Godalming Angling Society

Fishery Re-opening Policy 1

Following the Government's decision to relax some of the Covid-19 restrictions and allow fishing to take place from Wednesday 13 May, the subcommittee (appointed by the General Committee) have agreed the following basis on which fishing can take place on GAS fisheries:

Marsh Farm Lakes, Wood Lake (Busbridge) and Bramley Park Lake will be open on Wednesday 13 May at 7am. Each venue will be open from 7am to 7pm daily, until further notice. Members must not be on site outside of these times. There will be no night fishing.

Broadwater Lake will remain closed (no fishing) until further notice, subject to a review of the implications of the public park and clarification with Waverley.

Johnson's Lake and the River Wey are closed (no fishing) until 16 June, in accordance with existing local and national closed seasons.

Until further notice fishing is for senior Members only (no juniors). There will be no day or guest tickets.

The following rules will apply:

Access gates are to be kept shut and locked at all times when both entering and leaving venues.

Members to act responsibly with regard to their own and others safety and well-being, behave in accordance with Government rules and advice and are advised to have their own disinfectant sanitisers/sprays/wipes and disposable gloves. These are to be used when opening and closing access gates and using toilets.

Social distancing of a minimum of 2m from all other members on all fisheries must be ensured at all times, unless members living at the same address: as shown on permit. If an adjacent swim does not permit the minimum 2m social distancing it should not be used.

Bailiffs will require that you hold out your permit so it may be checked as required.

No fishing tackle or equipment should be shared with any other anglers, such as landing nets, bags of bait, cameras etc. Keep nets are not permitted.

If members are seen ignoring these requirements, then they risk being asked to surrender their permit, being asked to leave the fishery and will face a disciplinary which will likely result in them being suspended or expelled: which none of us want to happen.

The Committee will keep the position under review as things will probably change, which may enable us to relax rules or make them tighter, depending, in part, how members behave.

Finally, do not leave home if you (or someone in your house) have symptoms of Covid-19 and follow government advice on isolation. You should only travel to fishing venues on your own or with members of your household and abide by current guidelines on social distancing.

Keep safe everyone and let's hope we can continue to enjoy our fishing.

David Johnson Society Chairman