn at home the more you cut it the thicker it grows back. Take it out at the wrong time and this can cause more problems than it relieves. Weed also harbours a huge amount of natural food and produces oxygen during daylight, so the timing of any cutting back is very important.

Q Can we make Churchyard deeper?

A. Firstly not all the members think this is a good idea. The reasons they give are that they feel the lake would lose its true character, which cannot be disputed. Also, the closure time would be hard to bear and what would happen to the fish? The lake would probably be closed for at least a season or maybe even two and the fish would have to be put in Whyke for the duration. Secondly if we were to dig just some areas of the lake, we have nowhere to dump the spoil on site and so it would have to be removed off site. Our last quote for removal was over £300 per load. As a conservative estimate we would be talking about 500 loads which equates to c£150K just for the removal and before allowing for the cost of draining and digging. If we were to spend £250k we would need to be sure that everyone wants it done.

Q. A few members have suggested closing the lake during the hot weather.

A. The hot weather itself isn't a problem. Carp live happily in other countries where these temperatures are normal. The only concern is the oxygen levels that can fluctuate very quickly during these periods especially in shallow waters, and most especially during thunder storms. With anglers on site every day they are our early warning system of a problem. We have 7 aerators on site, which are being run during the early hours of the morning as this is the danger time for deoxygenating.

However, if things go wrong, they can be run 24/7. We are monitoring the oxygen levels very closely at present, and should the levels drop too dangerously low, we will indeed be forced to close the affected lake.

Other questions which have come up.

Q. Why do we restrict the amount of bait that can be used.

A. This is very simple to answer. Any bait introduced enriches the water which adds to the problem of algae and can ultimately combine with the algae in reducing the oxygen levels. Have a read of the Carpology article on oxygen depletion - it is very informative.

Q. Why have we stopped children under 8 staying over night this season.

A. This was a very difficult decision and I will try to explain it fully. We were being asked to add children as young as 3 to the members book as overnight guests. With the near fatal incident that was well publicised the year before we had to protect the Society and show we were reacting strongly to a H&S issue which this highlighted. Children on the complex are a balancing act. We want to promote our sport and make it as easy as possible to introduce youngsters which we feel we do with our "under 14 goes free on Little Long and Long car park banks". There is no minimum age for these kids as they have to be in a one to one supervision situation at all times with the member.

Children staying overnight on the other hand have no fishing entitlement as they are Non-Fishing Guests (unless they are a member in their own right). They are not being introduced to angling but rather simply staying over. It is considered that there may be times when the members attention could well be distracted from supervising their child (i.e. playing, landing, weighing, photographing and returning or simply having a cuppa with a neighbour) which could result in the child potentially getting into trouble.

We hope the members will take the opportunity to enrol their 8 – 12-year olds as members in their own right, so that they can actually fish when they are accompanying the parent/guardian on an overnight fishing trip albeit only fishing one rod in the same swim during daylight. We are rewriting the rules so that they are easier to understand for next season.

With 850 members it is impossible to please everyone all of the time but we try our best by having quality fish to catch, maintaining the complex, keeping it clean and free from rodents (as much as possible). We have clean toilet facilities and a very secure complex and CCTV to protect the car parks. If there is anything you feel we should be looking at, I am always available to answer questions, queries and bounce your ideas off on [cdasinfo@gmail.com](mailto:cdasinfo@gmail.com). I will always reply.

As I write we have had a sudden drop in dissolved oxygen in Churchyard. We have caught this very early and can report that we have had no fish losses. An aerator was already installed and running on a timer. This has now been supplemented with two pumps which were introduced as soon as we received the report. The oxygen levels are starting to come back to normal and we hope to have the lake open again as soon as things stabilise.