

The Cinder Hill Trouting Syndicate

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Cinder Hill



NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2019

Dear Syndicate Member,

The 2018 Season:

Fishing: The 2018 Season started extremely well with good numbers of fish being caught every month. This happy state of affairs continued until the later part of June when the weather started to become warmer, which inevitably caused the water temperatures in all of the lakes to rise and we are all well aware of the remarkable summer we experienced this year which seemed never-ending. This situation was compounded by the negligible rainfall and it was not long before catches declined. The occasional fish was caught but because of the high water temperatures and absence of any water flow through the lakes, to avoid stress to the fish, it was decided not to stock again until water conditions improved. Once it had cooled off and conditions got better, catches did get better, but the low autumn rainfall meant that fishing remained challenging.

Maintenance: Further work has been carried out by skilled volunteer members to improve the huts at Cinder Hill and Piplye, but, again this year, we have had the usual battle trying to keep on top of all of the maintenance that is required at the lakes. Similar to last year we started the season with good numbers of volunteers turning up to the first work parties, but this soon fell off and it became a battle for the remaining few stalwarts to keep weed and marginal vegetation under control. Once again, we all owe a great debt of gratitude to those few members who turned out regularly to keep the lakes fishable for the rest of us. There is an endless list of things that could be done to improve the lakes but, with the level of help we usually receive, we are only able to scratch the surface.



A party of 11 members who had attended the work parties through the year enjoyed a fantastic day out at Brick Farm Lakes at the beginning of December, which included a hearty mid-morning breakfast in the lodge. Organised again by Mike Richardson, plenty of hard fighting rainbows were landed by all present.

Lease Negotiation: 2018 was the final year of our current lease on the lakes at Cinder Hill and Piplye and as we mentioned at the last AGM, membership numbers over recent years and hence income, had fallen slightly. The Committee therefore had to carefully consider our options as we approached the negotiations for a new lease with our Landlords. Of the options available, we decided to go for the most difficult and with the assistance of a very professional presentation put together by two of the Committee members, we have been able to retain all of the lakes and secure a significant reduction in our annual rental for the next 5 years – well done to Mark & Geoff. After the decline in membership of earlier years, 2018 saw a welcome increase in our numbers and as we move into 2019, with a stable and hopefully growing membership, the Syndicate's finances are beginning to look much more encouraging.

GDPR: The introduction of the new General Data Protection Regulations in May 2018, provided us with a good deal of work at the beginning of the year in preparing for this new legislation. Documents had to be drafted and the membership database checked for accuracy before the required notices were sent out to members. Please help us to maintain the information we hold by letting us know promptly of any changes to your contact details.

Poaching: During the 2018 season we did discover some evidence of poaching at our lakes. We rely on members feeding back to us anything untoward that they see at the lakes, but on no account should you endanger yourself by confronting anyone considered suspicious, but if it is possible to safely take some photographs, especially of any vehicle registration, they would prove extremely valuable.

Recruitment: We have been exploring various options to encourage membership and our attendance at the South of England Show and the Autumn Show & Game Fair helps. We introduced the £10 taster session at the shows last year and this has proved popular, resulting in the recruitment of a number of new members and we are planning to attend these shows again in 2019. The taster sessions are now available at anytime during the season by completing an application form downloadable from our website and all of this hard work has resulted in an increase in membership numbers for the first time in several years. It is important now is that we maintain this momentum and if possible, build on it, a new initiative being a full one page feature scheduled to appear in the February 2019 edition of the 'Freshwater Informer' magazine, with 3 months of advertisements following this publicity.

Annual Dinner: Thanks to the hard work of our Secretary/Organiser, Mark Orchin, the annual dinner is now a major fixture in our year, and it was again held at the Cock Inn at Wivelsfield Green on the 15th of June. Attended by some 30 members and guests, it was a great success, the food and company were excellent and again Mark and Val. produced an absorbing table quiz which added to the fun of the evening, everyone reporting that it was a valuable opportunity to meet up with other Syndicate members in a relaxed social environment. We have again reserved the Cock Inn for this event on Saturday 15th June 2019, so keep an eye open for when reservations are being taken, places are limited so book early to avoid disappointment.

Charity Fishing Day in Aid of Macmillan Nurses

At Piplye on May the 20th, member Laurie Storer and Secretary Mark once again organised and ran a very successful Charity Fishing day in aid of Macmillan Nurses. Laurie also very kindly donated funds to enable an additional stocking of some considerably larger fish. A tasty barbecue was provided along with scrumptious cake, drinks and a raffle. Attended by some 13 members plus guests, the day raised £281 for this very worthy cause and a similar event will be arranged again in 2019, most likely again in May, we'll keep you posted.



