



Harrow Angling Society

Members Magazine

March 2011

Issue 98

HS2

CROSSES HERE



www.harrowangling.co.uk

Editors Introduction

Well what can I say it has been a beyond a harsh winter gain so like most of you I have struggled to get out much since the last issue. I did manage to get a weekend in Harefield Pit 1 as it froze and although both nights were -5 centigrade and the lake freezing around us on the Sunday morning both Matt 'Mute' Kine and myself managed a couple of fish with Matt landing a common over 20 lb. I also witnessed a member catch a mid double pike on a lure whilst spinning for pike on the Sunday morning. I am sure you are thinking this was fowl hooked, but it was not and probably the last fish caught before the water reached its close season.



I would like to thank all of you for your positive feedback from the last issue and I hope this will be received better than my first. I would like to

thank those who have continued to send over images and stories, especially Andrew 'Baity' Kempster who excels at providing content.

If any of you get the opportunity to take any pictures from the upcoming work parties on Rowley or Harefield Pit 2, I would appreciate if you can send them to me for use in the future.

Well I better get on to the contents of this issue, firstly I would like to thank Terry for his input in the short time I have been involved and I hope that one of you will come close to filling his shoes. As well as the usual sections you will find a new 'Whats on' page which not only contains HAS matches also includes other events that maybe of interest. The main spread gives an overview of the preposed route for High Speed 2 which if you did not already know effects us as angling society as well as many others.

A big thanks to Baitcraft for offering a prize again for the competition and I look forward to seeing Mark at the AGM.

I have been asked to highlight the continuing problem of rubbish being left on Harefield Pit 1 which is unacceptable.

The weather seems to picking up now and with Rowley, Harefield Pit 2 and the river now closed I will be gracing the banks of Harefield Pit 1 again. I am hoping to get my float rod out and get some practice in for the matches. With any luck I can continue my streak of coming second in the weekend matches this year and hope to see you enjoying the spring weather.

Laurence Butters

Editorial Secretary



Guess the weight

Competition

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From The Chair

My very special thanks to Terry Skelton the Secretary for all the hard work he has put into the Society since even before I was a member, and I have been a member for 30 years! He has led the Society positively through the good and the lean times. He has again announced his intention to step down from the role of Honorary Secretary of the Society. He has intimated this in previous years but we ignored his hints as we valued his contribution so much, but this time he is more determined. He assures us that he will not be leaving us adrift and he will be on hand to train and nurture the new incumbent. His shoes will be very hard to fill but not impossible. The Committee given Terry's vast experience and knowledge have lent on him a lot in the past, but with a new holder of the post the responsibility will have to be shared and others with experience will be called upon to spread the load. I will personally miss his attendance at Committee and members meetings as a friend and colleague and his unique ability to add clarity and perspective to every situation, I wish Terry all the best for the future.

Anybody interested in standing for the post please declare your interest in writing to the Secretary.

The first signs of spring are finally showing after a long winter and No1 is now open for fishing. As it is the only HAS water open for three months please be courteous to others, the fish and the wildlife as you make use of this wonderful facility. There are plenty of swims on the lake so please take care not to restrict access to other swims by your angling methods to the

detriment of others who wish to enjoy their sport.

Please continue to use the dip tanks provided as part of our KHV precautions, along with air drying your equipment between visits, I know it can be a pain but if we slip up with our precautions the consequences will be the loss of our sport.

My thanks to all the Officers and Committee for their help and actions over the last year, our finances continue to be healthy, our membership continues to be strong. With this newsletter you will receive your renewal form, please complete it as soon as possible and send it to Paul our hard working Membership Secretary. You may have to wait a while until you have done your working parties and get your 'Stamps' if this is the case the fishery managers are looking forward to seeing you on their parties. If you have any tools, equipment or materials you think they may find useful, please contact them.

My thanks to the fishery managers for keeping the waters in such great condition and to the Bailiffs for there vigilance on the bankside and to all you members, because without you there would be no Society.

Please do not forget the AGM on Wednesday 13th April 20.00hrs, at the Horse & Barge Public House, Harefield. I look forward to seeing you there.

