



# Cinder Hill Fly Fishing

## Chairman's Report AGM 2022

### Summary of 2021 Season

Last season saw us returning pretty much back to normal after the previous years lockdown. Unlike 2020, last season did not see the very prolonged periods of high temperature. As a result, fishing was quite good all through the summer and we didn't have to deploy the aerator. There were only two weeks where the water temperatures were too high to stock. The water quality was checked regularly at both sites before any stocking to ensure conditions were acceptable. The checks carried out were temperature and the percentage of dissolved oxygen. Throughout the season Mark Orchin did some analysis of the catch returns collated by Alan Bearchell to try and determine any trends and build up a picture of how well each venue fished. Catch rates versus stocking at both sites were very good, being 73% at Piplye and 77% at Cinder Hill. However, catches were non-existent in the middle and bottom lakes at Piplye during September and October despite being stocked but both recovered in November. This could have been due to predation by cormorants and mink.

In September, there was a fish fatality event at Cinder Hill top lake where at least 18 fish died in one day which coincided with the work by Highways Agency to cut down the large overhanging tree at the splash. Water quality checks were found to be normal and there were no unusual fatalities in the middle or bottom lake.

### Stocking

The stocking last season was planned on providing a reasonable head of fish in each lake and replenishing them as they were caught and I believe this was generally successful. Further details and analysis of last season will be discussed further under a separate agenda item. To provide some more variety to our members, we plan to stock more Brown Trout, Blues and some larger Rainbows. We have also applied for an amendment to our Environment Agency site permits to include the stocking of Spartics and Tigers.

### Membership and Recruitment

Last season saw us reach our membership limit of 120 members in the Autumn. This was partly due to the unfortunate closure of Arlington Reservoir leaving fishermen looking for alternative venues. Successful Taster Days and promotion at the Ardingly shows also contributed to our numbers swelling and it was necessary to start a waiting list. This season has seen a strong return of members, but some have not renewed for various reasons and their places have been given to those on the waiting list. At the time of writing the membership was at 110.

### Fishery maintenance

A total of nine work parties were held last season and I would like to thank all those members that helped out. Most of the work parties were at Piplye, digging drainage ditches, clearing bankside vegetation and cutting/raking weed from the lakes. Last season we invested in a weed razor which has proved very efficient at cutting the broad leaf pond weed in the top lake at Piplye. However, neither cutting or raking will prevent the spread of this weed as it spreads through rhizomes in the mud. The Curly Waterweed was very prolific in both the top and middle lakes at Piplye and didn't die off even at the end of the season. The only way of removing the weed is to dredge the lake and this is something the committee are monitoring.

## **Shows**

We attended both the Summer Show at Ardingly and the Autumn Game Fair. Due to Covid restrictions we had to limit the number of members in the marquee to a minimum. Both shows were well attended even though numbers of visitors were restricted by the show organisers. At the summer show we only provided demonstrations of fly casting as Covid restrictions prevented us from giving tuition or allowing people to Have a Go. Despite this, we had a good number of people through our stand. At the Autumn show the Covid restrictions were lifted allowing us to provide a full programme of demonstrations, tuition and Have a Go. Even though the weather on the Saturday was atrocious, juniors still came forward to Have a Go. Overall a good number of people visited our stand and a number of new members were recruited. In order to promote fly fishing to the younger visitors, in future we will not be charging the under 16s to Have a Go.

## **Macmillan Day**

In June we held a charity day for Macmillan Cancer Support at Cinder Hill lakes. Each member attending paid £20.00 for the day which included a barbeque lunch. In total there were 15 members and guests at the event plus four volunteers from Macmillan. I would like to thank Laurie Storer for sponsoring the event, Jim Awcock for providing the meat for the BBQ and the many members that donated prizes for the raffle and bought raffle tickets. This was the first fund raising event for the local Macmillan charity since the outbreak of Covid in March 2020 and they were extremely grateful for the £750 raised on the day. The next Charity day is planned for the 15th May.

***Kevin Reeves Chairman***

***21/03/2022***