

PORTSMOUTH ROYAL NAVY & ROYAL MARINES

COARSE ANGLING ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER – JULY 2017

Again, I unexpectedly find myself writing a newsletter. This time it follows the death of a Carp of around 18lb through an angler using an unsafe rig. There is also other news below.

Fish Welfare & Rule Changes

The rule for feeder fishing is:

On Association waters, fixed weights or feeders are not to be used. Semi-fixed arrangements are permitted but all feeders or weights must fall free from the fish if the line breaks at any point, and must not be hindered such as by clips, swivels, leader knots and float stops.

The rig that killed the fish was a helicopter rig with about 3 feet of lead core tied on the end of the mainline, and the weight clipped to the end of it. The hook length was free running between 2 beads on the lead core. The problem was that these beads were so tight that there was no way that the hook length could come free of the lead core if the line parted. When the line did part the fish was left tethered to 3 feet of lead core with the weight still attached, and some 30 feet of mainline which also snagged it in the reeds. There was no way at all for this fish to free itself of the line. It was probably a slow death – and completely pointless.

Anyone caught with rigs that do not comply with the rules can expect to be investigated, and lose their memberships. We do not want members who use dangerous rigs on our waters; there is simply no reasonable excuse for it. If we have repeated fish deaths then the Committee will probably ask the AGM to return to free running weights only. If in any doubt then do not use the rig.

Bailiffs will be conducting checks of rigs on a more frequent basis and offenders will be reported.

Whilst on the subject of safety, there have been recent cases of rods being lost in the lake. The carp bites can sudden and dramatic. Bailiffs have found anglers fishing with their rods lying on the ground with no securing mechanism (resting the rod tip on a piece of scaffolding or tree is not secure) such that they can be pulled in with ease even if the free spool is set. Hoping to grab your rod as it pulls away from you is not good enough; this happened to an angler who was explaining to the bailiff that it was safe. He caught his rod – just. For fish welfare reasons there is an introduction of a new rule that has immediate effect. Para 29k in the rule book:

Any rod with the line in the water must either be held in your hand, or appropriately secured on bank sticks or similar.

Fish Stocking

It is intended to introduce new fish stock in to Fort Rowner Moat as part of the on-going improvement of the water. Pike and Cormorant control continues, and the weed is being successfully suppressed such that the Committee feels it is time to replace the fish that have been predated. The plans include moving approximately 40 carp from 5lb to 9lb from Southwick Park Lake for the Specimen stretch, and buying some 3000 F1s (4-6") for the match stretch to be introduced along with a significant quantity of Silvers that are being donated.

New Exchange Books

After discussion with Clanfield Angling we now have 4 exchange books for stretches of the Thames at Marsh Lane, Clanfield, and at Tadpole Bridge (opposite the Trout Public House). Nearly all of the pegs can be parked behind and offer a good day's fishing on nice part of the upper Thames. We are also looking to arrange matches with Clanfield for next year which will appear in the match programme.

Association Carp Match

The postponed Carp Match will now be held on Sat 14 Oct at SPL.

Braided Hairs

There have been questions put to the Committee about using braid as a hair, where the hook link itself is not braid. This is permitted within the rules. The whole issue of the use of braid as mainline and hook lengths will be discussed at the next AGM, until then the rules remain as in the rule book.

Vice Chairman

The Vice Chairman, CPO Vic Woods, with immediate effect has stood down from the post which is ahead of the end of his 3-year term. Because this is one of the 5 Trustee positions it is now automatically up for election at the next AGM. In accordance with the constitution, the other trustees have decided to co-opt Lt Cdr Lee Rigby in to the post until the AGM. The Committee thanked CPO Woods for all his hard work in support of the Association, particularly with regard to reviewing and improving our Health & Safety. I am sure that you will also all join me in welcoming Lt Cdr Rigby to the Committee as Vice Chairman.

S A Mardlin
Cdr RN
Chairman Ports RNRM CAA