Vince Sutton
Chairman

Society Waters Season Dates

Harefield No 1

Open 15th March - 13th December
Closed 14th December - 14th March

Harefield No2 & Rowley

Open 16th June - 14th March
Closed 15th March - 15th June

NB: All dates are inclusive and you may only fish within these dates

In search of a 20....

I recently encouraged my friend and neighbour Ray to join the club and take up carp fishing a bit more seriously; we spend many summers evening and the odd winters morning fishing the river at the bottom of my garden. Greedy chub and hard fighting barbel grace our nets with regularity, as the fishing is relatively easy. Due mainly to the privacy of the place and helped by the fact Ray and I are the only two people that really fish it. We still have to work a little at the fishing, but bumper mornings of several barbel each backed up by a few decent sized chub a piece aren't uncommon. So Ray agreed to join the club and come June we would start our Harrow campaign to try and up his personal best carp of 17lb to a 20.

We decided to start our campaign on Rowley as foolishly I thought the place would be as easy as I remembered it and bagging a decent fish or two was a cert. Also if you're trying to get someone into carp fishing and there're not catching it's not much fun so we started on what I thought was the clubs easier water. Oh how wrong I was, having not really fished the lake seriously for a good couple of years now it surprised me how tricky it was to get amongst the biggies during the summer. The real shame of it is that we live just around the corner from Rowley and should we have had a few results, regulars we would have become for sure. Luckily we did winkle a few decent fish out; I managed a near twenty pounder off the top on one of our many evening stalking sessions when I could actually keep a bait in the water for more than 5 minute no thanks to the ducks, coots, and geese. Ray bagged a thoroughly deserved mid double common during a very hot and laughter filled weekend fishing on the island. We eventually left the lake to others with our tails firmly between our legs and headed down to pit one. Deep down I knew that Rowley could be a bit tricky early summer; to me it is much better late autumn early winter water. However with Ray being a fair weather angler, come the start of the pike season he'd only be doing odd days out on the river so we really needed to get some serious time and fish under our belts. This needed doing by late September early October at the latest, the lure of he's comfy sofa proving too irresistible once the mercury starts falling. Why didn't we do well Rowley? Maybe we got a little caught up in the hype of the mags, Ray's enthusiasm to use rigs he read about rubbed of on me somewhat. I've personally not purchased a "carp" magazine for years so it was all a bit new to me. Why oh why did I not stick to what I'd used previously, stuff I knew worked. For some reason we started to use small baits, stiff rig materials, and 1oz square leads, did they help? Did they heck! We had lightly hooked fish that fell off at the net, belting runs that you struck into thin air when you picked the rod up. I even had a fish kite on a tightish line for about 30 yards without any indication on my buzzers, it was only when Ray's buzzer went mental and he started to reel in my line that we realise what had happened. The culprit being a small stockie that was landed and released none the worst for wears. So that lot got sacked quick time, and I went back to what I knew worked, longer hook links and heavier leads, bigger baits, super sharp hooks and simple rigs. We moved onto pit one with baits that we knew worked, it was just everything else that needed a little bit of fine tuning. Every time we fished we would fish swims next to each other, this enabled us to fish the same areas and try out a few various things. One of us would use just a very small pva bag on one rod, and the other was fished over 4 kilos of bait, sometime one of us would use 5 or 10 bait stringers on one rod, then 50 to 100 freebies around the other rod. Ray preferred 15mm shop brought baits whilst I always used 22mm homemades on at least one of my rods, with both of us sometimes using double baits or snowman rigs, or singles tipped with fake corn. Hook links were sometimes shortened or lengthened, lead shape changed with the weight being increase or decreased, hook sizes also. We tried a whole host of variables, methods, rigs, hook baits, location and bait application; some of the results were certainly surprising.

