

## **Dear HDAA Members,**

First of all, I would like to apologise for my absence this evening, unfortunately due to personal reasons I am unable to be with you all tonight, I promise you it had nothing to do with the club not being able to provide food this year!

As some of you may know I jumped into the role of Membership secretary last year as renewals time was fast approaching & no other member offered to take on the role, being a relatively new member I didn't feel I really qualified but was willing to learn and help out as much as I could.

I looked at ways of simplifying the renewals and with the agreement of the committee they were put in place, I do hope it has made life a little easier for everyone.

I enjoyed to role immensely, engaging with members, working with Clubmate to help them tweak their systems but most of all working with the committee, I had no idea how hard they worked for us all,.

Most meetings lasted between two and three hours and there was always lots to discuss, every single committee member's views and thoughts were always considered, I was surprised at how professional each meeting was conducted but should have known as you only have to look at how well our lakes, ponds & fish stocks are looked after!

Unfortunately due to family & personal circumstances I have had to step away from the Membership secretaries role for a time and do hope I will be able to step back in once everything has returned back to normal, 2024 was a particularly challenging year personally and its with great sadness that I have also had to stop running the matches which had become so popular, I would just like to thank all those members that decided to give them a go, they become something I looked forwards to each month, it was truly wonderful watching the other members interacting, laughing and joking, the fishing wasn't half bad either.

It was especially nice to see how everyone's angling improved, many members giving methods not familiar to them a go, I miss all the prep, the organising and the running of the matches, rest assured I will be back to run them again as soon as the time is right.

Until then, I know I have left the rolls in very capable hands

Well, that's it from me, tight lines and hope to see you on the bank on one of our beautiful waters soon.

Mark

(Mark Hayley)