



Mid Northants Trout Fishers'
Association

SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2021

2021 seems to find us returning to something closer to the old normality albeit with a few new ways of doing things. The fishing outings have restarted with great success but it may be some time before we can all meet up again on a Sunday for the post-match meal. (a BBQ is planned in July, see later).

The committee is trying hard to move with the times, as Covid prevented meeting in person, we had to investigate ways in which we could hold our AGM. Initially it was postponed for a short time but, as there was no end in sight to the Covid bans, we had to put modern technology to good use. Despite some apprehensions, a decision was made to hold the AGM on 18th March, 2021 using Zoom. Quite a number of members attended, sufficient for the meeting to be quorate, and enough for a good exchange of views.

The committee had previously used Zoom for their meetings and continue to do so. It is proving to be a very successful and cost effective way of holding meetings. MNTFA have taken out a membership of Zoom and this can be used by all members.

At the AGM the following committee members were elected:

Grant Gibson	President
Don Moore	Chairperson
John Sumner	Vice chair and newsletter
John Mills	Treasurer (retiring in 2022)
John Clarke	Secretary
Dave Anderson	Competitions secretary
Hank Needham	Membership Secretary and Website
Derek Walker	Winter programme
James Smith	Social media
Dennis Murphy	Covid advisor

John Mills has carried out the role of Treasurer with great professionalism for several years and will be retiring on 31st December 2021. The committee are looking for a volunteer to take over the role at the next AGM. John is willing to spend time helping the new Treasurer understand the financial system that is used.

There were 104 members at the beginning of July 2021, 16 of these were new or returning members.

Competitions

Dave Anderson is this seasons competition secretary and he has produced an interesting and varied programme of matches for 2021.

The results so far are:

11th April The Presidents Cup at Ravensthorpe

This match was fished to the new catch and release rules, where the fish caught were measured for length and returned alive to the water. The first 4 fish caught were measured and their lengths added together to give the final score

1st	Stuart Eggleton	2011mm
2nd	Hank Needham	1980mm
3rd	Grant Gibson	1878mm



18th April The Bruce Richardson Trophy at Pitsford

1st	Alan Harding	1890mm
2nd	Pip Jeffs	1860mm
3rd	Grant Gibson	1857mm



16th May The Ashley Cooper Trophy

Note the new trophy held by Hank

20 members fished

1st	Hank Needham	9 fish	9lbs 2oz
2nd	John Clarke	6 fish	8lbs 15oz
3rd	Terry Bayes	9 fish	8lbs 14oz

Hank also had the biggest fish at 3lbs 6oz and John Clarke the second biggest at 2lbs 10oz

This was the first time that this trophy had been awarded and it was a nice gesture that Ashley's wife Myra and son Neil came and presented the trophy to Hank



6th June The Jim Collins Trophy at Grafham

(spot the trophy!)

1st	Terry Bayes	4 fish	11lbs 4oz
2nd	John Mills	3 fish	10lbs 15oz
3rd	Phil Waples	2 fish	9lbs 15oz

Phil Waples had the biggest fish at 6lbs 2oz, Stuart Eggleton the second biggest at 4lbs 8oz



20th June The Julian Davies Pairs Trophy at Pitsford

1st	Fraser Duffy Snr & Dave Anderson
	16lbs 13oz
2nd	Grant Gibson & Wayne Coleman
	15lbs 10oz
3rd	Stuart Eggleton & Mark Frost
	10lbs 4oz

Pete Web and Hank Needham had the biggest fish at 4lbs 2oz

Fraser Duffy Snr and Dave Anderson had the second biggest fish at 3lbs 12oz



The competitions still to be fished are:

8th August	Social event	Rutland
19th September	Ian Pow Trophy	Draycote
3rd October	Fur and Feather Shield	Pitsford
17th October	Bob Church Trophy	Ravensthorpe

The competition entry form can be found [here](#) on the MNTFA website

Tuesday Social Programme

Derek Walker's programme of optional Tuesday social outings has proved to be very popular. Derek's idea was to offer a series of venues where members could meet up on a Tuesday. Members would book their own boat, start when they wish, meet up for lunch in a quiet bay and finish when they wish. No measuring or weighing of fish, just a day of enjoyable fishing. On the busiest day there were six boats anchored up in a quiet corner of Pitsford. Well done to Derek for providing a list of venues, it looks as if this may become a permanent addition to the fishing calendar.

