

Roche Angling Club News Letter – Winter 2012

Annual General Meeting Notification

Date – Tuesday February 6th 2012

Time – 7pm

Venue – Victory Hall, Roche

Motions for AGM Agenda to reach Secretary by the first Monday in January

Contact Mr Paul McDermott on

info@rocheac.org.uk

Membership

Membership renewals to be submitted by 31st December, 2012.

Fees paid by 31st January, 2013

Membership forms are available to download on the club's website -

www.rocheac.org.uk/membership.htm

- Remember to enclose your current membership card with your renewal documents
- If you wish to change your photo please send with your renewal documents
- Cheques payable to Roche AC - no cash please- it may go astray in the post
- Renewals will be dealt with by post only

It would be useful if you could enclose a stamped addressed envelope as this will save our club money

Vice Chairman's Pitch

Welcome to the Club's Autumn/Winter newsletter. I hope I find you all in good spirits and that the year so far has provided you with some memorable fishing moments. Well as I type the leaves are well and truly falling, the clocks have just gone back and

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it's now dark when I leave work in the evenings – not exactly inspiring from an angling perspective!

Unfortunately I'll start with the sad news that Pete Mawby has recently passed away. Pete was a long standing and extremely popular club member who was active on the clubs match and game sections. Pete was also ever present at the club's open days, freely volunteering his services to help coach the attendees. Pete was an exceptional angler to boot who loved his fishing; Pete also had an endless repertoire of amusing stories and I will miss his friendly face and banter dearly at the trout matches, I know those who have fished with Pete in the past will also miss him. Naturally a condolence card was sent to Pete's family and his funeral was a fitting service to a special man.

I'll bring you up to speed on the otter situation, there have been two confirmed sightings of an otter swimming in Big T, plus a few "maybes", and additionally there has been a report of a carp caught with recent damage/scratch marks consistent with an otter strike. I've done a circuit of the lake, as has the lake warden and thankfully no fish remains have been found. The licence for Roche AC to use acoustic deterrents has recently been extended by Natural England for a further 12 months and I have also managed to secure funding for a further seven "pingers" from the Environment Agency. This will allow us to replace the ones in

Wheal Rashleigh as they are about to expire and place additional pingers into Big T. There is still

little information on how effective the acoustic deterrents are on otters, but most members I speak to agree its better than doing nothing and if the EA are happy to finance them with rod licence payer's money then I'm happy to accept them!

The possibility of removing the Rhodos at the Treskilling site has also moved on, the areas of Rhodo have been mapped by me and the

contractor and I am on the verge of finalising the application forms for submittal to the Forestry Commission. There is no guarantee that the grant will be successful as the Forestry Commission have recently diverted many of their resources to control an Ash tree disease, but if we don't try we won't know! Not only can the Rhodo's be replaced with indigenous trees and shrubs but a few weeks of "slash and burn" could persuade any "furry friends" to move on as otter activity appeared to decline on Rashleigh during and after the Rhodo removal there.

While on the subject of funding I will add that the Environment Agency have come up trumps again with a grant of £1,200 to purchase recycled "plastic wood" for the installation of multi use swims at Big T. We are required to construct 6 of these swims as a condition from when the EA helped the club to purchase the site. We already have one such peg, so we aim to build a further five with these materials; it's kind of convenient that we can fulfil the requirement to build these swims with EA funding. We have to be grateful for the support we have received from the EA over the years; it's a common grumble from anglers that they don't see any return for their licence money but Roche A.C have had excellent financial assistance from the EA including substantial grants to help buy the Rashleigh and Treskilling sites, funding for the multi use swims at Bilberry, the recent funding to buy materials to build multi use swims on Big T and funding for eleven acoustic "pingers". Additionally the EA have also paid for club members to attend fishery management courses at Sparsholt College and have also supplied us with free fish on several occasions.

Moving on to fish and free fish; we look to have secured 800 small tench and 2000 small bream. This great news fits in with our stocking plans albeit slightly accelerated but at no cost and a great track

record for health and growth its a superb early Christmas present. The fish will be split between Treskilling Small Pool (just tench) and the Electricity Pool helping to add to the diversity of these waters.

I will quickly mention here that the additional rule for carp anglers that prohibits fishing in the Back Bay at night has been amended so it is now a bylaw, so it covers all anglers; it has been updated on the "Bye law" section of website and is under the "Night Fishing" section rule 33.

I'll sign off now wishing all the very best of luck.

Merry Christmas

Dave

Fishery Officer

The latest stocking of 10 C3 (3 yr old) carp for Treskilling Pit should be with us at any time now. [Delivery was expected on November 28th at the time of going to print]. I think I mentioned in the last newsletter that one of the March 2011 stockies from the same fish farm that our latest introduction of carp will be from was caught at an estimated 9lb, they went in at between 3 and 5lb so relatively good growth had been achieved over the 18 months that they have been swimming around the pit. Can I please remind everyone that if they are lucky enough to catch a small carp from Big T that I would dearly like an accurate weight and photos of both sides of the fish. This will give

us extremely valuable information on the growth of these fish, we have individual photos of the stocking so ID should be simple....for the mirror carp at least! I have reputable confirmation that one of the 4 commons from this stocking has also been caught, earlier this year at around 6lb. The common is recognisable by the lack of its dorsal fin spine.

