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Dorchester & District *Angling Society*

2021/22 End of year report

(in place of the AGM Minutes)

&

2022/23 Membership Application Form

An awards and presentation evening will be planned for later in the year, watch the Facebook page and the DDAS website for news.

Facebook - [Dorchester & District Angling Society \(DDAS\) | Facebook](#)

Facebook Junior Section - [DDAS Juniors | Facebook](#)

Website - [Dorchester & District Angling Society \(d-das.com\)](#)

Junior Section Website - [DDAS Juniors](#)

Email Club Secretary - Club.sec@d-das.com

E-mail Membership Secretary - membershipsec@d-das.com

The links (in blue) above will take you to the relevant web pages or open an e-mail.

Minutes of the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM)

NOT held April 2022

Attendees: Gary Biles, Chris Ward, Mick Brown, Dave Tattersall, Paul Haigh, Glenn Richards, Chris Watson, Roger Fulbrook, Steve Sudworth, Johnny Johns, Graham Howard, Si Wagner, Tim Broughton, Terry Dell, Jerry Bracey

Apologies: Andrew Foyle, Tom Foyle

Opening remarks from our Club President

A very warm welcome to one and all. Once again things have been disrupted by this horrible COVID, but thankfully we are still able to fish – at the moment!!! I would like to thank the committee for its dedication and resolve in maintaining a near normal running of the society, with a growing membership and even developing more waters for us anglers to use. I've not seen many of you since my move to Cornwall other than the gathering for Whisky's Top Table Dinner – that was an eye opener, especially some of the 'dits' – enough said. One thing I do miss is the morning 'cheffing' bit I did for the working parties. Such banter, rudeness and criticism – wonderful. Couldn't work with a better bunch of chaps.

On a personal level I hope that we can once again support MTSFC (Masonic Trout & Salmon Fishing Charity) in any events that may come along in the future. COVID permitting that is. I have received a directive to program two events this year, but I feel we are still in the grip of COVID, therefore I am reluctant to put the effort in as so many things get cancelled last minute. Our AGM being one of them.

The future of the society is in safe hands and long may it flourish and prosper. Wonderful to see how the Junior Section is flourishing as well. A bit different to when I first got involved many moons ago. In fact, that is how I first got involved with the society. Look after your committee and they will look after you. I won't bore you anymore.

Signing off for now.

Stay safe and Tight Lines

Dave 'Dobsy' Beadnell-Smith (DDAS President)

A Few Words from our Chairperson:

I would just like to thank the committee for making my job as Chairperson so easy. I would also echo Dobsy's comments about the club and the way the committee has run the club in the best way possible during the last two years of the Covid Pandemic. Long may it continue.

Tight Lines

Chris Watson (Chairperson)

April 2022

Secretary's Report:

The DDAS AGM which was due to be held on 14th April 2022 was cancelled due to the continuing Covid risks. In place of the AGM minutes/reports, please find attached the minutes from a "Committee only AGM" held on your behalf.

It was decided by your committee that membership subscriptions would be kept at the same level as the pre-Covid prices in 2019/20. This means that we have not raised the cost of membership for the last four years. This decision was taken in the light of the current rate of inflation and the increased costs of power, energy and fuel. These will undoubtedly have a significant impact on our members and as such we did want to impact them any further by raising our membership fees. The small additional costs for using the online payment systems will also remain at the same level as last year.

In May last year I sent out the first monthly “DDAS Newsletter” from the people I have spoken to this seems to have been well received and I will continue to send them out via the Clubmate e-mail system. There are lots of things discussed at the monthly committee meetings and the newsletter is a good way of passing on some of the information from those meetings to our wider membership.

The committee would ask that our members provide some feedback to us on how we are performing, without that feedback we assume that we are doing the right things for the club. It would be good to have some acknowledgement that we are, or maybe not, as the case may be.

*Gary Biles – Club Secretary
April 2022*

2021 AGM Minutes:

The minutes from last year’s AGM were agreed as being correct and true.

