



**Horsham and District
2025 Newsletter**

Angling Association (H&DAA)

Dear Members,

Welcome to the 2025 edition of the club's annual newsletter.

Please take the time to read through this newsletter. It contains information of all that has been happening at the club over the last year, as well as details of plans for the coming year.

Membership Renewals: Membership renewals for the coming season will be available from 1 May 2025. Members will have until early June 2025 to renew. Subsequently, remaining spaces will be offered to those on the waiting list, starting with those who have been on the list for longest. Existing members who wish to renew, but fail to do so before June 16, will be added to the waiting list.

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1. Club Chairman's forward

At this year's Annual General Meeting (AGM) we will lose Oliver Wright, our General Secretary who is stepping down due to the pressure and demands of his job. Oliver has been a dedicated and hardworking member of the committee and a stalwart in his support of introducing fishing to younger people and has run a number of events throughout his time on the committee. We will miss his calm demeanour and ability to put into words what has been discussed and agreed. On behalf of all the committee and members I would like to thank him for all his time and efforts.

Mark Hayley, our Membership and Match Secretary has also had to stand down again due to outside issues. During his time in the role, he has simplified the membership process which makes re-joining far simpler for our members and put together matches that have been a pleasure to fish in. The matches are more of a social event that are well-attended and great fun whatever your fishing style and preferred method. Again I would like to thank him on behalf of the members and committee for all he has done on behalf of the club. Lee Waller, our Fisheries Officer will be organising the matches going forward keeping the same format and friendly atmosphere for all entrants.

We have undertaken a lot of work this season which is covered later in the newsletter and at the end of this season and into the coming season will be continuing with both planned and unplanned projects including assisting the landowners at Foxhole with the repair to the dam and rebuilding all the swims along it.

Lee Waller, Fisheries Officer and Tom Sayer, who took over the role of deputy fishery officer when Tony Staples stood down have done a great job organising the work parties that have carried out the work. However, we still only have a small number of our members who help on a regular basis. The club need as many people as can spare some time to carry out maintenance tasks on our waters to ensure they are kept to the highest standards we can. Even if you can only join one work party a year, this makes a positive difference to the club. Please contact Lee if you can help.

Peter Collins and Colin Wadey have continued their amazing work around Island Pond and Foxhole keeping it all neat and tidy. I helped them remove a fallen tree at Island Pond earlier in the year and spent most of the time laughing at their banter with each other. Thank you guys!

Chris Jenkinson took up the new position of Welfare Officer which we were required to do to ensure the safety and wellbeing of members and he continues to keep abreast of requirements and diligently ensure we as a club are complying.

Kevin Rice, our Head Bailiff is our link between members and the team of bailiffs who ensure our waters are not poached and that members follow the club rules. Please show them the respect they all deserve they do a thankless job and do it well.

Ray Smallwood, our Treasurer who has been doing this job for ever it seems keeps all our financial records and manages to translate money speak into English at the committee meetings and AGM so we all know where we stand financially.

The committee members are a dedicated group who give up hours of their time to ensure you the members are represented and your fees are spent as best as possible to make sure you continue to enjoy your fishing. Maybe you do not always agree with things that are done but everything decided by the committee is done to benefit the club and its members.

2. Club Committee

The club committee currently consists of Barry Clark (Chairman), Ray Smallwood (Treasurer), Lee Waller (Fishery officer), Oliver Wright (General secretary), Chris Jenkinson (Welfare officer), Kevin Rice (Head bailiff), Tom Sayers (Deputy fishery officer), Colin Wadey, Pete Collins and Graham Boylett.

Changes in the club committee over the last year are described in the previous section.

3. Annual General Meeting (AGM)

The club's 2025 AGM will be held at the usual venue, **The Roffey Social and Sports Club** (Spooners Road, Roffey, RH12 4DY) on **Wednesday 9th April**. Please arrive at **7.30pm for an 8pm start**. There will be food/snacks for those who attend. There is also a bar.

The club encourages all members who can make it to attend the AGM. The AGM gives all members the opportunity to have their say and influence how the club is run. It gives the committee an opportunity to get input and explain the work the club has done in the last year and plans for the future.

As usual, we will vote in the officers and committee during the AGM. Anyone who wishes to stand as a club officer, is encouraged to do so at the AGM.

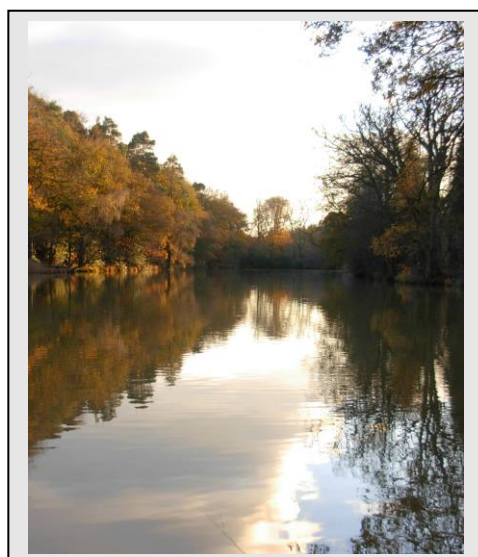
We will also vote on proposed changes to the club rules. For further details, see the newsletter section "Rule Changes".

