

# Central Association of London and Provincial Angling Clubs

Affiliated to The Basingstoke Canal Angling Association & Angling Trust ESTABLISHED 1879

E-mail: [ocarmel57@gmail.com](mailto:ocarmel57@gmail.com)  
Web site: [www.calpac.info](http://www.calpac.info)



*General Secretary:*  
Mrs Carmel Jones  
8 Avondale Road  
South Croydon,  
Surrey CR2 6JA  
Tel N° 07500 926742

## CALPAC Delegates Meeting Minutes Monday 1<sup>st</sup> July and Monday 5<sup>th</sup> August 2019

August Meeting opened at 8.05 pm by Alphonsus Duffy

Apologies for absence - None for July or August

Minutes from previous meeting - N/A

Matters Arising - None

**Attendees July 2019 - Alphonsus Duffy, David Blake, Dean Hawkins, John Bygrave, Malcolm Corner and Peter Alexander**

**Attendees August 2019 - Alphonsus Duffy, Dean Hawkins, John Bygrave, Malcolm Corner, Roy Pollard and Ryan Duffy**

Correspondence

1. Carmel received email from a Jane Campbell regarding the Mole. John Bygrave read it out, it was decided Carmel to ask for more information

Secretary Reports - None

Interim Treasurers Reports - July and August 2019 by John Bygrave

July

Quite a quiet month. I have sent out a few more books, but not a patch on last year. We have at last got our BCAA books, in fact we have got double what I ordered. We had to chase them up again, Carmel sent them an email and Denise phoned them. I have still not received Thatcham's rental for the Kennet venues despite Carmel sending them a reminder by email. Dean has told me they want to keep using them, but I am wondering if that is still the case?

As far as I know all our bills are paid and I must get to the bank and pay some money in. I also need to get a form to add another signature to our account. I am going to have to order some more keys very shortly.

August

Not a lot to report. I have been fielding a lot of phone calls, mostly regarding Stew Pond. I have sent out a couple of books for the Leatherhead club. The bill for Manor

Pond and the Mole has been received and paid. As far as I know all our bills are paid up to date. I have also received another message about the proposed roadworks near Manor. I have it with me, but I don't think we have to, or can do anything. I have not yet received any money from the Thatcham club, and I have asked Dean to use his contacts to find out what is going on. I also have some BCAA books with me if anyone wants one.

### Fisheries Reports - July and August 2019 by Dean Hawkins

#### July

With all work parties completed, I can look back and assess how they went this year. From a fishery point of view, I think they were generally successful, from an attendance point of view, once again they have been generally poor. If it wasn't for the Thatcham members, I would have been doing that work party by myself. I used this experience to look at the bigger picture and contacted a member of ARK to get their point of view. Their response was what I expected, but not exactly great for the angling fraternity. They said all their volunteers for the work on the rivers were non anglers, and that it was a waste of time expecting anglers to ever contribute to the upkeep of the water courses they readily use. I have to say that I am in full agreement with the statement and am becoming increasingly embarrassed to be associated with the majority of anglers in this country.

That aside, all I really have to report this month is that I have asked Thompson's to cut the field at Snargate as soon as they can. Also, that the EA have stocked 5000 Grayling fry into the Upper Benyons fishery on the Kennet, and have stocked many more between Padworth Weir and the Wasing Estate.

#### August

As the committee are probably aware, the recent record-breaking temperatures resulted in the worst possible scenario for the Stew Pond. I was contacted by a Calpac member to say that he was currently at the Stew Pond, and there were dead Carp visible and others gasping for air. I immediately contacted Alf, because I had just had an operation on my knee, so could not drive. The outcome of the incident at the Stew Pond, was for me the most distressing thing that has happened in my tenure as Fisheries Officer.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Alf and Ryan for all the work they put in over the following days. This involved the removal of many dead fish, which cannot be nice for anyone. He also galvanized the use of the Rangers and the EA, to help with the clean-up.

Having had time to reflect on the reasons which probably caused this incident, I decided to contact Epsom Council to highlight the factors involved which lead to this devastating incident. I had been waiting for this day to come when a report of fish deaths were linked to a crash in the dissolved oxygen levels in the Stew Pond. This has been on the cards ever since the council decided not to follow up with the Heritage Lottery Funding, I had initially applied for but was told by HLC that the bid needed to come from the Council, because they are the owners of Epsom Common. I alluded to all of this in my email to the council, yet, I have

not received a formal reply, just two emails, one confirming receipt and one confirming that it has been given a case number.

What happened next, I found to be nearly as distressing as the original incident. I received a text from Alf to say that Stewart Cocker had said that we can start restocking the lake, once everything was back to normal. Here lies a man, whom we are to believe is both intelligent and has a great understanding of the needs of wildlife. Yet he is willing to sentence more to the prospect of certain death. Because if anyone in this room can show me any evidence that this country, along with the rest of the world isn't warming up, this incident will continue to occur until the silt has been removed from the Stew Pond, and much deeper areas have been created.

I am hoping that Calpac take the initiative in the future of the Stew Pond and use this opportunity to force the council to take responsibility for their property. We can start this ball rolling by indicating to Stewart Cocker that before we introduce any more fish, we will ask the EA to carry out a survey on the pond to assess a safe stocking level in its current state. The science is very simple to understand, the fewer organisms competing for oxygen, the greater chance of survival. This is why most commercial fisheries have aeration systematically running on their waters, to compensate the high stock levels.

We must use the experience above to ensure that we don't over stock Manor Pond in the future. The last thing I want is a repeat of the Stew Pond incident, happening there too!

I received an email recently from Martin Kent of ARK, to say he was leaving the organisation. He has given me the future contact details of the people I may need to speak to regarding the project on the Southern Channel of the River Kennet. He also gave both me and Aquamaintain instructions of how we need to proceed without him. I have subsequently spoken to Aquamaintain to discuss the proposed starting date for the works and the EA's wish to meet them there, so they can begin their part of the project works the following week. This should ensure that all works are completed by the end of September. I will of course be pushing for more fish to be stocked during the coming winter.

I am sorry that you have had to sit through my long report, but there was a lot I needed to say. I also wanted it all on record, because I do not want to be known as the Fisheries Officer who only cared about people catching fish, and not the welfare of the fish and the environment in which they live.

### **Competition Secretary - July and August 2019**

Stewards Shield Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> July at Manor Pond

Match Report - The Hardy cup was fished at Manor Pond and was won by an Associate member with 5lb 10oz

### **Membership Secretary Reports - None**

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### **Items Discussed in Other Business**

- Dean Hawkins has been in touch with the Thatcham club and they have said "the reason they have not paid the rental is because they have not received an invoice" John said he would get another one sent
- Dean Hawkins also received an abusive phone call regarding Stew Pond from supposedly a member. It was decided if we could determine who the member was, he would have to appear before the committee to his explain his actions.

Meeting closed at 8.47pm by Alphonsus Duffy and minutes by John Bygrave

### **Next Meeting 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2019 at 8pm**

**Venue: The Thomas Wall Centre, 52 Benhill Avenue, Sutton, Surrey. SM1 4DP**

**Please make a note of the Monthly Meeting Dates for 2019**

**Monday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2019**

**Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2019**

**Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2019**