



Mid Northants Trout Fishers'  
Association

SPRING NEWSLETTER 2022

Calling this a "Spring" newsletter may seem a little like wishful thinking at the moment but our first club outing is only a few weeks away. Without wishing to tempt fate it would seem that we are learning to live with Covid in all of its various forms and it is having a lesser affect on our lives. I am sure that we are all fully vaccinated and looking forward to being able to meet in person again.

Our competitions secretary has a great list of outings (competitions) for 2022 and it looks as if we may even be able to have a meal after some of them.

The committee has been using Zoom to hold its meetings and it is proving to be very successful. MNTFA have taken out a membership of Zoom and this can be used by all members via the link on the MNTFA web site

The last AGM was also held using Zoom and it proved to be quite successful with enough members taking part to ensure a healthy debate. The 2022 AGM will be held face to face as in previous years, details are given later.

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
Dennis Murphy	Covid advisor

John Mills has carried out the role of Treasurer with great professionalism for several years and was to retire at the next AGM. However on February 6th 2022 John has resigned from this post with immediate effect.

The committee are urgently looking for a volunteer to take over the role of Treasurer as soon as possible. John has offered to help the new Treasurer into the role

## 2022 Annual General Meeting

**This will be held on Thursday 10th March at 7.30.  
The venue is the White Swan, Main St, Holcot,  
Northampton NN6 9SP**

New members are always welcome on the committee. If anyone wishes to stand for election to the committee please inform the Secretary, John Clarke, at least 14 days before the meeting.

If anyone would like items adding to the agenda please inform the Secretary, John Clarke, at least 14 days before the meeting.

Some members of the committee have visited the White Swan and found the Landlord to be very welcoming to the idea of holding the AGM, the winter programme evenings and post match meals.

### **Pitsford Water Opening 2022**

Pitsford Water opens for fishing on Saturday 26th February, the lodge opens on Monday 21st February. **MNTFA will be in the lodge on Thursday 24th February** to encourage new members but also to accept payment for annual subscriptions from those who would rather not use PayPal.

Opening dates for other waters are on the web site calendar [here](#)

To date we have 76 paid up members, 39 members are still to pay.

## Competitions

Despite the best efforts of Covid to keep us from fishing, quite a number of members managed to fish in both the organised and social programmes.

The results for the year are to be found [here](#)

Dave Anderson is once again competition secretary and he has produced an interesting and varied programme of matches for 2022.

The programme for 2022 is:

13th March,	Hector Woolnough Bank Shield -	Pitsford.
27th March,	Presidents Cup -	Ravensthorpe.
10th April,	Bruce Richardson Trophy -	Pitsford.
15th May	Ashley Cooper Trophy -	Eyebrook.
29th May,	Jim Collins Trophy -	Grafham.
19th June,	Julian Davis Pairs Trophy -	Pitsford.
18th Sept,	Ian Pow Trophy -	Draycote.
2nd October,	Fur and Feather Shield -	Pitsford.
16th October,	Bob Church Trophy -	Ravensthorpe

Please note on the form the final dates by which payment must be received if you wish to enter a competition.

These dates, and lots of other dates of interest, can be found on the club webpage under [calendar](#). It is possible to link this page to your personal calendar on your pc or phone.

Having found one of the above dates on the web calendar all that you need to do is click on the date and "See more details" will appear. Just click and full details of the match will be there.

The entry form is attached to this newsletter and available [here](#)

## Tuesday Social Programme

Derek Walker's programme of optional Tuesday social outings has proved to be very popular. Derek's idea is 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 one of the most popular days there were six boats anchored up in a quiet corner of Pitsford. Well done to Derek for providing a list of venues.

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 begins in March 2022 at Pitsford, then moves around various waters, mainly AW reservoirs which makes the AW season ticket more cost effective. There is a Tuesdays at Eyebrook and Draycote to add variety.

It has been noted that some members who like to fish the Tuesday social days also like to fish the Tuesday boat league organised by Mark Mathieson at Pitsford. Where there is a conflict the Tuesday social days will be moved to a Thursday. Check the MNTFA webpage [calendar](#) for details

## **Inter-Club Social Days**

Dave Anderson is keen to organise friendly "matches" against other clubs and Dave recently circulated this email:

All

I have been speaking with a member of the Clywedog fly fishing club who I met with and fished with last year, we have been arranging to try and get a little friendly event with them on this cracking venue, we have the following dates ( 19th or the 26th of May) which would be suitable for them but also at a great time to fish this lake.

We are looking at a team of approx 10, each would share a boat with a local angler so we could learn about the water and hopefully catch a few fish, I want to emphasise that this will be a friendly event.