It's quite funny we eventually ended up with a set up that was basically what I used years ago when I first started carp fishing. Unsurprisingly to me the bigger HNV baits caught the bigger and

better fish, and the smaller attractor baits receive a lot of attention from the smaller fish, sometimes out catching the bigger baits by 5 to 1 on the odd session (my 26lb mirror to Rays five fish ranging from 8 to 12lb). I did take joy in poking fun at Ray saying I was after quality rather than quantity, and it was good angling by myself to bag three twenties and a 17 over four weekends (or was it the 22mm baits?). Unfortunately Ray didn't manage to beat his personal best before he hung up his carp rods until the spring, although he gave it a bloody good shot. We worked out that he did around 20 nights and catching on all bar three of these. With just over 30 carp runs to his rods and over 20 carp landed it was just bad luck that he didn't break the twenty pound barrier, these carp were also backed up by a few decent tench and a few bream (including one from pit 1 that we really should have weighed, it was huge) he didn't have a bad season in all fairness. Fair



Not quite a twenty but Ray is all smiles

play to him he stuck it out and didn't run off to some over stocked commercial fishery to take the easy option. He's itching to get back, not only to catch his 20 but also because he is thoroughly enjoying his first season in the club. Many a time he commented to me how he had met some very friendly and genuinely helpful people on the bank always willing to point him in the right direction or offering advise. This I pointed out is what club fishing should be about and I can't wait to see he's face when he bag's that biggie as I'm sure those he met this season will offer a handshake once he achieves he's target.

And for those that are interested in the results of our experi-

ments on pit one. What did we learn; firstly don't buy carp magazines there full of rubbish ideas and suggestions! Secondly keep tweaking your set up to suit your present fishing situation. We ended up using rigs about 7 inches long, made up using a coated hook link material stripped back to about 2 inches below the eye of the hook, shortish hair length with 10mm play between the bait and the shank of the hook, used with a small bag or stringer of 5 baits with about 35 - 55 freebies quite spread out (depending on size) . 2oz pear shaped leads on the safety clip system using about 15 inches of rig tubing completed what we ended up with. We found this set up and baiting did better than other set ups we tried, add to that we used flying back leads and slack lines to pin it all down and out of the way. Minimal bank side disturbance also helped out greatly (this should be common practise anyway), as did decent food bait that actually benefitted the fish with some form of nutritional value. Obviously this worked for us and suited our style of fishing, hopefully it'll give you some pointers if you're struggling or just fancy trying something different that may just bag you a whacker.

Andrew Kempster

'Baity'

Harefield Pit 1 Report

Due to the poor weather conditions over the last few months there were only a few good fish caught.

Moving on I would like to talk about rubbish. Brian Busby and myself on an unofficial work party pulled out several black bags of rubbish which was hidden in the undergrowth which has obviously gone un-noticed all summer due to growth of the brambles & nettles, when the bags were opened it was clear that these were opened it was clear that these were left by anglers. Every report we ask members to take to take all rubbish, fishery managers, bailiffs and other responsible members are sick of tidying up after careless & irresponsible members. Anyone caught leaving rubbish behind will not only lose their membership to the club, but the names will be circulated around the local clubs as to why their membership was revoked.

Most members will have noticed a large limb from the crack willow has fallen into the deep end of the lake, we have decided to leave this as a safe haven for the smaller fish. Offering protection and a hideaway from the cormorants patrolling the valley, therefore the first swim on either side of the lake will become float fishing only.

We have now completed all our work parties &

several unofficial ones as well, which has resulted in most of the work been carried out at the top end of the lake. The crack willows have had the tops taken off, which will allow natural sunlight to come through to dry the ground up & encourage growth of the trees and shrubs. We have completed the two swims on the social area, however there is still work to be carried out around the lake which we intend to carry out through the season we are sorry if this causes inconvenience to members.

When fishing the helipad we ask all members not to cast into the right hand corner of the lake, this is a fish sanctuary and where most members get snapped up. The management team has retrieved a lot of terminal tackle from this area and would like to see this stop as it is dangerous to the fish.

I would like to thank Stuart Verity for his hard work balliffing the water & also everyone that turns up to the work parties.

Hope to see you all in the new season

Larry & Graham

Fishery Managers

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Above: The unacceptable rubbish found at the work party, thanks to the guys for cleaning up.



Above: Harefield Pit1 the last couple of weeks before it closed

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Harefield Tackle was established over 30yrs ago, giving us plenty of experience in customer service, and a wealth of knowledge amongst our staff.

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Rowley Lake Report

Looking back to this time last year we are currently experiencing similar cold weather and the dreaded easterly winds. But with just 3 weeks to go and the promise of some mild weather things are looking up for a final flurry of activity before March 14th.