4. Club waters

A heartfelt thank you to all members who have contributed to maintaining and improving our waters this year! The club depends on volunteers for this work, which benefits all of us by saving the club thousands of pounds each year. This feeds through to the cost of membership.

Our fishery officers (Lee Waller, Tom Sayers – and before him Tony Staples) are both dedicated and hard-working, but cannot do everything on their own and always welcome offers of extra help, particularly from anyone with specialist skills.

We publicise work parties on the club's [Facebook page](#), and will do so regularly by email in the coming season. If you are able make a contribution, however large or small, it will make a difference. Lee can be reached on 07865 439 818.



The club also depends on invaluable work carried out by Kevin Rice and his team of bailiffs who ensure that the club's waters and assets remain safe. Please continue to treat them with the respect they deserve.

Below is summary of some of the work carried out at club waters over the past year. Further details can be found on the [club's website](#) and [Facebook pages](#).

Roosthole: Work on the project to improve the venue has continued. A further application of a chemical that assists with silt removal was added during the winter months. Further planting (of both marginal and aquatic plants) has also been done and 3 floating islands have been installed in a line across the middle of the lake in the area of the aerators.

We have also carried out work fixing and maintaining gates and fencing, especially along the road where yet another speeding car (see [last year's newsletter](#)) has collided with the fence.

A health check on the stock was also carried out by contractors. The results indicated there were no significant concerns regarding the health of our stock in the venue. A [report provided by the contractors](#) is available on the club website.

Following a successful trial last year, **Roosthole will be closed during the period when the carp spawn**. Members will be informed by e-mail and announcements on the club website and Facebook. Announcements will unavoidably be made at short notice, so please make sure to check before fishing Roosthole during the spring.

Birchenbridge: Last summer, the club bought in contractors to carry out removing reeds and lilies from the venue which had made some of the swims unfishable.

The contractors also carried out work removing silt from some areas of the lake.

A stock assessment and an assessment of water quality were also carried out by contractors. Whilst the overall level of water quality was acceptable, pH values were slightly lower than ideal and the level of nitrates elevated. The club will look at measures that can be taken to address these issues, though given that the issues identified are largely determined by the inflow, there are limits to what can be achieved. The [report provided by the contractors](#) is available on the club website.

Work parties also visited the venue on numerous occasions to build new swims, remove rhododendrons, trim back trees bushes and other vegetation and also planting work.

Muddy work on at Birchenbridge



An area created to hold silt dredged from the pond



Foxhole: The discovery of serious leaks in the dam at the end of 2024, has led, sadly, to the closure of the venue whilst repair/remedial works are carried out.

The venue will remain closed until, at the earliest, the winter of 2025 as regardless of the progress made repairing the dam, we will not be able to return the fish stocks (see below) until that time. The club worked closely with the Environment Agency to remove

We could not have removed the stock from Foxhole without the help of the EA, who sent a team down at short notice



Colin Wadey and Pete Collins at work below the dam at Foxhole



as many of the fish as possible and relocate them until they can be returned. We have also been working with the landowners to develop plans to repair the leaks and prevent such episodes from happening again. In connection with this several work parties have visited Foxhole to carry out work including the removal of a significant number of trees and bushes around the dam.

Earlier in the year the club made progress in its plans to remove rhododendron that were encroaching around the venue.

Island Pond: Several of the swims have been significantly improved, with new platforms and steps put in. Around the island, snags have been removed and trees/bushes on the island itself have been trimmed back.

Committee members Pete Collins and Colin Wadey have also carried out a tremendous amount of additional work t Island Pond (and Foxhole) keeping the venue in top condition.

Sunoak Farm/Blackbottom ponds: At Sunoak, a considerable amount of work cutting back rhododendron has been done, whilst information boards have been added at both venues to benefit members of the public. Fencing at both venues has also been improved.

BSA: Due to other priorities, the club has not been able to devote time to work at BSA, although Les Eggleton has kindly, and at his own initiative (although with approval of the committee) removed many of the large trees that had fallen into the water. The club is aware that there is a lot of work to be done at the venue.

Members should be aware that the water at BSA lakes becomes very deep, very quickly. Some swims are also rather cramped and precarious, particularly on the lower lake. Please take special care when at the venue to ensure that you are fishing safely.

