Camp Farm Pool Jan 2026 Progress Report

Hello All,

What a year 2025 was for Camp Farm Pool, and leading into our 5th year of managing Camp Farm 2026 is going to be even better.

We've spent a lot of time and energy in keeping the pool tidy and paid a lot of attention to water levels, keeping the fish healthy and happy.

Working with the environment agency we have been monitoring the water quality to make sure the PH values were right and maintaining the oxygen levels with a little bit of a "Heath Robinson" aerator chucked together for a few quid.



Lots of work has been taking place on managing the undergrowth and banks to keep the sides of the pool under control but also taking into consideration the wildlife so not to disturb them too much.

Big things have been happening this year.

We were approached by the Fisheries Improvement Program primarily to check us out and see if they could give us any advice, but they were so impressed with what we were doing they offered us a bit of a golden ticket.

With the help of our local FIP contact, we sat down and made a list of the things we'd like to do over the next few years.

We didn't think at this point the list of things we wanted to do would be achievable due to the time and more importable cost constraints, however over the course of a couple of months in late 2024, we put together our project plan, consisting of fixing the pegs, planting new trees and lilies, making the outfall (the pool over flow that goes to the filtration beds), a little more substantial, an aerator, and a new Shed /Club house.

We got down to writing up the application thinking we might get help with some of the things on our wish list, submitted it and waited.

April 2025 we were told we had been successful and that everything on our list had been approved for funding, and so the work began in May 2025.

With funding from the FIP our Action Squad has done everything on our list with the biggest achievement being the new Club house.

The old shed has been repaired and relocated – this will be a storage area for tools and the essentials for the upkeep of the pool etc.








The new Club house is currently being kitted out with new cabinets and worksurfaces so that hot drinks and the occasional bacon butty can be made, but the inside is still a “work in progress “job, hopefully this will be completed and ready for use by end of Feb 2026.


























So, what's next?

We've been monitoring the feeder pool over the summer months and approached the landowner to say we'd like to develop the feeder pool into a 10-peg fishing pool as it's full of fish and it would be a great winter pool.







The FIP have offered to do a fish count and a bathymetric survey of the bottom of both pools so we can map out the topography.

We've had the thumbs up from the landowner and we've asked if we can put some sort of drivable access to the pool but that is still in discussion.

If all goes to plan then this will give members another pool to fish with 10 safe and stable pegs to fish from, however labor will be needed to help clear the tress and undergrowth so we will be putting out a call for help when the time comes to do this so please keep an eye out on the web site or look out for the e-mail when it's sent out

Good/Bad stuff.

This last year has been uneventful on the bad side of things.

We have a bit of a cormorant issue but it's being kept under control, we've lost a few of the ornamental koi but overall live stock is looking good.

There have been some great pictures taken of some good sizeable catches this last season and the fish are getting bigger and breeding as we can see the fish we introduced a couple of years ago now being caught and weighing in around the 6-8lb mark.















Membership Fees

Memberships and Fees are a common subject that I keep being asked about.

We have since we took the pool over kept our fees low, the reason for this is so that we make fishing affordable for everyone who wants to do it.

This is another one of the reasons along with making fishing free for under 16's (accompanied by an adult member), and the way we manage the pool is why the FIP have helped us out.

The membership fee has remained static since we took over the pool, however this year we have had to decide to increase the fee to **£50** a year. A £5 increase.

We don't make a profit from running the Club, any surplus money we have goes into the maintenance and upkeep of the pool - our rent only covers the lease of the pool and the cutting of the grass a couple of times a year, so we have to maintain an upkeep everything else.

Although the FIP grant has funded the new club house and the other things we wanted to do, it doesn't cover the out-of-pocket costs that we will have had and will continue to have going forward.

It's the little unseen costs like fuel and oil for the waterpump/generator, replacement Lillies that keep getting ripped out, right down to the tea and coffee – all these things add up.

This still makes membership less than £1 a week and is considerably lower than some of the other pools in the area who charge £100 - £190 a year, so we feel £50 is a reasonable fee for membership and the new fee will be payable by 30th April 2026.

Look out for the reminder e-mails and notices on the notice boards etc – I will send these out in March 2026.

Acknowledgements.

We have had a lot of help from members within the club this year.

The cutting-out sessions were fantastic, and we really appreciate the help those of you have given.

Not everybody is able bodied, and we understand that so any call out for help is purely voluntary so if you are able then feel free to join us when you see the call out.

Special mentions go to Paul Smith, Kevin Walls, Steve Horne, Paul Grinham and Nigel Andrews

Kevin Walls

Kevin visits the pool every day and keeps an eye on things – this is an essential role and it helps keeps us update on anything that might be a problem so we can deal with them before they become a bigger issue.

Paul Smith

Paul can be regularly seen waist deep in the pool or clearing undergrowth, that is when he's not pulling 15lb-ers out time after time – see him for tips – His passion for the pool and the work he does up there on a regular basis goes unnoticed a lot of the time, but it is very much appreciated.

Steve Horne

Steve has been the main man on the new club house build. His skills, knowledge and labor on this build have given the club a new focal point that will be there for future generations to come.

Paul Grinham

Paul, not only has he repaired and repainted the old shed to give it a new lease of life he gave up his time to paint the club house to match.

Nigel Andrews

Amongst other things Nigel did a fair bit of the grafting for us while the foundations and brickwork when up which greatly helped the build move along at a swift pace.

To all of those of you who have come out and lent a hand when asked helping with the smallest of jobs, it has all contributed to us getting where we are now and it is greatly appreciated.

We have had a couple of donations from members that want to remain nameless, so to you, we thank you, you know how you are.

As we start 2026, I wish you all a belated prosperous New Year, for the club I hope 2026 is going to be another year of growth and development, all of which we can't do without you, so thank you again for your continued support.