Society Appointments 2022/2023:

The following appointments were made:

2022/2023 Committee	Role
Chris Watson	Chairperson
Chris Ward	Deputy Chairperson Trustee (Luckfield Lake)
Jerry Bracey	Treasurer Trustee (Luckfield Lake)
Gary Biles	Secretary
Paul Haigh	Membership Secretary
Glenn Richards	Match Secretary
Graham Howard	Junior Secretary
Tom Foyle	Assistant Junior Secretary
Steve Sudworth	Club Captain
Tim Broughton	Risk Management Carp Secretary
Roger Fulbrook	General Officer
Terry Dell	General Officer
Si Wagner	General Officer
Johnny Johns	General Officer
Mick Brown	General Officer
Dave Tattersall	General Officer

Andrew Foyle has resigned from the committee as he has too many other commitments at the present time. The committee thank him for his input and work and wish him all the best in the future.

Dave Beadnell-Smith	President (2 nd and Final Year)
Steve Sudworth Mike Park Derek Pride Stuart Murgatroyd John Parkes John Halford Mick Brown Dave Tattersall	Vice Presidents

All of the appointments were proposed, seconded and voted on by the committee on behalf of the club membership.

There were no nominations for anyone wishing to join to committee or for any new VP's.

There were no "motions for discussion/voting" from the membership proposed for the AGM.

Trustees:

Dave Beadnell-Smith and David Tattersall have stepped down from this role, Jerry Bracey and Chris Ward will take over once the legal process, which is currently underway, is completed. This transfer has been significantly delayed due a back log of work at the Land Registry Office and is unlikely to be completed until later in 2022.

Appointment of Bank Signatures:

The signatories were to be changed after the last AGM and Jerry Bracey will be confirming that this change has taken place. The signatories are Jerry Bracey, Glenn Richards and Graham Howard.

Account Verifier

Mr Kevin Roberts will continue in this post for the foreseeable future.

Constitution Changes:

Some minor changes have been made to the club constitution to bring it up to date, the main changes are:

- Making it gender neutral
- Changing the junior membership groups to be by school year rather than by birthdays.
- Changing the eligibility to vote at the AGM or be on the committee to "living in Dorset" rather than "living within 15 miles of Dorchester".

The new constitution will be in the revised handbook and uploaded to the club website at the same time as these minutes are issued (link in the section below).

DDAS Handbook:

We are not issuing a new handbook to all members this year, only "new to the club" members will receive one in the post. The handbook has been updated with some minor changes and the new version can be found on the club website (link below).

[2022/23 Members Handbook \(new\) \(d-das.com\)](https://d-das.com/2022/23%20Members%20Handbook%20(new))

Having members access the handbook online means we can make updates quickly and save significant money on printing and postage, not to mention making us a little "greener". Any updates of significance will be noted in the monthly newsletters

We would also ask that all members read the handbook and take note of the club rules, the venue rules (which can differ significantly from venue to venue), the constitution and all the other information that is there. We frequently answer questions from members with “It’s in the handbook””, so please read that first before putting pen to paper or fingers to keyboard or tapping on your smart phone. Ignorance is no defence; make sure you know the club and venue rules.

Treasurers Report (Jerry Bracey):

My inaugural year as Treasurer having taken over from the “Accounts Yoda” Dave Tattersall who continues to give his support and guidance to both Paul Haigh and myself, which is greatly appreciated.

Our end of year account is again healthy that has enabled us to buy £3,000 of carp for Luckfield and Silverlakes, give a £500 donation to the Weldmar Hospice and keep our membership fees the same for the forthcoming season. As of 31/03/2022 our balance is £20,809.57 which even with our increased outgoings for rents etc we are still £2,204.33 better off than last year thanks to increased membership numbers and money from the Angling Trust for our growing number of junior members.

Fortunately our contract with British Gas for the electricity supply at Luckfield doesn’t end until March 2023 so for now we haven’t had to endure the eye watering energy price increases. We now have the facility to pay for membership via Clubmate, which after a few hiccups appears to be working very well and provides the club with prompt payment and less paperwork. I have moved our account online which not only makes us “greener” as there are less trips to the bank, but also we are more efficient in checking our accounts and paying the bills.