5. Welfare officers update

Safeguarding: Thankfully nothing has been reported to Chris or to other members of the committee in the last year. However, we cannot be complacent. The welfare of our members and their guests when fishing club waters is a priority. It is vital any concerns about the safety of junior or vulnerable adult members are reported to the club Welfare Officer (Chris Jenkinson 07745654583 chris.jenkinson2@btinternet.com) so that the club can take steps to resolve them.

All club members must be aware that they have a responsibility to report anything that strikes them inappropriate in connection to the club.

Social Media: Please remember that our Facebook page is for sharing angling information. The club recommends that jokes are not put on our site as one person's

idea of fun may not be another's. If you wish to comment on the running of the club please contact the committee directly rather than putting comments on Facebook.

6. Membership and subscriptions

Subscription rates for the 2025 - 2026 will remain the same as last season, as detailed on the [club website](#)

Renewals will be available from 1st May 2025. Existing members have until early June 2025 to renew, at which point we will offer any unsold memberships to those on the waiting list. Members who do not renew before this time and later wish to renew will have to join the waiting list, which is currently lengthy!

If you are an existing member, follow the same process to renew as last year by logging into your profile on the club website and following the instructions to renew. Ensure your details are all up to date, especially if you have moved and have changed address or e-mail. New memberships will be delivered to the address shown in your clubmate profile.

A [guide to renewing membership](#) is available for those unfamiliar with the process.

A variety of new bookable tickets were also introduced last year. [Details can be found on the club website](#).

7. Rule changes

Several changes and additions to club rules have been proposed this year by committee members. **These are detailed in an annex at the end of the newsletter.** Please read these rule changes as they will be discussed and voted on at the AGM. If you have strong feelings about any of them, or would like to propose any other rules, we look forwards to seeing you at the AGM.

8. Pike Teach-Ins

Members wishing to fish for pike on our waters are required to attend a pike teach-in. Members will be informed of the dates and invited to attend in the early Autumn. An attendance card is issued to those who come along, and bailiffs subsequently check anyone pike fishing on our waters to make sure that they have done so and are in possession of this card.

9. Stocking

A range of fish have been introduced to our waters in the last year.

Two specimen carp were stocked at Birchenbridge, whilst decent-sized Tench and roach were stocked at Sun Oak. Tench have been added to Roosthole, paid for by a generous donation from a former member of the club, Paul Meehan. Birchenbridge also received a small number of tench (around 15) in the same size bracket.



Tench about to go into Roosthole



Some of the roach stocked at Sun Oak

10. Events last year

The club put has put on various events over the course of the last year.

The club chairman showing the scouts how it's done!



In September **we held an event at Foxhole with members of a local scout group**, many of whom had never fished before.

They spend an enjoyable an enjoyable and sunny afternoon catching roach, with the odd carp thrown for added excitement.

Foxhole is an ideal venue for these kinds of events and the club has received positive feedback each time we have hosted groups of children there.

Thanks to everyone who helped to make this event such a success!



Ian Petch at the Pike teach in

A pike teach-in was held in later in Autumn at Roosthole. The event had to be rescheduled and moved from Island pond due to atrocious weather and parking issues, so thanks to everyone who managed to turn out.

Ian Petch ran the teach-in, as he has done for many years. His knowledge of the pike fishing and his demonstrations make this event a real eye-opener, even for experienced predator anglers. This year attendees included the chairman of the angling trust.

The club also held a good number of matches. Mark Hayley ran Spring/Summer and Autumn/Winter series (these will be organized by Lee Waller moving forwards), whilst the stand-alone Bailiff's shield was held for the second year in July. Thanks to all who organized and took part in these matches.



After a match at Roosthole

Watch for announcements about all the matches the club will hold in the coming season on the club website and on Facebook. We encourage all our members to take part, especially those who have never fished a match before and would like to give it a try in a friendly and supportive atmosphere.

Details of match dates where they have already been pencilled in can be found on the match fixtures page of the club website.

9. Plans for 2025 – 2026

The club's work priority over the coming season will be on supporting work to enable Foxhole to reopen.

Further work will be carried out on at Birchenbridge, focusing on improving swims and access on the Horsham side of the venue, maintaining/raising the water level and potentially installing an aerator following to complement those at Foxhole and Roosthole.

This concludes the annual newsletter. We hope very much to see you at the upcoming AGM.

Tight Lines

H&DAA

Annex (Rule changes)

1. To fix the temperature at which pike fishing is permitted temperature at 15C.
See rule 41: at present the rule does not specify a temperature, the club has opened the pike fishing season when the water is 12C.

2. To allow a full member parent to take their own children older than 8 years old (if an existing member) for night sessions on our club's waters, by paying for a single night ticket (cost £5).

Junior members of the club have not previously been allowed to night fish: see rule 20.

3. Rule 39 to be amended by addition of"or be in the same or an adjacent swim to a member who has taken the course (who must also be fishing for Pike)"

The rule currently states: "Members wishing to fish for pike in association waters must first attend a pike teach-in arranged by association officials"