It is probably now common knowledge that we have sanctioned the Nov 2013 stocking of a further 10 carp. This time we have decided to stock carp of a different strain and from a different supplier. Mark Simmonds and Simon Scott have a reputation for breeding some of the fastest growing carp in the land. Mark was chosen for his pricing and the fact that he actually has the fish available next year. These guys sell out a year in advance and we were lucky to secure the 10 fish, this time C4's as it wouldn't be worth his while to come down with C3's. Heather Fisheries (Mark Simmonds) C4's should average 9-11lb and be of the much prettier (than conventional Simmonds) Fishers Pond strain. These are a scaly, fast growing carp which if you look on Heather's website have an enviable record for producing some truly massive carp across the land with a long list of very credible feedback from a repertoire of some of the Country's leading fisheries. The lake has a very promising future with some young blood and a nice mix of carp strains which should grow on to produce some good healthy fish.

We looked into the possibility of stocking some F1 carp into Walden, a hybrid species that continues to feed well throughout the colder months, providing sport, is immune to some of the more prolific cyprinid diseases currently circulating many of the UK's fisheries and which is also sterile so therefore does not interbreed with existing pure species of stock. The response from the Environment Agency was unfortunately negative.

Walden's proximity to an outlet and the presence of an existing stock of crucian carp prohibit the stocking of F1s. We did challenge this but to no avail. We'll keep thinking and talking to the match section representatives to help sport on this water during the cold months.

Over the coming colder months I want to start thinking about the Rashleigh feeding programme

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once again. I will be doing some research into the pros and cons of such an exercise. This will then lead onto further treatments to Rashleigh with the Calcium Carbonate in early Spring and manuring again next Summer. All of which is aimed at the long term improvement of the fishery. Input from the membership on this issue would be great.

The work party's of late have not been as well attended as we had hoped; perhaps during Summer people have other things to do with family/home life. I should know as I am one of them that has had to conform. Hopefully we can make up over the coming months and get out and help the club along. Those that have attended the Summer party's I salute you, work like the newly refurbished Alcatraz swim at Big T is a work of art and further maintenance/improvements at Treskilling, Walden and Rashleigh and Bilberry is truly valued, well done to all and especially our terrific Lake Wardens.

With the water getting more clear as the temperature falls I hope to rekindle the diving/snag removal aims at Walden and Rashleigh. It's getting the divers that's the problem, if you dive or know of any willing divers then please come forward.

A quick note on Catch Reports; sadly I still struggle to get many of these and rely on asking about, word of mouth, match reports and a very few emails, something I think every Fishery Officer in the past has had to bear. If we are to get a feeling for how well our stocks are performing then I need to know what is getting caught so that we can decide on and implement our fishery improvement/stocking strategies. Nevertheless I understand that the Summer has provided good sport to those fishing at Rashleigh. The young carp have been giving good sport and I stress 'young'.

We need these fish to grow as much as possible whilst they are of the age that they grow best, the actual frame of the fish needs to grow and not just

the belly, which our old fish do when they are provided much food and of course which they lose again when the food becomes sparse, hence the feeding programme here.

Matches continue to show decent weights at Big T and in May a Rudd of 1lb 13oz was caught during one.

It's at this time of year that the Pike fishing starts to get talked about and indeed indulged by many of us and already I have heard of some fantastic catches. Back in Midsummer I actually witnessed a pike of some 31lb caught on a pop up boilie of all things! More recently I have heard unconfirmed reports of numerous 20+'s and only today I met Mike Colley as he was packing up at Big T who had only gone and had 5 pike up into the high teens in just one mornings fishing!

This is of course a good opportunity to remind folk about the need to treat these fragile fish with the utmost care. Top tips for successful pike fishing.

Always carry a large landing net and unhooking matt.

Long forceps or long-nosed pliers are essential for safe efficient hook removal.

Line should be at least 15lb to deal with the powerful fish and gravel bars and weed found in the lake.

Don't leave bites too long; a pike can swallow bait very quickly. It's better to miss a small fish that doesn't have the hooks in its mouth than to deep hook a large fish.

Always cradle the fish close to the ground when taking that important photo, and if you're smile is as big as the pike's you've caught a good one!

Anyone who wants to have a go for these lovely fish but is apprehensive or simply inexperienced then do contact a member who is. Many of our Web – www.rocheac.org.uk
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members will be more than happy to help out, especially at a weekend when it can get quite busy up at Big T with pike anglers.

Right that's time up for me, I hope I haven't bored you too much and look forward to seeing you out on the banks these coming chilly weekend mornings.

Happy New Year

Mark

Game Matches

December 16th – Innis - meet at 8.30, all stop at lunch time for Christmas dinner if wanted

Coarse Matches

December 16th – Waldon / Rashleigh – Christmas Pairs Match - 8am draw – Fish 9am til 3pm

New Forum

A forum for members of Roche Angling Club has been set up by members to talk about all things wet and scaly. To access the forum you'll need to register and get an activation code. The site is being moderated by members.