With the lake being frozen for many weeks and the lack of mild weather to warm the water those extra few degrees sport has been slow and patchy.

The usual Carp stalwarts have been persisting with mixed results. From total blanks to multiple catches, including some Tench, in a weekend session, again depending on the weather. Most fish being caught at night during the odd short mild spell.

However you can get lucky during the day as I found out when Piking one day in January. I noticed a carp just poke its nose out in open water. If I hadn't been looking directly at the spot when it surfaced I would not have seen it...no splash and virtually no disturbance on the flat calm surface. Half an hour later it did it again.

Noting the exact spot I returned a couple of days later with the carp gear and had a pretty 13lb Mirror followed by a good conditioned winter twenty, another Mirror. Both within an hour of each other, the first fish within 15 minutes of casting out. So don't just chuck it and chance it. Keep your eyes and ears open and you could get lucky.

It would appear the 30 has been out again or

is it a different fish? Again I would be pleased to hear from Kieran Aroudj with any pictures you may have.

The big Ghost continues to grow with Wack having it early winter at 27lb, I think.

I have nothing to report in terms of catches of other species and would be particularly interested to hear from those of you that have caught Pike and Perch this winter. I had a go for the Perch in October and November but was unable to top my PB from last year of 2lb 4oz.

As mentioned in the last report to enhance the summer fishing some Crucians will be stocked late spring. The Bream to add to the winter interest being stocked back in January. Approx 250 fish between 12oz and 2lb....so lets see some reports next season for these and, as always, other species, no matter what size they are.

Of increasing concern is the worry of fish being stolen. Whilst I have no evidence of fish actually being taken from Rowley it cannot be discounted.

Some members have resorted to this excuse when they have a blank spell or it's scratching time. However I believe the comparative isolation of Rowley deters any would be poachers who may use nets and set lines and checks for the latter are regularly undertaken by myself, Ray and the bailiffs and so far without result. Any vehicle accessing the field and the use of seine nets would immediately show up and again there has been no evidence of this.

Close Season Workparty Dates

10th April 2011, 15th May 2011

5th June 2011

Work Parties start at 8.00 am

Were this kind of behaviour to be going on I would suggest that it is more likely through the use of rod and line attached to a none member or, perhaps controversially, a bona fide member.

Remember the "alleged" theft of the old carp, Norman, from Langley, believed now to reside in Woodlands Lake, near Iver. This fish was taken, "allegedly" by a fairly long standing member with seemingly no loyalty to the club.

Chances are he had a few more away over the years that he was a member. So be on the lookout for any suspicious activity, poacher or otherwise.

I know space is limited in the magazine so to close I would remind you of the following:

No Prebaiting, No fishing with rods unattend-

ed, Take all litter home even if it isn't yours, Do not walk across the field, Shut all gate and No fouling should you need to answer natures call bury it discreetly away from any swim or path or take it home.

Anyone with suitable materials for working parties, timber, hardcore, scalplings etc please give me a call.

In the meantime see you at the AGM and good fishing.

John Miles

Fishery Manager



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High Speed 2

I would imagine that you are all aware of the proposed High Speed 2 project and the proposed route.

This does not just effect over 40 fishing clubs and waters throughout the country, but also other countryside users, as this will run through nature reserves as well as sites of scientific interest.

This directly effects Harrow Angling Society waters Harefield Pit 1 and would run through Harefield Pit 2 directly. Discussion at the last committee meeting lead to the decision to contact other local clubs effected and to form a group to join the main fight, as CVAC seem to be not very interested in fighting this.

The idea behind this is supported by Angling Trust, ECHO and a number of angling publications, who are working together to get this group formalised so that we can work together. With an average of each club or organisation effected there are around 20,000 anglers directly effected and if we work together then we have a much larger voice that will be heard by anglers across the country. Please spread the word to all and we will be able to provide posters to anyone who would be able to display them or to pass on to others promoting the cause.

