**H&DAA 2024 AGM**

**Fishery Officers Report**

Over the last season a huge amount of work has been done on the club’s lakes.

We have successfully applied for grants at Dry Pond, Black Bottom, Foxhole and Roosthole.

A big thanks to all the members who have helped over the last year. We couldn't of got it all done without your help!

We have built up a good relationship with landowners, the Environment Agency, Angling Trust and Natural England. This makes it considerably easier to carry out our current plans and implement future work on the club’s waters.

Below, work at individual waters is detailed.

**Roosthole**

* A new platform put in on swim 10 with composite decking left over from previous work installing disabled swims.
* We have removed at least 4 trees that had fallen into the lake.
* We used the boat to clear overhanging branches and line and rigs hanging from other branches. There was much less fishing equipment on branches that last year, which may relate to allowing the use of bait boats – beside making the lakes look better with less line hanging on tree, allowing the use of bait boats also seems to improve catch rates for members using them.
* We have obtained expert advice for from a member of the [AGA](https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=2ahUKEwjPreb6wcGFAxWWU0EAHRmDA1EQFnoECA8QAQ&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.agagroup.co.uk%2Fconsultancy%2Ffisheries-management&usg=AOvVaw191-FYFSBVBSuBSGn_CBTt&opi=89978449) group relating how we can improve the fishery and are currently actioning a plan we established based on their advice
* Tree surgeon and member George Leigh has been providing advice on the trees around the lake and carried out work for the club at favourable rates. We really appreciate all the work George has done for us, and recommend George’s Tree Company to any members need such work done.
* We have had a several meetings with our local EA officer to help with grant applications involving the Angling Trust and EA. Both organizations have responded positively to our plans for the lake and will cover the cost of a large proportion of the work being done.
* We made been implementing plans for the lake with the assistance of frequent work parties, probably around 25 or so, to carry out work such as installing coir rolls (containing water plants), tidying up, general maintenance and swim improvements.

A massive thanks to all members who helped and with special thanks to Barry Clark, Dawn Clark and Steve Hawkins and his tribe who have been to most of the work parties.

* We have put in 24 pre-planted coir rolls will lots of marginal plants in them which will help the lakes water quality and be the start of the lake’s natural food cycle. We have also planted at least 100 iris plants in the margins as well as hundreds of different plants all along the bank in between the swims. These will grow on in time, fill in the gaps and will benefit the lake’s ecosystem.
* Two doses of bio-aqua have been put into the lake to break down leaf matter and silt. A further application will be made next winter.
* Timber from removed trees tree has been used to edge paths and swim fronts and sides all along the main gate side on the Horsham bank.
* New fence posts and concrete spurs and wire mesh have been put in from the main gate down to the corner where the stream comes in.
* New swim signs and a new Roosthole sign have been put up made by Colin Wadey.
* A pipe has been put in by swim 6 for the natural spring to flow though and stop the path flooding.

**Dry Pond & Black Bottom**

* We have held multiple meetings with Natural England, Sussex Highways and the landowner about getting work plans and also applied for and received a grant from the conservation & enhancement scheme. This will cover the cost of all the work done over the next few years.
* The overflow pipe at Black Bottom has been cleared to prevent flooding into the woods anymore and to help relieve excess water levels faster.
* Private property and fish microchip signs have been put up around the ponds.
* A cleft and rail fence has been constructed beside the public footpath at Black Bottom to stop dogs jumping in the water and reduce the bank erosion.
* Work has started on rhododendron removal at both ponds. This has already made a difference in terms of opening the ponds up to light.
* We have built up the natural wall of branches along the fence line on both ponds.
* Two interpretation boards, giving member of the public information about the ponds’ SSI status will soon be installed.
* Specimen Tench and Roach have been ordered and when available will be stocked.

**Island Pond**

* Swim signs have been put up made by Colin Wadey.
* The bridge at the shallow end has been repaired.
* The paths have been cleared and made wider.
* More steps have been put into the swims to improve access.
* Swims on the bank have been constructed using timbe and woodchip.
* A drainage ditch has been dug into the natural spring to stop flooding on that part of the lake.
* A big double platform swim has been built by the gate on the dam.
* The club has obtained a crayfish licence and will start removing signal crayfish from the lake.

**Foxhole**

* All swims along the dam have been repaired and woodchip has been put down.
* The path beside the dam has been cleared and made wider
* A solar panel and aerator have been installed with a grant from the EA.
* A 21lb carp, named “bubbles”, donated by Tony Staples,Pete Collins and Lee Waller has been stocked.
* An agreement has been reached with the landowner to clear the rhododendron around the lake. Work has been started on this already.

**Birchenbridge**

* Several work parties clearing paths around the lake have been done.
* An agreement has been made with the land owners on both sides of the lake permitting the club to improve paths, access to the swims and to install a small walkway bridge over the natural spring on the Horsham side.

**The 2024 season is going to be another busy year working on club waters.**

**If any members can help and want to get involved, please get in touch!**

**Additional help is always welcome and avital for the clubs plans.**

**Tight lines all and will see you all at some point on the bank in the next season.**