



## INTRODUCTION

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Dear All,

I believe we have all enjoyed a more peaceful season compared to last, largely due to membership numbers being capped as described in the main newsletter, and thus giving us more control over goings on at our waters. We have seen investment in the club this year on a level not seen before, and it is my intention to keep moving this club forwards with the support of our incredibly hard-working committee, and some generous members who also offer their support in the running of the club.

## ALRESFORD

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Alresford has seen far less angling pressure this year, though the few that have fished it have caught well. We've seen Carp to 33lbs 13oz this season which is the largest I can remember ever being caught from the water. The Pike have started to show in good numbers with a few fish of low-doubles being caught already at the time of writing this report. We have got our concerns over the standard of Pike angling, and associated fish-care and subsequently I urge you to read carefully your rule book when it is published for the 2022/23 season, as there will be some rule changes appertaining to Pike angling. Anyone wanting to learn more about Pike fishing and who would be interested in some basic guidance, either verbally or in a real-fishing situation, please contact me so I can arrange this.

## ST OSYTH

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We no longer operate a match section within the club, due to dwindling numbers attending, so these waters have not seen much pressure this year. The stock of Carp continues to stay strong with plenty of good condition younger fish coming through. Rumours of a Catfish in the Triangle are still circulating though one was removed last year and re-located; if you are fishing here and do catch a Catfish, please retain it as safely as possible and call me immediately, as we need to re-locate any Catfish away from these waters. We have decided on a work-party here early 2022 to install new platforms to the main bank of the triangle to improve access year-round, just a small part of the investment seen this season. We carried out a netting of the rectangle late January to establish what stock we have. Based on the results of that netting, we have decided to pursue a plan to thin out the Carp stock (likely during winter 22/23) in this water, and transition it into a silverfish biased water over the next season or two, we are planning also to introduce Tench alongside the usual silverfish species.

## RAMSEY BROOK 1 (WIX 1)

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Again, as we no longer operate a match section within the club, the only pressure here has been from pleasure anglers of which there have been a quite a few. The water level dropped low but there were no fish casualties, and the situation was closely monitored. The water level is coming back up, though not quite to the top at the time of writing. Although it looked dramatic there was still enough water to protect our stock, though unfortunately it wasn't easily fishable for some time. We have agreed a program to improve access here too, installing new platforms and clearing reeds from some areas early 2022.



## RAMSEY BROOK 2 (WIX 2)

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The large common was caught a few times and again, just topped the 31lbs barrier, and there remains a number of fish of 20lbs+. Many Catfish to 45lbs were caught though unfortunately the 50lb barrier wasn't broken. I believe there to now be at least half a dozen fish over 38lbs so hopefully we will see a 50lb fish in 2022. The most extensive investment this season has been here, where an otter fence has been installed, subsequently members are urged to ensure gates are always closed and to take care around the fence as it is electrified, please do not lean your gear on the fence or pass gear over the fence, you must only access the water by the dedicated pedestrian gates. Wix 2 is a big focus for next season to on my fisheries management program and subsequently we must protect the larger Carp in this water. We lost a handful of Carp across both fisheries at Wix last winter, but felt it was essential to prioritise the most expensive, largest Carp in Wix 2 first by installing a fence. Based on any winter 2021/22 losses from Wix 1, we will consider fencing there too. We have two work parties on the Wix complex to improve the steps and swims on Wix 2, and the swims on Wix 1. My intention was to net Wix 2 this year and remove some of the large head of silver fish, and any smaller Carp that have bred, unfortunately this hasn't been possible due to the water level staying to the top all year. The reasoning behind this was to give the larger fish space to continue to grow as they did when they were first stocked, before their progress was slowed due to the increasing biomass in the lake. We did stock 15-20 Carp into Wix 2, some a proven growing strain from a local fishery, others from the Rectangle netting, these fish are the ones intended for the future, and will have the space to grow when we can action the netting as mentioned above, unfortunately we needed to take them when available. We now have 5 Catfish micro-chipped in Wix 2. If you would like access to view the list, please contact me with your e-mail address so I can create an account for our website, allowing you to view the microchip records at <https://paxmansac.co.uk/microchip-records>. The water was dyed again this year, (hence the blue colour), and it did a fantastic job of keeping the weed to a manageable level. I have already secured the dye for next year and will repeat at the same dosage for the summer of 2022. We have laid a large amount of crushed concrete which we secured at a very competitive rate, thanks to a member, and the track to the village side is now much sturdier than ever before. We also have another 70,000kgs to lay early 2022.

