

Winter Newsletter 2025





Make sure you are checking our <u>website</u> regularly otherwise you are missing out on important news and information. Our website is full of information for you and is regularly updated to make sure we get as much information out to you as quick as possible. This should be your first point of call for anything to do with club news, information & **rules**.

Everything you need is on there, if you have a question or query, then the answer is most likely on the website.

Annual Family Fishing Day & BBQ

We held our annual Family Fishing Day and BBQ at Pattenden Lane on 10th August as part of our participation in the National Fishing Month 2025. It was a fantastic day and the new booking system worked perfectly. It was still extremely busy for us of course but very rewarding seeing all the youngsters, parents and grandparents having a go at our great sport.

Massive thankyou to Mike Coward our Junior Membership Officer for organising everything, Bill Mitchell for displaying his chef skills on the BBQ (meat provided by Ken Ballard Butchers in Marden), the professional angling coaches and the Committee members who helped on the day.



Have you got your club merchandise? Christmas present ideas?

We have Thermal Mugs, Polo Shirts, Hoodies, Woolly Hats and Baseball Caps with the clubs logo on. In either black or green. Sizes from Small to XXXL. Order yours online HERE or by contacting Dave Sherwood on info@cranbrookanglingclub.co.uk





It would seem that we have a lot of members who have difficulty in using the padlocks that are around our venues. There have been numerous accounts of padlocks being left open, numbers left on the code or not even putting the padlock back where they found it!

We have padlocks at the entrances to our venues and also on the portaloos to stop non-members gaining access to them, if you leave them off the lock or leave them on the code, they are useless. So for those who still do not know how to use a combination padlock, here is a **VERY SIMPLE** guide:

- Line up the numbers to the current seasons code
- Press the button on the bottom of the lock (if it has one) to release the hasp
- Take padlock off, enter and then put padlock back
- Close the hasp
- SPIN THE NUMBERS!!!!!
- Never leave the code on the lock

We have suspended members that we have caught not doing the above – you have been warned!

We need your Catch Photos

It's great to see so many of our members getting out there and taking photos of their catches. We love to see them; it really helps us understand fish growth rates, their health and which waters need stocking and with what. So please make sure you send your catch photos to us direct to our CADAC Facebook profile or to info@cranbrookanglingclub.co.uk

Nets and mats

Make sure you are using big enough landing nets and unhooking mats/cradles when you are fishing for carp. We have found quite a few members carp fishing with small pan nets. These are unacceptable as **nets should be a minimum of 42 inch when carp fishing**. Likewise with unhooking mats, if you are fishing for carp, the mat should be at least 1m x 0.6m, have plenty of padding and preferably have edges to stop the carp from sliding off. Do not use the small cheap 1cm thick foldable mats as they are too small and are not going to provide any protection at all for our fish.

New club Chairman

Trevor McGregor has unfortunately had to step down as our chairman as he is moving away from the area. We would like to thank him for his dedication and input over the years. We will miss him, although maybe not his jokes but we wish him all the best in the new chapter of his life.

So stepping into his shoes is long term Committee member and Secretary Tim Wood as our new Chairman.



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Banned Members

This season we have had to ban some members for serious or multiple rule breaking. These were life bans as we will not tolerate people who choose to not read the rule book or simply ignore the club's rules.

You are all issued with the rulebook, and it is also available on our website and Facebook Group, so there is no excuse for not knowing the rules.

Apart from the general rules, there are also water specific rules too, so make sure you read the specific rules BEFORE you go to any venue as our Bailiffs will not accept any excuses at all and you may face a ban if you are found breaking any of these rules. Next season it will be a condition of membership that you have read and understood the rules thoroughly.

You have been warned!

Rule Reminders

- Spin **all** the numbers on padlocks!!!!!
- All our waters have a TWO rod maximum rule (except at Brookland & Windsurf Pit where 3 rods are permitted and also at Burnt Wood from 1st November to 31st March, providing there is no more than 3 members present.
- Absolutely NO barbeques including disposable ones
- NO DOGS
- Park **only** in designated car parks.
- · Report any incidents, trespassing or suspicious activity immediately by phone to a bailiff
- If you catch a Catfish at Burnt Wood, put in keepnet provided and report to Mark Lindsell on 07973 383952 immediately.
- **Do not drop litter**. This includes line, hooklinks, milk bottle seals, tea bags, wrappers etc. Take it home with you!
- Don't throw your cigarette butts on the floor either, put them in a bag or tin and take them home with you. Bailiffs will be checking smoker's swims.

Burnt Wood update

This year has seen a massive improvement in catch rates and fish condition which means all our hard work here seems to be paying off for the members that fish here. It will be interesting to see how it fishes over this winter as it has always been a good winter venue, so we expect it to fish even better now.

We installed a new solar energy storage system in June as the old system packed up and we are now able to run the aerators every night to keep the water column turning over resulting in near uniform dissolved oxygen and temperature throughout the entire water column and stops the risk of stratification. The aerators will also stop the lake from icing over so you dedicated (or mad) anglers can continue fishing even in freezing temperatures.

Big thanks to Andy Wade and his team of helpers for their efforts in rebuilding the swim on the field side, this now looks fantastic and will surely be a popular swim now that you can comfortably fish from it without the need for casting across. Hopefully this will reduce the amount of line and leads we have to remove from the trees where members have tried to cast but spectacularly failed! May we suggest some casting accuracy practice or simply fish from the other side?

We will be finishing off taking the last of the line of trees down over the winter which will let some more light and wind into the road end of the lake.

There has been an explosion of silver fish in here over the last few seasons, so we are planning to remove some of the smaller silvers to lower the biomass and aid the growth of the other remaining fish.

And lastly, the big catfish is still in there, some have hooked it but not managed to actually land it. Who will get it on the bank? If you do, please contact either Dave Sherwood or Mark Lindsell straight away.



We need your help at our work party on 30th November

All we ask is that you spare just a few hours to come and help. We can't keep our waters in top condition without members assistance, so please make an effort.

They are fun and not hard work at all and they are a good time to get inside information about the venue and meet some of your Committee.

Plus, if you do come along, your name will be entered into a draw at the next AGM and you could win a free membership for next year.

The next work party is: **BURNT WOOD – 30**th **November 9am start – 4pm finish**

New waters

We are always looking for new venues to add to the club's portfolio, so if you here of any stretches of river or 3 acres+ lakes / reservoirs then please contact us, either via email or phone. We know opportunities are very few and far between but if we all keep our eyes and ears open, then maybe we will be successful in obtaining a new venue for next season?

AGN

Another date for your diaries - **Friday 6**th **February 2026**. This is when we will be holding our AGM at Weald Of Kent Golf Club, Maidstone Road, Headcorn, Ashford, Kent, TN27 9PT.

We'd love to see all of our members there. Come along and find out what is really going on rather than listening to rumours. If you would like to propose changes to any rules, then you must contact the club via email or post at least 4 weeks prior to the AGM date (ie before 6th January 2026) so that we can add it to the agenda.

We hope you all have a great winter and Christmas/New Year.

Tight lines!

Cranbrook & District Angling Club Committee