The venues suggested are to be found in the [calendar](#) on the MNTFA webpage, postcodes etc are there to help locate some of the lesser known venues. The programme resumes in September at Pitsford, then Draycote, Ravensthorpe, Pitsford, Farmoor, Ravensthorpe, Pitsford and finally Grafham

Fishing and BBQ Day 24th July 2021

Dave Anderson is planning a fishing day followed by a BBQ at Pitsford on 24th July 2021. Book your own boat and fishing permit, the bbq will begin at around 3.00pm. This will be open to members and non-members at a cost of £3.50 for the BBQ. Please contact [Dave](#) if you wish to take part. Watch Facebook etc for more details

Social Media

Over recent seasons, MNTFA has seen the development of an excellent new web site, much of the work being carried out by Hank Needham. The website is easy to access and contains all of the information that members could need. If you are not too computer literate please make a special effort to use the site as it really is a great resource.

MNTFA also has its own page on Facebook and again this is proving to be a popular way of members and non-members communicating. Once more it is a great resource but is only used by a small percentage of the membership. If you haven't tried it please have a look, it contains a lot of up to the minute news and advice about local fisheries.

Hank also has introduced some great new membership software to handle all aspects of joining and renewing of memberships. In his spare time (?) he also arranges the Zoom meetings for the committee. As mentioned previously holding committee meetings in this way is really convenient for all concerned.

Whilst Derek Walker organises the Winter Programme of guest speakers he also supports Hank with his role of membership secretary and helped with the new website. He also updates the calendar on the MNTFA website mntfa.co.uk/calendar. This is a great place to visit as all club activities are there and often the finer details concerning matches etc are to be found through links on the calendar.

Most of this is summarised in the "ABOUT MNTFA" section on the home page at mntfa.co.uk. Just scroll down a little past the photos.

To date MNTFA has not taken advantage of other forms of social media that many people find so useful.. The committee has welcomed James Smith to their ranks and James's speciality is in using these other platforms.

Social Media Update – James Smith

I am pleased to say over the next few months we will be increasing our online presence by introducing a more public profile in the hope of spreading the word about the club and gaining new club members.

Whilst we will be keeping the private facebook group for current members, we will also be introducing a public facebook, twitter & Instagram page to share news about the club, upcoming events as well as achievements by our members.

To do this we will need your help to get content!

If you have any catch reports or images you would like to share please do not hesitate in sending them to me at social@mntfa.co.uk The pages are in incredibly early stages at the minute and will be updated over the next week or two however please find the links below.

To follow them could not be easier, just click the link and follow/like the page – that is it!

Please share the pages with your angling friends to help spread the word about the club.

I look forward to seeing all your images!

Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/PitsfordandRavensthorpeFlyFishers>

Twitter

<https://twitter.com/MNTFA2>

Instagram

<https://www.instagram.com/midnorthantstrout/>

Coaching

Club coaches and volunteers demonstrate casting and fly tying at events during the season with the Angling Trust and other angling clubs.

This helps to promote our club and attract new members.

We organise tuition at our monthly [open afternoons](#)

Open Afternoons

Every month from April to October we hold an open afternoon at Pitsford fishing lodge.

The remaining 2021 sessions are held on:

31st July, 21st August, 25th September and 9th October

All must be booked in advance through <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/138596751615>

Those interested in building their own fly rod or repairing one, can learn everything needed. Several members have built a range of rods based on kits from Bloke Rods and these can be made available to try. [Bloke Rods](#) have a terrific reputation and rod kits costing around £130 and sell for twice that as finished rods.

To request additional tuition, including casting, boat handling or fly tying please email coaching@mntfa.co.uk

To request rod building help or to try a Bloke rod please email rodbuilders@mntfa.co.uk

Improver Sessions

Half or full day sessions with an experienced club member can be provided to any club member. You will need to provide your own tackle, flies and pay for your permit and half of the boat. Your guide will manage the boat during the session.

This is intended as an opportunity for less experienced and new members to improve their own fly fishing success by fishing alongside someone who knows the venue, the top areas at different times of the year and the best lines and flies to use. Correct use of the anchor and drogue can also be covered.

To request a session please email improver@mntfa.co.uk and someone will be in touch.

Some of the committee members of Wellingborough Nene Angling Club recently took advantage of the introductory sessions and couldn't praise their MNTFA coaches highly enough. Lets hope that brings in new members.

Club Clothing

Some members have very smart Snowbee shirts (catalogue number 11800 in putty), embroidered with Mid Northants Fly Fishers above one pocket and their name above the other. These were purchased some time ago and a number of members have expressed a desire to have new ones. John is investigating whether the offer is still available from Snowbee but he also needs to know how many people would like a shirt. Please let John know if you would like one

John also has a supply of MNTFA club caps at £8.00 each

John Mills treasurer@mntfa.co.uk



Just to end on a cheerful note, the committee intends to propose an increase in the annual subscription from 2022, the proposed new fee will be £17.50