There was just under £400 in donations from members this year and it was unanimously agreed that the club would top this up to £500. This year’s chosen charity is the Weldmar Hospice. A cheque will be presented to them at the earliest opportunity.

All in all a very positive year for the club, even with the blight of Covid.

Tight lines
Jerry Bracey.

Membership Sec Report (Paul “Whisky” Haigh):

Well, what a year this has been! The start of the 21/22 season saw your committee bring the DDAS membership section, kicking and screaming into the 21st century by adding an on line option to join DDAS using a third party called Clubmate. This was an attempt to simplify and streamline the club’s membership application process and on the whole, I think it was a success. Some teething problems did ensue like duplicate payments, incorrect end dates and missing email notifications to me which incurred slight delays in processing the membership cards and booklet. Every attempt was made to resolve the issues quickly and resume something resembling a normal service. I am hoping this next season’s applications will go without a hitch.

On behalf of the committee, I would like to report the club has had the most members it has ever had and leaves us in an extremely healthy position were membership numbers are concerned. The breakdown is as follows:

- 549 Memberships
- 44 Exchange Book Memberships
- 14 Life Memberships
- 16 Complimentary Memberships

- 14 Committee Memberships
- 637 in Total

The shop sales of memberships do seemed to have reduced slightly but I attribute this to the addition of our online option as stated above. We will however continue to support our local fishing tackle shops as they have supported us, and long may that remain.

Guest tickets will remain in the shops too but I'm also pleased to inform you that the new season will also provide an online guest ticket option too. Hopefully this will continue to make this part of the club easier to access.

Exchange tickets seem to be rarely used, and so for this next season we are removing the system from our nominated shops and bringing it solely to online in an attempt to make this area of the club easier to access too. All the relevant DDAS website info will be amended in due course but feel free to email or call me for any further clarity as required.

This year we will only be issuing Membership Cards to current/ previous years members. Handbooks will be issued to new members where possible. Please also note that online renewals will go live from 1st May but the issue of cards will not take place until the last week of May. This is also the same for postal applications made by downloading the 2022/23 membership application form (MAF) from our website. Membership fees will remain the same as they were for 2021/2022 season.

That only leaves me to wish you all a very happy and successful forthcoming season and of course the tightest of lines.

Paul "Whisky" Haigh
Membership Secretary

Juniors Secretary Report (Graham Howard):

So much has happened over the last couple of years, but I will try to bullet point most of it...

The last time I addressed the members at the 2019 AGM, I was heading off to start my training as an Angling Trust coach. I'm pleased to report that I did indeed get my certificate as a Level two Angling Coach. I am even more pleased to report that a few other members of the coaching team also want to train to do the same enabling us to deliver an even better level of training for our juniors. At the end of the day, if I can do it anybody can!

During the winter of 2019 I started to write my own booklet for our Juniors from my experience as both a match and Carp angler. This was to be ready for the start of the 2020 season. Of course, the 2020 season never happened. The same day that the announcement was made that the schools would close, I had presented a talk to 240 students at Bincombe Valley School in Weymouth. The high and the lows of the time.

We did manage to get three coaching sessions in. We also managed to get the trophies given out all be it virtually via our new You tube channel thanks to Julie, Glenn and the respective parents who sent in film clips of their successful anglers and their sparkling new trophies. We were able to make it official at a small presentation last year here at Weymouth Angling Club.

I had to do something with the lockdown that we all found ourselves in, so I knuckled down to write four more booklets on Pole, River, Carp and Pike fishing with additional help from Jon Bass, Tom Foyle, Dan Hollins and fellow coach, Tim Glass. These booklets became available to all when they were published on our brand-new website, ddasjuniors.co.uk. The website was great fun to build despite the work involved and the time it took to create it. It has enabled us to focus

interest on the juniors in a much better way than before, and I believe it enhances the existing club website very nicely. The coaches blog in which I ramble on about the day's events has picked up a small following too. The thin ice that all those attending walk on is evident in the faces I see. The look of resignation at potentially ending up with a starring role in the blog and the accompanying award of 'Doughnut of the day' is now a perpetual, but hopefully amusing risk.