I'm reaching out to all the members to gauge the interest, if we get a good response I will take it further with my contact and try and get some idea of digs and costs, so if you are interested please let me know ASAP.

We are also discussing a return event at Pitsford later in the year when we will host them.

We did try for a weekend but it didn't work we would have to plan more in advance for this.

Any question please let me know,

Best regards

DaveA

## Externally Organised Competitions

MNTFA is hoping to increase participation in external competitions such as those offered by Airflo, Snowbee, etc.

Two teams fished the Hinkley Shield on Sunday 31st October at Grafham Water, the same day that a mini tornado struck Northamptonshire. The team finished 5th out of 10 teams so quite a good result.

## Coaching in 2021

- A successful restart after the pandemic
- Great team effort
- Excellent feedback from attendees



## Background

We received a grant from the Angling Improvement Fund, which reinvests a share of fishing licence income.

About a quarter of our club members have received tuition since we started formal coaching in 2014.

COVID rules meant that we could only have small numbers of attendees and coaches. We adapted our risk assessment and procedures to keep people safe. We changed to pre-booking online.



## **Pitsford Sessions**

- At Pitsford we coached 58 people, each receiving about 1¼ hrs of tuition
- Aged from 7 to 75 years (average age 51)
- 80% of attendees rated the sessions as excellent

## **Other Coaching**

- We provided other casting and boat / bank sessions for another 14 people:
  - Mid Northants members
  - Wellingborough Nene AC

We coach because we enjoy doing it. However in all our coaching in 2021 our coaches and volunteers provided over 200 hours of their time. A great effort.

## **Thanks to:**

- Our coaches and volunteers
- The Angling Trust for the funding and guidance
- Anglian Water for providing the facilities and especially Mark, Geraldine and Neill for helping to promote the sessions

## Pitsford Session Dates for 2022 - All 2pm-5pm

1. 19 March
2. 21 May
3. 25 June
4. 30 July
5. 20 August
6. 24 September
7. 8 October



All places need to be pre-booked online through

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/free-fly-fishing-tuition-at-pitsford-water-tickets-205737364997>

Club members wanting individual tuition at other times can book it by contacting [coaching@mntfa.co.uk](mailto:coaching@mntfa.co.uk)

**Seumas Halliday**

## Winter Programme

Derek Walker is in the process of organising a programme of speakers and other activities to see us through the cold winter months of November 2022 to February 2023, Details will be on the webpage **calendar** and circulated as soon as they are confirmed.

## **Kelmarsh Show**

### **Easter Sunday and Monday 17th and 18th April**

The Kelmarsh Show arrives this Easter Bank Holiday and welcomes a fantastic line-up that the whole family will just love! From live arena entertainment, awe-inspiring demonstrations and performances, lots of live music, fabulous food and drink, as well as hundreds of top-quality exhibition stands selling all kinds of countryside goods and products, you really will be spoilt for choice.

In previous years MNTFA has had a stand with tuition in casting, fly tying, pond dipping etc and the activities have proven to be enjoyed by lots of those attending.

Don Moore will be organising the MNTFA stand and anyone who could volunteer some time would be most welcome. Don will circulate his requirements nearer the time.

### **Pitsford Small Half Closure**

Rumours have been circulating amongst Pitsford regulars that the small half of the reservoir was to be closed to fishing. Our Chairman Don Moore has been in touch with Angela Tarry of AW who has said that there will be no change for the 2022 season

### **Anglian Water Stocking 2022**

This is the stocking policy for all 4 waters for the ensuing year, which is very similar to previous years.

Rutland = 70.000  
Grafham = 40.000  
Pitsford = 25.000  
Ravensthorpe = 7.500

## The Grafham Dam

Most members are no doubt aware that a member of the public was walking behind the dam wall at Grafham Water and was struck by a fisherman's fly. Anglian Water's response was to immediately ban all fishing from the dam. This provoked a vigorous response from many of the fishing clubs, including MNTFA, but little change was forthcoming from AW.

These are the minutes from a Zoom meeting held by concerned clubs in January:

### Minutes Interclub Zoom Meeting 12<sup>th</sup> January 2022

#### Attendees:

Peter Hartley	Chair
Mark Brinkman	GWFFA
John Batter	GWFFA
Allan Sefton	Invicta
David Moore	Invicta
John Mills	Mid Northants
Don Moore	Mid Northants
Paul Wild	RWFFA
John Wadham	RWFFA
Mel Parrott	East Mids Apologies

Peter Hartley opened the meeting explaining that he had met on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> January with Jake Williams. The meeting lasted some 2.5hrs and was positive in that there is still scope for discussion and some latitude on access to the dam namely:

1. Extending morning session to 10am
2. Evening fishing 8pm to 1 hour after sunset
3. Possible unrestricted access if water level falls below a to be determined safe level
4. Possible movement on current fishing restriction during weekends, public and school holidays

Peter has written a comprehensive letter to Jake summarising all the points discussed at the meeting including a 'wish list' of improvements to the access so far granted. The meeting agreed that before we take any further action that we should await Jake's response to Peter's letter and dependant upon response then decide the next course of action.

