

Tingrith Spring Update

Welcome to the May report concerning the Tingrith complex. As usual there are both good and not so good items that hopefully are of interest to you all. Firstly once again I must thank Paul, Fergal and Gavin the bailiffs for their assistance. Undertaking the duties of a bailiff is a difficult task, it not only involves checking membership books but also involves antisocial hours, walking around the lakes in complete darkness looking for possible poachers and getting generally dirty carrying out remedial work. Bailiffs have considerable knowledge of the waters they look after, their efforts are totally voluntary and are only too pleased to provide help or advice. Please ask, we are after all club members like you.

I must also thank the members of the work parties for giving up their Thursday evenings during April and May. Age is no barrier to helping YOUR club, we have an age range from teenagers to 70 plus coming along to help, there is always something to be done and it also an opportunity to meet new people and exchange ideas.

Thanks also to Tex Marshall and Alan Hobbs for their input, between them they undertake a lot of the hard nitty gritty work all year round to keep Tingrith in a good state of repair. Similarly, Alan and Nick Feazey warrant recognition for their behind the scenes work, unasked they help out with some of the more unpleasant tasks found at many fisheries.

Anyway onto the lakes, please humour me if I wander off the subject matter.

The Mere.

Many of the platforms on the electric fence side of the lake are new complete with non-slip mesh, should any member see loose mesh, it does become detached over time, please tell one of the bailiffs. Some of these platforms we intend to extend sideways for the use of two anglers, i.e. parent and youngster. This work we intend to carry out soon once we have the right materials. Please note that access at the barns end of The Mere is not allowed, this is clear in the membership books and a purpose made sign is now showing at the end platform.

We are shortly commencing remedial work on the far side of The Mere in order to prevent undercutting by wave action and we will take this opportunity to reposition and enlarge some of the slabbed fishing platforms.

Since the theft of our, and I repeat OUR Honda mower we are currently reliant on a ride on version. This is fine for large grassed areas but for obvious safety reasons cannot be used on the slopes near The Mere. We have a replacement arriving shortly and then we can tackle the slopes.

During the late winter, fishing on The Mere could be quite challenging at times, yet sometimes it was a fish a cast. We have continued to remove hundreds of small silver fish and relocate them within the complex.

Now that temperatures are at last on the rise, the fish are very much on the feed. Roach pushing two pounds, rudd to over a pound, proper crucian carp at about two pounds, good common and mirror carp and a a ghost carp of a confirmed 19 pounds landed. some nice

gudgeon and skimmers have also made a welcoming appearance. All in all, The Mere is fishing well, popular and successful baits include banded hard pellets, casters, luncheon meat cubes and especially sweet corn. Suggest you avoid maggots otherwise there will be an invasion of small fish. No matter what hook bait, use plenty of ground bait to encourage the fish to get their heads down and stay, there are plenty of varieties on the market and of course you can make them go further by adding sieved earth or breadcrumb. Similarly another essential is plumbing the depth of your swim, this is vital if you want to fish on or near the bottom.

The Manor Lake.

At the time of writing Manor Lake is closed for fishing. When it reopens in June you will see many replaced and altered platforms. We are endeavouring to keep on top of the grass cutting but some tricky areas must wait until the replacement mower arrives.

The club no longer has use of the old car park or access to the lake along the footpath from the southern end. The path there is NOT a public right of way and must not be used by club members. We now have only one entry point to our lakes using the Home Farm entrance under the motorway, please make sure you scramble the combination lock after use. Continue to park in the car park and follow the path next to the Portaloo down to the lake. With just the one access point the whole complex is more secure.

The last few weeks has seen considerable spawning activity and some large carp feeding near platforms 13. On a personal note, my largest fish from the lake last year was 15 pounds, but a common of 19 pounds came out a few weeks later. Roach to over two pounds were netted right up to the start of the close season, perch sadly, tend on most reports and on my own experience to be on the small side and that's being generous! Several anglers reported capturing tench and crucian carp and this is good news as crucians have not been seen for a while in Manor Lake.

Woodlands Lake

We have recently replaced the planking on the bridge and shortly start on covering the paths with wood chip. Work on the scrub is effectively complete and grass cutting will continue when necessary and repairs or modifications to platforms undertaken with hopefully minimal inconvenience to anglers. As a club we have "a to do" list, this has safety issues at the top and other tasks in descending order. The removal of the dead and overhanging trees on the far side of the lake is now well up the list, this is a task likely to take at least a day so the lake will of necessity close during that time. The club will post notices about closure well in advance of the date.

You will shortly notice two signs, one at each end of the lake indicating no access beyond this point. The adjoining land is not owned by us and there is no right to roam over our neighbours property.

One benefit of the scrub removal was that because of the increase in air circulation, the lake hardly froze during the winter, similarly the increase in oxygen levels can only be good for the fish.

Currently the lake is fishing brilliantly, large numbers of carp of all species, big tench and bream are landed most days. Popular hook baits include sweet corn, luncheon meat,

pellets and large bunches of maggots. Do keep putting in the ground bait! In case there is any doubt, braided hook lengths are not permitted, maximum hook size is 10 either barbless or micro barbed - definitely NOT fully barbed.

Conclusion.

You will notice throughout the venue the removal of many of the information signs, they have served their purpose well but time moves on. We have had of necessity to erect a few new signs but have tried hard to keep them to a minimum, they are self explanatory. Following several near misses there is now a mandatory 10 mph speed limit on the track, as at mid May the speed limit signs are going up and are obvious, excuses for contravening the limit are unacceptable.

We have also positioned for additional security CCTV cameras with an infrared capability at various locations on site with more to follow. We understand that the tarmac road outside of venue is now also monitored following illegal fly tipping on the approach to Home Farm.

Undoubtedly you will have noticed the increase in the number of female anglers and young children fishing at Tingrith, some of this is obviously because of the Portaloo. Gentlemen, please be careful with your language and if you need a "convenience break" please be discreet, don't forget the CCTV cameras! One final whinge, TAKE YOUR LITTER HOME.

Tingrith is a great place to spend a day, not only can the fishing be excellent but the wild life is outstanding. Among the fauna recently seen are buzzards, red kites, black squirrels, foxes, badgers, roe deer, muntjac, hobbies, kestrels and owls of many species. Come along and join us, it is about the friendliest fishery I know.

See you soon and keep the ground bait going in!

Alan