Angling Trust Chief Executive Mark Lloyd said: *"millions of people go fishing to enjoy the uniquely peaceful qualities of waterside environments and the wildlife that they support. This very important tranquillity will be shattered if 250mph trains are routed alongside and over these very special lakes, rivers and canals, which have been fished for generations. We urge the Government to consider carefully the impact on fisheries and the environment, and explore all alternative possible routes, before giving this project the green light to proceed."*

There are nearly 30 groups across the route that can be found on the HS2 Action Alliance website www.hs2alliance.org and you can find the latest news on the project at Stop HS2's website www.stophs2.org.

The main aim is to make the all aware of the national petition and to get the number of signatures to over 100,000 so that it will be taken seriously by parliament. At the time of writing the total number of signatures is over 36,000 and this has a long way to go.

The petition can be found at www.gopetition.com/petitions/stop-hs2.html and for those that do not have internet access there will be forms at the AGM and we will happily add the completed details for you.

For those of you on Facebook there are a links to both Anglers Against HS2 and Save Savay Lake which regularly have updates and posts relating to the subject. Please join to find out more an keep an eye on what is going on.



**Have some spare time?
Why not get in touch to help us
to protect the natural beauty
and more importantly to other
members our waters and fish
www.harrowangling.co.uk**





HIGH SPEED RAIL THREAT TO SAVAY LAKE

IN RECENT TIMES, THE GOVERNMENT HAS ANNOUNCED PLANS FOR A NEW SUPER SPEED RAIL SYSTEM. UNBELIEVABLY IT'S PLANNED TO RUN STRAIGHT THROUGH THE MIDDLE OF ONE OF THE COUNTRY'S MOST FAMOUS LAKE'S - SAVAY IT MUST BE STOPPED! HERE'S HOW YOU CAN HELP BY TOM BANKES

10 FEBRUARY 2011

FEBRUARY 2011

The spread taken from Carpology earlier this year showing how Savay lake would look

Below is a list of waters released by the Angling Trust. We know these are all effected and i am sure there are more out there:

1. Savay Lake, Colne Valley
2. Korda Lake, Colne Valley
3. Grand Union Canal, Paddington Branch
4. River Brent, Perivale, London
5. Grand Union Canal, Northolt
6. Yeading Brook, Ruislip Gardens
7. River Pinn, West Ruislip
8. Colne Brook, Uxbridge
9. Grand Union Canal, Harefield
10. Pynesfield Lake, Harefield
11. Kingfisher Lake (Pit 4), Harefield
12. Fray's Valley
13. River Misbourne - Chalfont St Giles
14. River Thames, Aylesbury
15. Bear Brook, Aylesbury
16. Great Ouse, Turweston/Brackley
17. River Itchen Ladbroke
18. Grand Union Canal, Ufton, Warwickshire
19. River Cherwell, Edgcote
20. Burnt Heath Farm , Offchurch
21. River Leam, Weston Under Westerley
22. River Avon & Stowe Mouth, Stareton
23. Brook Farm, Finham Brook, Stoneleigh
24. Lavender Hall Fisheries, Berkeswell
25. Shadow Brook, Diddington
26. River Blythe, Hampton In Arden
27. Brickfields Farm, Solihull
28. River Cole, Coleshill
29. River Thames, Water Orton
30. Birmingham and Fazeley Canal,
31. Cuttle Mill Farm Fisheries, Wishaw
32. Pool House Farm, Hunts Green
33. Langley Brook, Middleton
34. Gallows Brook, Middleton
35. Bourne Brook, Hints
36. Coventry Canal, Whittington
37. Damford Brook, Streethay
38. Fulfen Brook, Streethay Brook
39. Curborough Fisheries
40. Bourne Brook, Curborough
41. Harefield (Pit 1), Harefield
42. Harefield (Pit 2), Harefield
43. Denham Lake (Pit 3)
44. Golf Course Lakes, Denham Cross

Harefield Pit 2 Report

Firstly, as is usual, may we thank the bailiffs for their sterling service over the harshest of winters. Come rain or shine, snow and gales these dedicated few will be found patrolling the banks of the lake keeping an eye on the place and notifying us of anything that is out of the ordinary. Once again, many thanks for your efforts guys.

On the fishing front things have been predictably quiet given one of the coldest winters in recent history. Before the freeze up it was fishing relatively well with pike being caught from all areas of the lake. It is unusual for the lakes in the area to freeze as early and for as long as they did this year, but the thaw and gradual warming sunshine of spring has woken many a hibernating angler and drawn them once more to the waters edge.