Charity Day, Piplye, 20 May 2018



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Auction and Sponsorship: For the last few years Geoff Taylor has organised an online auction and thanks to the support of members, we have been able to raise some valuable funding for the Syndicate. Geoff has devoted many hours trying to enlist sponsorship from a variety of companies, all of whom donated valuable items for our auction. This year we had more lots than in previous years and it was the most successful to date, raising a magnificent £598. We hope to hold a similar event next year, so if anyone can suggest or contribute an item for the auction this would be enormously appreciated.

Syndicate Website & Facebook Page: Please keep up-to-date with things on the Syndicate Facebook page (<https://en-gb.facebook.com/pg/Cinder-Hill-Troutng-Syndicate>) and website (www.cinder-hill-trout.uk) and, if you have something to contribute, so much the better.

Annual Match, STC UK Sussex Branch and Cinder Hill v Sussex FDG: For many years now there has been a match between the Sussex branches of STC UK and the Fly Dressers Guild, contested by teams of 12 from each organization. Unfortunately, over the years, the Guild have proved victorious more often than the Branch, the latter last winning in 2014 and it would be nice if we could wrest the trophy back from the Guild in 2019. Although initially the team was drawn from STC UK members, since the separation of the Syndicate from the Branch, with many members now being Angling Trust members, the team will be selected from all the members of both the Branch and Syndicate.

The 2019 match is scheduled for Saturday the 13th April, again at Duncton Mill near Petworth in West Sussex and we will therefore be seeking volunteers for the team at some time in the new year prior to the event. Duncton is a superb 4 lake venue and the cost of the day will be £55 for a 4 fish ticket, to include a sit down lunch at mid day.

Arlington Fishery Membership: As in the past couple of years or so, the Sussex Branch of STC UK, as an additional benefit of membership, have again purchased two memberships at the Arlington Reservoir fishery for 2019, enabling members to enjoy a generous £10 discount off the normal day ticket prices. The reservoir fished exceptionally well last year and their 2019 season starts on the 27th January and finishes on the 29th June, with, from the 1st April, boats, with or without electric outboards, also available at reduced rates. Other than purchasing your fishing ticket and paying for boat hire if required, at the discounted rates, there is no additional cost to members.

There are certain procedures to follow when fishing, so if you wish to take advantage of this scheme, please contact Branch Secretary Mike Richardson, tel: 01435 812854, or email: sta.sussex@gmail.com to enroll. Please note that this arrangement is only available to STC UK Sussex Branch members, or Syndicate members who are also members of the Angling Trust, so if you are not already a member of either organization, now would be a good time to sign up, you would soon recover the cost of your subscription.

Shows: The Syndicate assisted by the Sussex Branch of Salmon & Trout Conservation UK, attended the South of England Show, the Connect with the Countryside schools day and the Autumn Show & Game Fair in 2018, all held at Ardingly showground. These shows are valuable as they provide additional funds for the Syndicate, the opportunity to meet other anglers and possibly recruit new members. We anticipate that we will again be at all three shows in 2019.

Courses: Last year our head instructor Alan Purnell moved to Yorkshire and while we have several Level 1 coaches in our ranks, we have been unable to find a Level 2 Coach to act as lead coach for our Adult and Junior Courses. Unfortunately this has meant that we have been unable to continue running these until a suitable replacement for Alan can be found. Luckily, we have been able to continue with instruction at the shows, courtesy of Phillip Ellis and Mark Brown. We are however, continuing our search for a regular Level 2 Coach so that we can hopefully reintroduce the courses soon.

Annual General Meeting: This years AGM will be held in the evening of Wednesday 20th February at the Village Hall, Chailey, East Sussex. The Agenda and the Minutes of the 2018 meeting are attached / enclosed. Please put the date of in your diary and try to come along. The venue is located just before the Five Bells Pub on the left hand side of the A275 road going north (just past the pub on the right if travelling south !) and there is more than adequate parking. Items for discussion and decision will once again include; catch and release and whether to change or maintain the catch limit per visit. Please put the date in your diary and come along and have your say in the running and future of the Syndicate.

Communication: It is important that we maintain effective communication with our members and we cannot afford to do this using the postal system. If you have access to internet facilities, please ensure that we have an up to date and correct Email address for you.

2019 Membership: Enclosed/attached is the Syndicate programme for 2019 and the two part form inviting members to join or renew their membership of the Cinder Hill Troutng Syndicate for the coming season and to volunteer their services at the various events we participate in through the year. Please complete as necessary and forward to Robert Nathan as soon as possible. As usual cheques should be made out to "Cinder Hill Troutng Syndicate". A BACS option is available upon request.

I do hope we shall see you at the Syndicate AGM in 2019

Best wishes and tight lines in 2019,

Rod Yuill

Chairman, Cinder Hill Troutng Syndicate