



WASPSNEWS

Little Mountains 2014 Newsletter

www.w-a-s-p-s.com

BOAT BUILDING....

Rumour has it that a lot of sawing and banging has been heard, and that the recent processions of animals going along two by two has alarmed some of the nearby residents. Another report stated that a man known as Noah was on a mission....

On a serious note I think it is fair to say that we have had a lot of rain this winter, subsequently the ground is thoroughly waterlogged. Fortunately it has been extraordinarily mild and we have not had the reservoirs being frozen this winter, at least the summer wasn't bad either allowing us to enjoy some warm dry fishing weather.

Last years March work party was cancelled due to bad weather but when the weather improved later on we had a rescheduled work party and managed to rebuild all the swims around the back reservoir fitting the fronts with sleepers, levelling the swims, cutting in paving slabs and dressing with bark chips, once again we were blessed with tea and cakes etc..

Some while later a nearby resident was having some tree surgery work done and the contractor offered some bark chippings, imagine my surprise, pleasure and dismay when I discovered a massive pile of tons and tons of woodchip had been piled up at the back reservoir, fortunately a handful of us got together and managed to move it down into the area down by the bridge so that it didn't annoy the farmer and get in the way. We have used a bit of it on the swims etc but there is enough to last us several years.

Last year we were very generously given a ride on lawn mower for the reservoir, however this did present a problem of where to keep it, fortunately I managed to pick up a larger shed on ebay (requiring a bit of repair/modification) however as it was larger we had to dig our several tons of soil and clay to be able to fit it in the area that was used for our original tool shed. Several members got together and one Sunday we dug out the site, dismantled the old shed and replaced it with the new 11 foot long shed. I will never forget Paul Lawrence's face when we lifted the floor panel for the old shed to be confronted by a very large snake slithering away in surprise although nowhere near as surprised or frightened as Paul!

A new fire pit was created with the clay/soil from the shed area with bund walls on either side, the bund wall also acts as a wind break for the "The Shed Swim"

During the summer we rebuilt three of the swims 20, 21 & 23 on the back reservoir as they were being overrun with reeds, I therefore extended the swims out into the reservoir with sleepers so that the front of the swim is level with the reeds, this has two benefits, (a) they are now no longer overgrown and (b) they are also sheltered by the surrounding reeds, consequently they have been popular with the members that have used them. I plan to rebuild swim 33 to the same design on the March work party.

Our final work effort of the year was to cut back the tree on the dam wall of the front lake after one of the bigger branches split and laid in the water. We also had a major trim back of all the trees from swim 25 to 29 where all the branches and roots that were in the water have now been removed, the branches still overhang the water but no longer hang into the reservoir. All those fish that used to head for the snags are now wondering where their sanctuary has gone but at least they no longer risk getting snagged on line in the roots.

THE LANDLORD

Our landlords have been very good to us in allowing us to fish their reservoirs and allowing us the freedom to improve the site to suit the members, consequently their welfare and happiness is my prime concern. Under no circumstances do I wish to upset them, so if for example they come down and start up the pump to irrigate their crops it is not acceptable for them to hear any criticism in doing so. At the end of the day they are primarily farm irrigation reservoirs for farm use.

EYES & EARS

I would ask all members to be vigilant on behalf of the landlords, last year they replaced the fence behind the top reservoir (along the wood to keep out rabbits etc), this fence has been deliberately cut (without consent) so that walkers and their dogs can get through, if you see any unauthorised activity please contact me.

THE CABIN/DEN

Last year the cabin was erected for the beginning of the season, since then it has been painted inside, the floor has been lined and vinyl laid. It is furnished with two garden chairs and a variety of stools and cushions, I have also installed solar powered lighting, a notice board and some shelves with a selection of fishing magazines etc.

The cabin is for use by the members where they can go and make a cup of tea etc and maybe have a chat if they want to get out of the weather. It can also be used if members want to stay overnight and not put up a bivvy, allowing members to fish till late, get a good nights kip (in the dry) and start again at first light.

All I ask is that if you use it please use the mop & brushes inside to keep it clean.

FIRST AID KIT

We have been donated a FIRST AID KIT which is located on the top shelf in the cabin, if anyone needs to use it I would appreciate if they could replace any items used so that they are available for other members.

SQUATTERS

Honking Squatters have moved onto the front reservoir, three of them arrived in December have been there ever since. They can be a bit noisy but they do make good guard dogs.



BIRD FEEDING

This winter I have embarked on a bird feeding campaign and have fitted fat ball and peanut feeders to the cabin. The activity is like a scene from Alfred Hitchcock's film where birds are thronging to the feeders.



If you sit quietly inside the cabin you will be entertained by continual visits of different birds. I stood in there the other day and was amazed to see a woodpecker arrive on the peanut feeder, trying to get my camera out without frightening him off was a slow process. Not the best of pictures but it was a phone camera..



If anyone else wants to add bird feeders and food around the reservoirs please feel free to do so.

NEST BOXES

As part of a conservation effort I made and fitted numerous nest boxes around the reservoirs and if anyone would like to make or donate a nest box there are several suitable sites.