The loss of access to other parts of the water were discussed and David Moore stressed that we should seek some compensation for the lost access as AW have a responsibility to provide some compensation. It was also noted that the water park will open this year in June and will remain open until September meaning the loss of bank space from Marlow Stones to G Marker bank.

Suggested areas of compensation were:

1. Access points provided at intervals along rocked shorelines
2. Anglers car park at the Seat
3. Clearance of Savages Creek bank
4. Clearance of fishing spots to the right and left of Sludge Point
5. Ongoing AW maintenance programme to maintain bank access

### **Grafham Dam Petition**

Paul Wild reminded the meeting that a petition has been created on Facebook at the time of writing 1,611 have signed the petition. It is hoped that it will achieve 2,500 which will be a significant number and likely to attract attending from the media etc.

### **Meeting Conclusion**

It was agreed that once a response has been received to Peter Hartley's letter, we should arrange a further interclub Zoom meeting to discuss our next steps. Mark Brinkman to send out Zoom invitation for the meeting.

Any updates will be published on the webpage

# MNTFA COMPETITION ENTRY FORM 2022

Please complete your boat partners name if you have one. If not, I will find you a suitable partner. You are also responsible for your own day or season ticket. For catch and release matches, the weigh in will be based on the length of the first 4 fish caught in mm. Measuring gutters will be provided. You may still retain any fish caught in line with your permit. Match rules can be found at [www.mntfa.co.uk/rules](http://www.mntfa.co.uk/rules)  
Please complete all relevant grey boxes. Payment must be received by the Entry Date shown.

DATE	MATCHES	LOCATION	TYPE	FISHING TIMES	MATCH PRICE	MEAL PRICE	ENTRY CLOSE	AMOUNT PAID
13-Mar	Hector Woolnough Shield	Pitsford	Bank	9:30 to 5:00				
27-Mar	President's Cup	Ravensthorpe	Boat	9:30 to 5:00	£15.00		13-Mar	
	Boat Partner's Name (optional)				Catch & Release			
10-Apr	Bruce Richardson Trophy	Pitsford	Boat	9:30 to 5:00	£15.00	£12.00	27-Mar	
	Boat Partner's Name (optional)				Catch & Release			
15-May	Ashley Cooper Trophy	Eyebrook	Boat	9:30 to 5:00	£15.00		01-May	
	Boat Partner's Name (optional)							
29-May	Jim Collins Trophy	Grafham	Boat	9:30 to 5:00	£15.00		15-May	
	Boat Partner's Name (optional)							
19-Jun	Julian Davis Pairs Trophy	Pitsford	Boat	9:30 to 5:00	£15.00	£12.00	05-Jun	
					Draw for Boat Partners			
18-Sep	Ian Pow Trophy	Draycote	Boat	9:30 to 5:00	£15.00		04-Sep	
	Boat Partner's Name (optional)							
02-Oct	Fur & Feather Shield	Pitsford	Boat	9:30 to 5:00	£25.00	£12.00	18-Sep	
					Draw for Boat Partners	No Browns		
16-Oct	Bob Church Trophy	Ravensthorpe	Boat	9:30 to 5:00	£15.00		02-Oct	
	Boat Partner's Name (optional)				Catch & Release - No Browns			

**Total Payment Made:**

£

Name	
Address	
Phone	
Email	

To assist with the allocation of boat partners, please advise whether you are right or left handed:

**RIGHT / LEFT:**

Return your completed form by post to:  
David Anderson, 60 Windsor Crescent, Duston, Northampton, NN5 5AW  
or  
scan or photo and email to: [finbardave@gmail.com](mailto:finbardave@gmail.com)

Please use Paypal (website or App) and pay the total amount to [paypal@mntfa.co.uk](mailto:paypal@mntfa.co.uk)  
or  
pay by bank transfer to "The Mid Northants Trout Fishers Association"  
Sort code: 20-61-51 Account number: 90845744 (select "business")  
please include your name as the reference.  
or  
include a cheque payable to MNTFA

Cash on the day is not possible - you must book and pay at least 14 days prior.

If you need to cancel, please let David Anderson know at [finbardave@gmail.com](mailto:finbardave@gmail.com) with at least 14 days notice.  
This enables the club to avoid paying for unused boats and food and enables you to be promptly refunded.  
Failure to cancel means your match price and any meal price will be forfeited.