

Cinder Hill



Fly Fishing

Summer newsletter 2023

At the time of writing, it looks like we have had our hot summer during June and the weather looks unsettled for the foreseeable future, however the hot weather we experienced in June and lack of rain very quickly changed our water conditions along with most trout fisheries in the southeast. So far, we have not experienced the searing heat that southern Europe has suffered, and our fishing is still very much 'on'. As we emailed out recently there are plenty of fish at both sites, but it has been difficult to work to our annual stocking plan whilst water temperatures and dissolved oxygen levels are lower than we would like to see. Hopefully this week we should be able to introduce some new rainbows into the lakes and get back on track as we head into August. We are working on a weekly basis with our stockist (Duncton Mill) to get the best outcome in difficult conditions.

Up to this point we have had a fantastic season albeit often having to navigate around the continuous rain March through to May. Our new sparcitic trout have been very popular but these will only be stocked when water temperatures are very low, so if you have been lucky enough to hook one, you'll know of their fighting qualities! It has been good to see all the lakes fished and although Cinder Hill is often busier, Piplye has also been well attended by members and is thus usually much quieter.



In early June we held our 6th annual Macmillan charity day at Cinder Hill and this year with very generous donations from two of our members we raised over **£1,600** bringing our total to just over **£4,800** since we started in 2017. We recently received a very humbling letter from the regional fundraising team to say that our efforts will be providing care to 30 new cancer patients.

Special thanks go once again to Val and Mandy who ran the catering so very efficiently at the charity day, and to our meat sponsor member Jim Awcock for filling us up at lunchtime with first class burgers and sausages from Perrett's at Ditchling Common. In advance of the day, we stocked plenty of bigger fish (some up to 7lb) including 4 large browns (up to 6lb) many of which have so far evaded capture, and they are in all 3 lakes... Thanks must also go to member Laurie Storer who has instigated and sponsored the Macmillan event since the very first day in 2017.

In June we attended the annual South of England Show and a big thank you is due to everyone who assisted with the set-up, manning and breakdown of our stand. There is always a great atmosphere on our stand, and we got to meet and discuss our sport with members of the public and potential new members. This year we were joined by both the Fly Dressers Guild and our friends and new exhibitor Brick Farm Lakes making a good representation in the countryside area for our sport. As usual our instructors led by Mark Brown and Kevin Reeves introduced many new adults and juniors to the art of fly casting and the weather for once was kind and gave us a dry 3 days.



Our membership is now full for the 2023 season.

Working parties will commence again soon so if you are able to come along and help it would be very much appreciated, as in the main all our maintenance is done by ourselves, and we can only keep up the standard we have if members pitch in. There are plans to rebuild the steps down to the pontoon at Macarthur's and ongoing discussions with our landlords about parking areas and tracks for 2024.



Special thanks to Tony Kaatze assisted by Kevin Reeves as they have refurbished two of our bridges in the last week or so. The lower bridge on Macarthur's and the top bridge at Grubbero have been repaired. They have both been top dressed with 18mm Garnica Duraply which is more waterproof than Marine Ply, it is also very heavy. In addition, they have both had Chicken Wire stapled down for anti-slip.

The summer fishing will now test us all as we approach August but a visit to the lakes is always an enjoyable experience, and the prospects look good for the autumn too. Those bigger rainbows and browns are going to come out at some point!

As we approach the autumn, we have the Ardingly Autumn Show to plan and attend and there will be a return of the popular annual syndicate lunch. Details of the lunch will be circulated in due course but will most likely be in October again on a Sunday lunchtime.

In the meantime, enjoy the summer and tight lines whenever you can!



Cinder Hill Fly Fishing Committee – July 2023