No major captures or tales of monsters to report. Over the month of February as things have warmed slightly and the days have gradually stretched out a few have ventured out angling and been rewarded for just being there, like we said nothing noteworthy but enough to make it worthwhile dusting the rods off and getting out in the fresh air for a few hours.

The close season looms ever closer and with it comes the impending work parties (see dates elsewhere in the mag). As is the norm we ask for people to attend to help with the maintenance of the clubs largest lake. Unfortunately

we face the reality that most people will want to pay the opt out fee, a few will go to the lakes they prefer to fish or get their working parties out of the way as quickly as possible. If more than the usual half a dozen faces can see it within themselves to come and lend a hand it would be greatly appreciated! We don't expect you to break your back for 10 hours but many hands make light work.

We plan to once again tackle the snags, major tree work and do a bit of litter picking on the earlier dates before everything grows up so it isn't so noticeable. On the later date we will have another trip up both the inlet and outlet streams clearing obstacles as well as strimming back vegetation and having a general tidy up.

To all those who make a trip before the end, good luck, if you see us stop for a chat and brew.

To all other members who cant make it down we look forward to seeing you in the near future, maybe at the meeting or working parties, if not in the sunshine of summer.

As always, tight lines one and all.
All the best.

Ian & Les
Fishery Managers

Close Season Workparty Dates

17th April 2011, 15th May 2011

12th June 2011

Work Parties start at 8.00 am

Please meet at the carpark by the viaduct



Ian Kempster with the new carp record of 45lb 4oz from Harefield Pit2

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Whats On

April 2011

23rd April 2011 - Kordatorial open day
9am - 5pm Harefield Tackle, 2 - 4 High Street,
Uxbridge, Middlesex, UB9 6BU

May 2011

20th - 22nd May 2011 - HAS match & BBQ
6pm draw for swims, carp, tench & bream.
Harefield Pit 1

July 2011

16th July - 14th August - National fishing month
For more information on events
www.nationalfishingmonth.com

16th July 2011 - HAS float/feeder match
6am draw for swims, 1 rod only
Rowley

30th July 2011 - HAS float/feeder match
6am draw for swims, 1 rod only
Harefield Pit 1

August 2011

12th - 14th August 2011 - HAS match
6pm draw for swims, carp only.
Harefield Pit 1

September 2011

16th September 2011 - HAS float/feeder match
6am draw for swims, 1 rod only
Harefield Pit 1

October 2011

15th October 2011 - HAS float/feeder match
6am draw for swims, 1 rod only
Rowley

HAS matches - For more information please
contact the match secretary Brian Busby on
07754 722980

NB: For day matches the lakes will close to
night fishing on friday and open again after the
match concludes.



Annual General Meeting



8.00 PM Wednesday 13th April 2011

Horse & Barge Public House

Moorhall Road, Harefield

Middlesex UB9 6PE

Stands from Baitcraft & local tackle shops

Photo Competition Winner

1st



The Winner decided by Baitcraft is Steve Jenner, followed closely in second by Eric Skidmore and third place to Graham Johnson

2nd



3rd



The prize will be presented to the winner at the AGM by Baitcrafts Mark McKena.

AGM
8.00 PM Wednesday
13th April 2011

Guess the weight Competition

With 5 kilos of boilies and a pot of pop ups on offer all you need to do is guess the weight of the fish caught by one of our members on a recent trip to Thailand. The only hint we can give you is that it is considerably larger than the current record! Please provide the weight in kilograms.....

Please send all entries to the Editor by the 30th September 2011 email has_magazine@lozicalmedia.co.uk or post HAS C/O Lozical Media, 123 Yardley Ave, Pitstone, Beds, LU7 9BD



Baitcraft the experts in specialist bait manufacture has kindly offered to sponsor our photography competition. Mark the owner is a local lad and has caught a number of large fish and a number of anglers in the club have been successful using the products.



Annual General Meeting

8.00 PM Wednesday

13th April 2011

Horse & Barge Public House





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HURRY UP!

IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO
**SAVE YOUR
SEASON**

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PLAYING CATCH-UP
THEN IT'S TIME TO VISIT:

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HURRY UP!