I don't know if any of the boxes were used for nesting last season but several show signs of activity where the entrance holes have marking from their claws.

POOR ROBIN

John found a dead robin hanging in a tree with a hook and line stuck in its beak, if you get your line stuck in a tree and cannot remove it please let us know so that we can deal with it and prevent things like this from happening again.

PLANTS WANTED

Several members have previously donated young trees, shrubs, reeds and water lilies which were planted in or around the reservoirs. If any member has any surplus plants, lilies, reeds or water iris suitable for the reservoirs, or knows somebody who has some they want to get rid of please let me know.

LIABILITY

To reduce our liability risks ALL members are required to sign the Membership Agreement, a copy of which is attached to this newsletter

SHINGLE WANTED

If anyone has any unwanted shingle, gravel, small stones or crushed hardcore they don't want (even if it is just a bucket full) feel free to take it down the reservoir where we can spread it on the car parking area to toughen the parking surface or fill in ruts.

BARKING

If you find that your swim etc is muddy or slippery please feel free to use some of the bark chips in the big heap by the bridge, there are some plastic buckets there for you to use to take it to your swim, although please return the buckets before you leave.

WORK PARTY

I have one work party planned this year for Sunday 30th March (9am til 1pm) with the main emphasis on:

- cutting back the trees where the branches hang into the water on the front reservoir, I want to keep the branches overhanging the water where possible but to remove the parts that hang down into the water.
- I would also like to clear a lot of the old overgrown vegetation at the back of the front reservoir in an effort to allow it to grow back again fresh with all the old dead brush removed.
- Rebuilding swim 33 using sleepers to take it out level with the reeds (like the other swims that were rebuilt last autumn).
- If it is dry enough possibly a good old fire.

You never know, we may be blessed with hot drinks and treats again....

FAMILY MEMBERS AND GUESTS

ALL family members and guests must be authorised to be on site either by a guest ticket or a family membership, under no circumstances are non members allowed to fish without a valid permit. Guest permits are £5 per day (per guest), Family Membership covers you, your partner, child or grandchild although only a maximum of TWO persons fishing at any one time.

FISH STOCKS

Following the removal of some of the carp in the front reservoir and replacing them with tench has seen a lot of big tench being caught, with some of them over 6lb. The reduction of carp has encouraged the bream to increase in size and it is now common to catch a good bag of bream interspersed with a variety of other species, including some good sized crucians and roach.

In order to continue this evolution any carp caught over 10lb should be moved to the top reservoir.

The Carp in the top reservoir are now the predominant species with some approaching 20lb, backed up with some very nice rudd, roach, perch and the occasional tench.

I have been in contact with the fish farm and if some decent roach and crucians become available I will look to stock some in the front reservoir.

POLES

There have been several occasions where anglers using poles have had their pole dragged into the reservoir by fish, invariably when the angler is not paying attention or has turned away from the pole. Not only is this expensive for the angler but is also extremely dangerous to the fish being tethered to a pole. Consequently all anglers using a pole must keep their hand on the pole at ALL times. Under no circumstances are poles to be put into rod rests, nor should anglers turn their backs on the pole. If you need to carry out any other task bring the line in before doing so..

When using a Pole/Whip anglers are restricted to ONE pole and are not permitted to use any other fishing rod at the same time.

BEWARE, the carp in the top reservoir are getting bigger and may be too big for your pole to handle, if in doubt please use a rod and reel.

W-A-S-P-S CLOTHING

We have a selection of polo shirts (£18) and hoodies (£30) made up bearing the club logo. Other garments such as sweat shirts or fleeces can also be ordered. The fleeces now come in a darker shade available for this season. Please come and see them at the shop.

MEMBERSHIP & FEES

There will be a minimal increase of £1 to the fees. As I have to pay the lease in April the fees are conditional on the renewal date. I don't want to borrow money to pay the lease as it can be expensive therefore in order to encourage members to renew by 1st April it will be subject to the following incentive.

- For members renewing before the end of March will get a early payment discount and the fees will be £46 and £69 for family tickets.
- Anyone joining after the 1st April will pay the higher rate of £50 and £75 for family tickets.
- All new members will pay the full price.

Membership places are limited and renewal is available at the shop now, your current membership expires on 31st March after which it may be offered to the next person on the waiting list .

EMAIL AND NEWSLETTERS

To reduce costs of postage and printing etc all future newsletters will be sent by email, downloaded from the website in pdf format from the Little Mountains page of the website. www.w-a-s-p-s.com/mountains.htm or pinned to the NOTICE BOARD in the cabin at the reservoir..