<http://rac.freeforums.net>

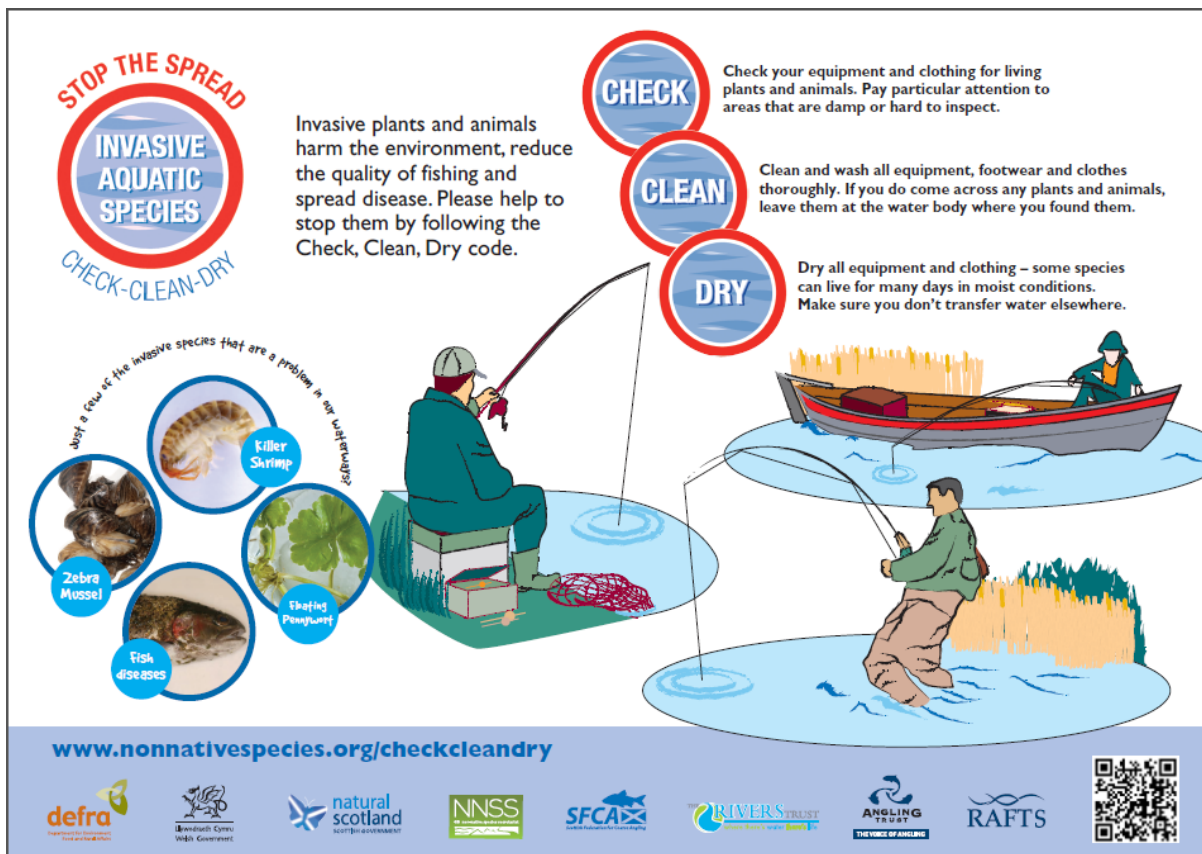
Students SINNG about bio-security

Students from the Student Invasive Non-Native Group (SINNG), a Defra funded local action group based at Cornwall College Newquay, are helping to spread the word about the importance of good bio-security practice.

SINNG regularly take part in practical surveys, monitoring & clearance work of invasive non-native freshwater species which are damaging native wildlife. The work they are doing is of particular importance as the presence of problem plants, fungi & animals is having a huge impact on the environment as well as the economy. Plants such as parrot's feather rapidly out-compete native plants, choking waterways & even small fragments have the ability to re-grow spreading the plant to new areas.



The group pay special attention to bio-security as it is very important that they do not spread these unwanted alien invaders to other areas. The volunteer students are taught the Check, Clean, Dry, method promoted by the Defra campaign of the same name. Most anglers are already carrying out this procedure which involves checking all equipment & clothing for plant & animal matter & cleaning before leaving the site and allowing equipment to fully dry for 48 hours before using again. Disinfectants suitable for use in waterways can be used though thorough drying is the best practice.



STOP THE SPREAD
INVASIVE AQUATIC SPECIES
CHECK-CLEAN-DRY

What a few of the invasive species that are a problem in our waterways?

- Killer Shrimp
- Zebra Mussel
- Fish diseases
- Floating Pennant

CHECK
Check your equipment and clothing for living plants and animals. Pay particular attention to areas that are damp or hard to inspect.

CLEAN
Clean and wash all equipment, footwear and clothes thoroughly. If you do come across any plants and animals, leave them at the water body where you found them.

DRY
Dry all equipment and clothing – some species can live for many days in moist conditions. Make sure you don't transfer water elsewhere.

www.nonnativespecies.org/checkcleandry

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