The Re-gen program to recycle unused or unwanted tackle items to our Juniors and grown exponentially to the point where it had to be relocated to a new lock up at Silverlake because it outgrew my very large shed. Huge thanks to everyone who has donated tackle so far and helped us to give over 25 juniors at least an experience of coarse fishing.

Also during the lockdown we received a grant from the Angling Trust with which we bought the flags, banners, and exhibition stand for school talks. Because of Covid we haven't had the opportunity to use it fully yet but, once we are more able to get back into the schools again, it will give us a very professional and polished look indeed. Si Wagner and I took some of it to an open day in Charminster, the first of these kinds of events that DDAS Juniors had attended. I believe we had a good day and the evidence of this was shown in the increase of interest and traffic to the website afterwards. I never miss out on a chance to talk about fishing for a whole day without complaint... Apart from the woman who said she was vegan to which I told her that we didn't eat them... It was only after that I realised that she was telling that she thought it was cruel... But she got a leaflet anyway! We even bought a loo tent to make life for the ladies attending our events a little more dignified and comfortable.

On to 2021 and, despite losing the first event due to the continuing lockdown, we finally started what would turn out to be our best year to date. But you wouldn't have thought so at the beginning. Early fixtures had me thinking that all our work, my effort, and the money we had spent, may turn out to be a colossal waste, with only three juniors turning up to the first few events. The weather was pretty bad though which may have had much to do with it.

But as the year went on and the warmth of summer came, the numbers started to swell. Coaches began to be outnumbered by participants again. We visited new venues like Mangerton Mill and Todber Manor as well as some usual haunts of Revels, Whitemoor, and Harbourbridge, as well as the club waters of Luckfield and Sharnhill. The events changed too with some Juniors not warming to the more competitive events. Now, those who do not want to participate in the match, but still want to come fishing with us, can now opt for a regular training session instead. As well as our regular matches, we had our first Senior/Junior pairs match, our first Christmas match, and our first dedicated memorial match. The winners of which we will celebrate later in 2022.

Our Junior championship was fought out between veterans and newcomers alike, with the lead changing hands on more than a few occasions. It went down to the wire at the last match with just four points in it. With a championship like that, either would have been worthy winners.

We had surprise winners too, proving that it is not always the same names that always win.

We finished the year with a sell out Christmas match of 16 bookings and this year I am expecting our first 20 plus event with more new faces alongside those more familiar and the emphasis on attracting more as the year progresses, particularly more young ladies to show that angling is not just for boys.

The support and backing of the clubs committee is invaluable and the juniors would not be as successful otherwise. Your patience during my reports is appreciated. I work incredibly hard to try to make the juniors better and better as each year passes, but it all a waste of effort without my brilliant team of coaches and helpers. The members that freely give their time and often much more to the cause is priceless. Without them all of this is impossible. Hosting events like these is difficult without having somewhere to fish and having bait and equipment to use. My thanks go to all the tackle shops and fisheries that have over the last year helped and supported us. My wish is

that we can continue to help and support each other for a long time to come. Parents sometimes play down the role that they play in getting kids interested in any sport. With fishing it can often feel like you are sitting, waiting for something exciting to happen in the middle of a field, in the rain... But without you, WE would all be waiting sitting in the middle of a field, in the rain, waiting for something exciting to happen. Thank you to all our dedicated parents who bring their Juniors to us to coach.

Lastly, of course, where would the juniors be without our intrepid young anglers? These are the future members, committee members, and the very future of our clubs' survival. In addition to that they are a great bunch of kids to teach and on several occasions, people have remarked on how well behaved they all are. They are not just future members of the club, they are ambassadors and very good ones they are too.