Therefore could any member who uses the internet please update me with your email address and name to:

kim@w-a-s-p-s.com

WEBSITE & FACEBOOK

We have a website www.w-a-s-p-s.com where members can exchange info, report lost or found, for sale & wanted, display pictures and keep up to date with any changes or important information. For those of you who use Facebook I have created a page "W-A-S-P-S Little Mountains" www.facebook.com/pages/W-A-S-P-S-Little-Mountains/111292812339247 where members can upload their own pictures and stories. There is also a direct link to facebook from the w-a-s-p-s website : www.w-a-s-p-s.com/mountains.htm

RESERVOIR MAP

I have now updated the Reservoir Map showing swim names and parking locations. This has been posted on the Notice Board and can be viewed or downloaded from the website www.w-a-s-p-s.com/pdf/mountains_map.pdf either follow the link or go to the Little Mountains page on the website and download the map. A copy of this map is attached to the end of the newsletter.

ACCESS & PARKING

I have implemented a one way system so that access to the back reservoir is via the far entrance slope and exit via the slope between the two reservoirs (**STRICTLY ONE WAY, MEMBERS MUST NOT DRIVE UP THE EXIT SLOPE OR DOWN THE ENTRANCE SLOPE**).

We have several lay-by style parking places at the rear of the front reservoir to allow members to park in their swim, however anyone using these parking places is to ensure that their vehicles are tucked right in to allow other cars to drive past.

PARKING IS NOT PERMITTED ON THE ACCESS TRACK AROUND THE REAR RESERVOIR EXCEPT IN THE DESIGNATED PARKING AREAS.

5mph SPEED LIMIT

For safety and to prevent track erosion please can members not exceed **5mph** when driving at the venue.

COMMON SENSE RULE

If the "Road Closed" sign is up or in wet weather please to not drive past the sign or around to the back reservoir. **Anyone ignoring the sign will have their membership terminated immediately.**

OUT OF HOURS

I have been made aware by the residents that some people are driving to/from the reservoir outside of the time limits.

6am til 10pm May-September

Dawn Til Dusk October-April

Offender will face automatic expulsion from the club for breaking this rule as it is a term of our agreement.

PLEASE KEEP OF THE GRASS

The access track leading to the reservoir has been significantly repaired over the last few years, so in an effort to protect the access can all members please keep to the track. and not drive on the grass. **Despite numerous requests we still unfortunately have somebody who regularly drives "off road" as I often see where they have driven on the grass on the track leading to the reservoirs, hopefully I will catch them one day and we will have one less member.**

KEEP ON THE HARD STUFF

When the ground is wet please try and park on the harder areas and avoid creating ruts, if you do make a rut please can you fill it with the bricks etc.

LOST N FOUND

If you lose or find anything please contact me or put a note on the Notice Board in the cabin.

A BIG THANKYOU

A big thankyou to everyone who has made efforts, contributions, donations etc this season there have been so many that I will not try to name everyone for fear of forgetting somebody and causing offence. I really appreciate the help and efforts particularly after my spell in hospital when I was unable to do much work myself.

I am sure you will all join me in thanks to John Brench (our bailiff) who once again has worked tirelessly throughout the year to keep our little venue special. The list of his efforts has been virtually endless and he regularly spends several days a week doing or getting things for the club.

We would be lost without him

FINALLY

I hope you all enjoyed fishing at our friendly little club this this season and I hope that you have a successful forthcoming season and enjoy your fishing. I look forward to seeing you in the shop or at the reservoirs.

Tight Lines



Little Mountains Reservoirs Map



KEY: Yellow Dots = Swims Red Dots = Parking Places Blue Arrows = One Way

Bottom Reservoir Swims

- | | |
|---------------|-----------------|
| 1. Grotto | 9. Ritchie I |
| 2. Drain Pipe | 10. Harold's |
| 3. The Owl | 11. Lifebuoy |
| 4. The Deep | 12. Oak Tree |
| 5. Pear Tree | 13. Apple Tree |
| 6. Shed Swim | 14. Jack Horner |
| 7. Bench Swim | |
| 8. Ritchie II | |

Top Reservoir Swims

- | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------|
| 16. First Swim | 25. Hole in the Corner |
| 17. Top Lifebuoy | 26. Gap in the Trees |
| 18. Silver Birch | 27. The Stump |
| 19. The Pinch | 28. Middle Lifebuoy |
| 20. Bullrushes | 29. The Overflow Pipe |
| 21. Little Oak | 30. Next to the Reeds |
| 22. The Jetty | 31. First On the Dam |
| 23. Comfy Swim | 32. Middle if the Dam |
| 24. Top Reservoir Bench | 33. Top Left Corner |

W-A-S-P-S Fishing Club Membership Agreement

I hereby agree that by being a member of W-A-S-P-S Fishing club I will abide by ALL the rules of the club and that failure to do so will render me liable to expulsion from the club without any form of compensation or refund.

I acknowledge that I am fully aware of the risks associated with fishing and that by taking part I accept responsibility for my own actions.

No responsibility is accepted by W-A-S-P-S Fishing Club or the landowners for loss or damage to persons or property.

Volenti non fit injuria

In the law of negligence, the precept that denotes that a person who knows and comprehends the peril and voluntarily exposes himself or herself to it, although not negligent in doing so, is regarded as engaging in an assumption of the risk and is precluded from a recovery for an injury ensuing therefrom.

By signing this document I agree to the above terms.

Signed

Name

Date / /

Membership #