

Members' Newsletter – Late-July 2016

Fishing reports – Whilst the **river** continues to produce good Trout sport to fly fishers, especially in the evenings and after a spate, it is the ponds that have surprised us these last few weeks. The Roach and Perch in the **Roadside Pond** have been feeding well and good sized Carp have been spotted on the surface. The fishing on the **Members Pond** has become much more consistent with **Tench (to 3lb 4oz** – see club website for photos), Roach and Perch turning up most sessions. Floatfished maggots or small worms have been the best tactics. Not many members have been fishing the ponds so why not give it a go. They should both be good fishing well into October. And remember that you can take a friend to fish either of the ponds without the need for a guest ticket.

Fisheries survey of the ponds

In order to help the committee to decide on the best future management plan for our two ponds we recently commissioned a survey of both of them. That took place on 21st July and we now have the fisheries consultant's detailed report. In summary it tells us that both ponds are in a very good state of health. The water quality is very good in both ponds; the invertebrate count and number of species is very good (so lots of natural food for the fish); and the quality of the fish themselves is very good. The less good news is, as we already knew, we have a major problem, especially on the Members Pond, of an infestation of large leaf lily's. The report recommends that around 30% to 40% of the lilies should be removed in the Members Pond. The consultant rated the Members Pond as a good wild Tench fishery and he told us that there are probably far more fish in it than we realised, we just aren't catching them as well as we might. Thus at our first committee meeting after receiving the fisheries report the committee decided that we would go ahead with a lily removal project. The actual lily removal is unlikely to take place this year.

Working parties (social events) –

The members and wives/partners/children event with a BBQ, previously scheduled for 2nd July but cancelled due to a poor weather forecast, has been rescheduled for Saturday 3rd September. Please put it into your diary and try to attend. It should be a very enjoyable few hours. Feel free to bring your rods!

If you plan to attend then please let Steve Fairbourn or I know and then he or I can let you know if the working party has been cancelled due to a poor weather forecast.

More working parties dates will be announced for the winter months. Please also see the other attachment to this email which explains how much fun working parties really are!

Fancy joining the committee?

Apart from our Chairman/Treasurer Vernon Manville most of the current committee members are mainly coarse fishers. We are keen to try to redress the balance so if you are mainly a fly fisher and you feel you could attend about seven or eight Monday evening committee meetings in Ilkley then please let me know or attend the AGM on December 8th and put your name forward then. We will make you very welcome!

David Martin, Secretary

28th July, 2016