Graham Howard
Junior Secretary

Match Sec Report (Glenn Richards):

2021/2022 – Match Programme

Despite Covid restrictions we did manage to successfully fish a full programme of events in 2021/22. We hope that we can present all the trophies at a separate event later in 2022; Steve Sudworth may need a wheelbarrow for the large number of cups he won this season! I have a number of ideas for new competition formats for next season so watch out for news and the 2022/23 match programme. All the winners of last season's competitions were noted on the AGM invitation that was sent out in March.

Specimen Cup:

Only one entry this year a superb 4lb 1oz Perch caught by Johnny Johns at Heath Lake (Silverlake).

For the second year running we have only awarded one Specimen Badge and it would be good if members entered more of their "special catches" in this category. Details of how to do so are on the club website and handbook - [Specimen Fish Record Form \(d-das.com\)](#)

2022-2023 – Match Programme

The match programme for the coming season has been published on the club website and can found at - [Match Programme \(d-das.com\)](#)

2021 48hr Carp Match

The annual DDAS Carp Competition was held this weekend at Avalon Fishery in Somerset. 10 members of the club took part in the 48hr match on a lake stocked with large Carp up to 35lb. Unfortunately no one told the Carp or the weather gods we were coming, we had patches of torrential rain, a big thunderstorm on Saturday evening and the Carp decided to go on a "no food" diet over the weekend! Only 3 fish were caught from 5 "runs", all in the early hours of Saturday morning. We spent the rest of the weekend with silent alarms and static bobbins! While the fishing was a disappointment the social side to the event was excellent and enjoyed by all, especially the BBQ in the rain on Saturday evening. Due to impending bad weather and with no fish feeding it was unanimously agreed to finish the match early and pack up in the dry on Sunday lunchtime. This was just as well as just after we left the heavens opened and the torrential rain returned for the rest of the afternoon. Tom Foyle won the match, the sweepstake money and the biggest fish award with a single Carp of 13.5lb. Julie Samways was second with a fish of 12lb and Dave Copp was third with a fish of 11.5lb.

2022 48hr Carp Match

This year's event is to be held at Coking Farm Fishery on Clover Lake on 19th-21st August. For details and entry forms please contact Tim Broughton e-mail discovery66@live.co.uk
Details about the Coking Farm Fishery complex can be found at [coking farm fishery](#)

Glenn Richards
Match Secretary

Reports on the Club Waters

Luckfield Lake:

We have done a significant amount of work over the last year including:

- Removing several diseased Ash trees
- Micro-chalking the lake
- Widening and creating better pathways and pegs
- Planting new waterside vegetation
- Trimming the hedgerow on the north side boundary
- Trying to control the numbers of rats around the lake
- Stocking a significant number of large Carp (nearly all doubles)

For the coming year we will continue with the “gardening” work to make the lake as good and as safe as we can for the fish and anglers while also trying to create habitat areas for the local wildlife. I am currently working with Farming & Wildlife Advisory Group (FWAG) to obtain funding to improve the habitats around the lake for wildlife. This work will include replacement trees for those we have had to fell, bird nest boxes, bat roosting boxes and wildflower planting. If approved the club will have to contribute 20% of the funding amount through in-kind working time, e.g. work to plant trees, flowers and put up nest boxes. This won't happen until the autumn, but watch out for requests for help on working parties.

Silverlake:

Heath Lake nearly always fishes well with plenty of small Carp and some very good Perch as shown by the Specimen Cup winner, a 4lb 1oz fish. It is a bit weedy, but there is still plenty of open water to fish.

When talking to club members the most frequently asked question is “When will we be moving off of Heath Lake and on to the new lakes at the estate?” The move has been delayed for many reasons including, water levels on the new lakes, Covid and work force availability to build the car parking area and paths. However things are now looking much better. Steve Sudworth, myself and Phil Rudd (Environment Agency) did a tour around the lakes last week and they are looking good. The water levels are now stable and equipment is being put in place to ensure that they remain that way. The base for the new parking area is complete and the path down to the lake is nearly finished. The area around the lakes is still a bit of a “moonscape”, but time, nature and some judicious tree planting will sort that out. The move of the fish from Heath Lake cannot be done until next autumn/winter, so if it all goes to plan we will be fishing the new lakes in early 2023.

