



President: T.C. ALDISS, Esq.

Hon. Se: G.R. TWITE,
16 Back Street
HEMPTON
Fakenham
Norfolk
NR21 7LF

www.fakenhamanglingclub.co.uk

Newsletter 2011

Dear Member

The AGM will be held on **Tuesday 3rd May** at 8.00pm at Hempton Bell. Any proposals must be sent to the secretary, signed and seconded, by **17th April**. Only proposals for the election of Officers and Committee will be accepted on the night.

The prize presentation and social evening will be held at Hempton Church Rooms on **Friday 6th May** at 7.30pm. Refreshments will be provided. Bottles and cans of drink would be appreciated for a communal bar, as we will not have a licence to sell alcohol. Please return trophies to Dave's Tackle Shop by the 1st April. Donations for raffle prizes would be appreciated.

Following a proposal at the last AGM there has been a small increase in subscriptions which have remained the same for the last five years.

The new rates being:

Joining fee	£ 3.00	
Full (Age 16 and over)	£35.00	
Family membership	£45.00	Family membership comprises of Husband/Wife/Partner and children under the age of 16 who live at the same address.
Junior (Age 12 to 15years old)	£ 6.00	
Senior citizen/Disabled	£17.50	
Day tickets remain at	£ 6.00	

New subscriptions are due by 1st April 2011 at 'Dave's Tackle Shop'. Existing members have until the end of April to renew before membership is open to all comers, the ten mile radius rule no longer applying. Please sign your club card and fill in the address. Have we got your name and address correct? If not please let Rob know when rejoining.

There has been some confusion about day tickets for the lakes at Foxley. Day tickets can only be purchased before fishing from 'Dave's Tackle' in Fakenham by members who wish to take a guest. Tickets are not sold to non members (Foxley only).

The bailiffs have been finding some discarded illegal barbed hooks. Please read the notice board at the lake concerning these.

Last years charity match for Rebecca's Wishes raised £357, the club has rounded this up to £400. Well done to those who attended.

As no doubt most of you are aware we have taken on the new bottom lake at Foxley. Stocks are mainly Bream and Roach, with some Tench and Carp ranging from 4oz to 15lbs+. Twenty platforms have been built with car parking adjacent to the lake entrance. Please park sensibly to allow room for others. Conditions are the same as the Carp lake and there is a individual notice board by the gate **PLEASE READ IT!**

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The front carp lake has had its ups and downs during the season, but overall has fished quite well. During the winter some maintenance work has been carried out on the platforms.

Don't forget that the club now has two stretches of fishing on the Wensum. The left bank looking upstream from Hempton and the right bank looking upstream from the road bridge at Guist as far as the wood. Both offer natural river fishing in pleasant and peaceful surroundings.

The Hempton Stretch is mainly wild brown trout fishing from April 1st (fly only until June 16th) to September 30th, although it's difficult to fish after about June because of weed. There are plenty of wild brown trout around 1/2lb and some much bigger fish, some of which can show up during a mayfly hatch. Please remember this is not a stocked water and handle and return fish carefully, keeping only the odd sizable trout. From about November, when the weed has died down, trotting for dace and roach is a nice way to spend a couple of hours.

We're still finding out about the Guist stretch. The main species appear to be roach (to around a pound, possibly larger) and Pike (up to double figures, again maybe bigger), with some dace and a few chub aswell. Weed and bankside vegetation growth make it difficult to fish in summer, but this is nice water for trotting and light ledgering from about October until the end of the season in March.

The otter fence at Willsmore which was promptly erected by a small band of volunteers has succeeded in keeping the otters out. However this did not stop the rumourmongers spreading around false information. Yes we did loose around 10-12 carp as best as we can tell, no we did not fence an otter in the lake, yes there still is a reasonable head of Carp in the lake. The best last year being a 19lb 7oz Mirror and a 15lb 6oz Common.

During December approx 250 8oz mirror and common Carp have been stocked, and in November 18 Roach up to 1 ½lbs, most around 1 ¼lbs. Within a week or two of the ice clearing these fish have started showing nicely, and some nice mixed bags have been caught.

Obviously the cost of the otter fence put a drainage on finances and limit's the amount we can spend on new fish. Currently we have an application into the Environment Agency for a grant, but these are not automatic and depends on what funding they have. However, all is not doom and gloom as we have had the best Roach, Bream and Tench fishing for years.

Matches will be held on club waters on the following dates. The lakes being closed the night before and no entry allowed for the duration of the match.

10/04/11 Willsmore.

24/04/11 Foxley Carp Lake.

15/05/11 Foxley Back Lake.

12/06/11 Mixed pairs/juniors Foxley Carp Lake.

17/07/11 Junior Willsmore - half the lake will be opened after the match has started depending on entrants.

07/08/11 Fakenham/Dereham Angling club Foxley Carp Lake.

Should any additional matches be booked prior warning on the lake closure will be posted at the relevant lake. Match lists for the new season are available from Dave's Tackle Shop.

Work parties

17th April 2011, 9am - 12pm, Willsmore - This will be mainly tidying around the otter fence clearing and burning scrub, filling mole holes in the footpath and a general tidy up.

1st May 2011, 9am - 12pm, Foxley Carp lake - Clearing overhanging brambles/branches from the island and top bay and a general tidy up.

No fishing will be allowed on the lakes concerned for the duration of the work party. Remember many hands make light work, this is your club and your chance to help improve your facilities.

There has been a significant improvements in the reduction of cans on club waters. Evidence of alcohol has been found, remember if you are found with alcohol you will be asked to leave the water and subject to an immediate suspension and probable ban.

Best wishes and tight lines for the coming season!

George Twite