



# CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

## YEAR ENDING 2017/18

Thank you for re-joining in 2018/19 – it's a pleasure to see you continuing to enjoy your Club and, on behalf of your Committee, I extend a warm Welcome to all new Members.

To try to combat the difficult fishing conditions we experienced in the last Season, I tried to keep you up to date and offer advice through our Periodic Updates. These are published to give you support and ideas. Apparently even experienced Anglers have picked up a tip or two! The information is there to try to help you. It's important that the Committee and I give you all the information you need to encourage you and to help you enjoy your Sport. We like to think you are well informed, but we're always open to suggestions. If we don't meet your expectations, please let us know. We don't have a monopoly on ideas – it's your club after all. Feel free to tell us how you would like to see our Club in the future.

To try to keep up with technology, all our forms can be completed electronically now. This should make things easier for you and, from our point of view, data collection, collation and storage is instant, accurate and secure. We'll always offer a paper alternative though.

Paul Squirrell, one of our younger Committee Members, is keen to move us into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century with Social Networking. He is in the process of setting us up on Twitter. This is to reach out to a wider audience to attract more potential members. (Not so that everyone can slag us off – apparently??) Paul is also ready to be elected as Club Treasurer. Barrie, very sadly, is standing down and, on your behalf, I sincerely thank him for all his hard work in steering us safely through Accountant Sea.

Financially, we're very sound. This means we need not fear the perils of the Lease Renewal this coming October. We'll be in a position to produce a softer budgeted and gently phase in any major increases, should they occur. Well done to Barrie and your Committee. Good Luck to you Paul too!

We have recently started a relationship with Fish Fishing to give you great value on good quality equipment and flies. We have been given a couple of rods as demos for you to try. They both come out at under £30. They are putting together a "Loompit" collection of Flies for us – tailored for our water – a great start for novices and a more targeted range for selection for everyone. More on this later.

We recently joined forces with The Suffolk Police Angling Society to give a Taster Day. It was a great success – Thanks to Dave Dyble for the idea and organisation. Very interestingly, it was the younger participants that showed the most enthusiasm and are keenest to learn more and they'll probably join us. This made us think!! Douglas from Fish Fishing is keen on bringing "Younger Blood" into fly fishing too. He will help us along the way in our quest to recruit more youngsters into the Club. Our age demographic is still on an upward trend. This does not mean we'll lose our traditional values or that we won't respect the principles that made the Club what it is today. It's the very opposite. We need a good balance to keep the Club healthy. There's nothing to fear, it's really quite exciting. We've all got something to offer and share with like-minded fly fishers of all ages.

I think we have a great future ahead of us. We have strong foundations and a Committee with a wide variety of ideas. We only spent 4 hours in Meetings for the whole of the year. All our time is dynamically spent on research, consolidation, coordination and action. Thank You all on Committee.

We'll be holding a "**50 years as Tenants**" celebration for you, in late Summer/Early Autumn – watch this space!! Martyn, Paul S and Kevin have taken this on – Thank you Gents!

Join me in taking pride in our Club and enjoying our Sport. Hope to see you at the AGM to be held in the Lodge at 10:00 am on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> July 2018 (**Your Club – Your Say**)

Tight Lines

June 2018