For those that aren't aware the new lakes will be a match lake, Lysander named after the 2nd World War aircraft that flew SOE agents into France from the Warmwell RAF base and a specimen lake, Lucy's Pool, named after a much regarded former president of the club. Lysander will have 35-40 pegs and Lucy's Pool 5.

The reason Phil Rudd (EA) was with us looking at the lakes is that we are applying for a grant from the EA to create proper flat/safe pegs on the two lakes. Phil was impressed with what he saw and seems quite positive about us having our application accepted.

Lastly, when the subject of netting Heath Lake comes up there seems to be a long line of people offering to help, if only it were so on some of our more mundane or messy working parties! The netting will almost certainly be done by a professional team contracted in by the Silverlake Estate,

they may well require help and if so we will put out a request at that time. Netting/Electro fishing a lake can be dangerous work, up to your thighs in mud, or in boats, in water of unknown depths with ropes and nets providing a “cat’s cradle” of trip hazards. As such we will have to be very careful about how and if we provide help to the team doing the work.

Potwell:

Nothing really to report other than this is a great place to fish while enjoying the surrounding countryside and wildlife. There is a good stock of Roach, small Bream there and Carp mostly in 4-8lb range, although there are some bigger ones with a 26lb Common Carp recorded only a week or so ago.

Revels:

Jason continues to provide a varied complex of lakes with fishing for every type of angler. The last DDAS Christmas match was very well supported with nearly 40 anglers taking part. Jason is constantly improving the complex and runs a very good tackle shop, so if you need new gear or bait please support the tackle shop there as well as our other associated tackle shops.

River Frome:

After the 2020-2021 season was effectively wiped out by the weather, flooding and Covid restrictions this season was much, much better. The reasonable weather meant little or no flooding and being able to fish right thru the four months of our rental period. Most people caught when going there, not always in big numbers, but some fish all the same. Anecdotally I did hear of quite a few 3lb+ Grayling being caught on the Wool and Wareham stretches of the river.

River Stour:

Not somewhere I have fished this season, but for those that persevere there are some good fish to be had. It isn’t easy fishing, sometimes you have to knock a few nettles down and create your own peg. Travel light and be prepared to move around, this isn’t a place for trolleys, boxes and tackle for every occasion. We will try and agree some “gardening” work with the land owners this year to make more places to fish, so watch out for any work party requests.

Sharnhill Upper Lake:

Like Potwell this is another nice place to fish while enjoying the surrounding countryside and wildlife. Lots of small Carp with a few bigger ones as well, Roach, small Bream and a few Tench. There are also a lot of Crucian Carp in the lake if you want to catch one of these rare (at most venues) fish. The recent gardening working party has cleared and widened the paths, cut back some of the overhanging branches and cleared the car park area making access around the lake much easier. The inlet water pipe has also been cleared and was flowing quite freely when we departed, so hopefully we will also see an increase in the water depth.

Kingcombe:

We are aware of the problems on Lodge Lake last year, the crystal clear water and the huge amount of weed. Although we did clear the lake last spring it didn’t improve the fishing too much. I recently visited the lake and spoke to the owners. There is some colour in the water now which is great, but the weed is again a big issue. Therefore we will be arranging a weed cutting working party in May/June, possibly with one of Andrea’s famous breakfasts provided for those attending, so please watch out for a request for help, many hands make light work.

Lastly, the committee would ask that our members provide some feedback on how our waters are performing, good or bad, any special catches (see also the Specimen Badge/Cup section of the handbook), any issues with access or land management especially on some of the lesser fished waters. Your comments can be given in a variety of ways, Facebook, e-mail, post, a phone call, Facebook Messenger. Whatever platform you use the feedback will help us in managing the club and its waters in the future.

Gary Biles
Club Secretary