## DECOY POND

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Decoy continues to see change, the landowners have installed a purpose-built pathway around the water and created a car park for us far closer to the water than ever before, through the factory gates, (if closed these can be released with our standard gate code), at the end of the road. Night fishing is still suspended until building works are complete, at request of the landowner; fishing is now dawn until dusk only. We suffered early in the season with poaching again, so much so I lost count of how many times I attended the pond late at night, or early hours to try and catch them in the act. The later part of the year has seen no reports of poaching at all, Suffolk Police even set-up over night with thermal imaging cameras to try and catch them and although they didn't it seems the poachers have caught wind of this and moved on. Please be vigilant if fishing here and report to me immediately any suspected poaching.

## HOME FARM

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The fishing was reasonably good this year, though many smaller carp are showing, which are not necessary the target of those that fish here. It remains a difficult water to really crack, but alongside the smaller carp a reasonable number of mid-20 Carp caught. We are very limited on managing the stock here and thinning out the smaller carp due to the depth of the water. The catfishing was pretty good too, with a good number of the larger fish caught, we also now have a total of 23 Catfish micro-chipped. If you would like access to view the list, please contact me with your e-mail address so I can create an account for our website, allowing you to view the microchip records at <https://paxmansac.co.uk/microchip-records>. 'Two-Tails' topped 98lbs in 2021, I was also present for when it was caught on another occasion but not weighed and having seen it a 98lbs, I believe there was a very real chance it was over the magical 100lbs mark. The

# PAXMAN'S ANGLING CLUB



water level dropped here as well but 'the bar' did not fully show. The water level at the time of writing is now rising and 6-8ft from full. Home Farm has also seen a lot of investment, we have laid a huge amount of crushed concrete which we secured from the same source as Wix 2, and the track to the right hand-side is now much sturdier than ever before, we will however still close the track from the pumphouse round to the back bank in the wetter months.

## BAILIFF SYSTEM

We re-designed the bailiff system this year to improve its effectiveness, subsequently several previous bailiffs have decided they are unable to commit to the new arrangements. We are asking for volunteers to become club bailiffs; you will be expected to carry out at least one visit per month to a club water, reporting back the details of memberships checked to the committee via a WhatsApp Group. There is a genuine opportunity to influence the running of the club in this, anyone considering becoming a bailiff should contact myself or the Secretary.

## FISHERIES SURVEY

As part of my ongoing improvement plans for the club, I'd appreciate if you could complete the survey below and return this to either; a) the tackle-shop you re-join in or b) the Secretary if re-joining by post or at a work party. This information will improve invaluable in ensuring the committee and myself focus our efforts in the areas the matter most to our members.

### Which waters do you fish?

Water	% of your fishing time
Home Farm	
Alresford	
St. Osyth Rectangle	
St. Osyth Triangle	
Wix 1	
Wix 2	
Decoy Pond	

# PAXMAN'S ANGLING CLUB



Which style of fishing do you participate in?

Water	% of your fishing time
Specimen Carp	
Specimen Catfish	
Pleasure Fishing (Silver Fish)	
Pleasure Fishing (Small Carp & Silver Fish)	
Specimen Pike Fishing	

In terms of our fisheries, have you any comments on specific areas of improvement you would like to see?

Should anyone have any questions on the contents of this report or wishes to speak with me, please use the club Fisheries Officer/Emergency Contact mobile number (07498 227998) which comes directly to me or message me on Facebook.

**Jack Davison**  
*Chairman & Fisheries Officer*

END OF SEASON REPORT