

ACTING CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Once again the time has come round to renew your membership to the Club. Many of you will be aware that there has been a doubt about the continuation of angling at Beale Park. We are delighted to announce that Reading Fishing Club has negotiated a licence to fish the Beale Park waters, both lake and river, for the forthcoming season. This will be an exclusive licence, i.e. no day or season tickets will be available through any other source. This prime stretch of the River Thames, and popular lake containing both carp to 30lbs and pike to 20lbs+, will be excellent additions to our portfolio of waters.

As a result there will be an increase in subscriptions this year for all categories apart from junior membership, but at around 70 pence per week for senior members we continue to offer excellent value for money. There will of course no longer be any requirement to pay an extra fee to fish at Beale Park. Full details of the new rates, together with details of the optional R. & D.A.A. membership, are on the membership form.

We have again suffered an extremely wet winter, with extensive flooding on both rivers and lakes. Both Tapperns and Osier Lakes have seen extremely high levels, although hopefully not sufficient to result in any loss of stock.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank on behalf of all Club members those stalwarts who do so much to keep the Club running. Without our Officers and E.C. members, the Club simply couldn't exist. The small group of volunteers who turn out regularly to maintain our lakes, together with our bailiffs, ensure that we can be proud of these venues. Particular thanks this year to our retiring Match Secretary, John Berry, and to Alan Clark for combining his first year as proprietor at Thames Valley Angling with the task of Permit Secretary.

There are always opportunities for anyone willing to assist in running the Club, either through participation at Executive Committee meetings, held on the first Tuesday of each month at Westwood Farm Social Club, Tilehurst, at 8p.m., or in more practical ways such as assistance with maintenance or baliffing of our waters. If you can help in any way just mention it to Alan at Thames Valley Angling and he will point you in the right direction.

The Club website (www.readingfishingclub.co.uk) will contain details of the season's match fixtures, these are friendly affairs so why not come along and have a go. Please keep watching the website as well for details of other events such as the Work Party on Tapperns Lake and the Annual Prizegiving .

Keith Johnson.