

## **Members' Newsletter – August 2017**

### **Fishing reports and prospects**

After rubbish conditions for fly fishing during the spring (cool and consistently low water) it has been much better this last few weeks. That's because summer has been more like spring with lots of rain and lots of spates to freshen up the river and get the fish biting. Some very good Trout have been caught recently with fish to well over 3lbs.

Just a reminder that if we do get any bright sunny hot days don't bother to go to fish in the afternoons so as to avoid the visitors on the river banks, or pick your spot carefully. The downstream section of our river length is much quieter than the upstream part.

A 3lb 1oz Tench was caught on our Members Pond in late-June.

### **Catch returns**

In my last newsletter I promised to send you some results. A total of 522 in-season Trout and 261 in-season Grayling were reported by 37 members from 290 trips. That makes an average of 2.7 in-season fish per session. But that average will have been significantly higher due to captures of out-of-season fish. These figures prove what we already knew that we have a superb wild Brown Trout and Grayling fishery. But - being wild fish - they are not easy to catch, especially when the river is low or the sun high in the sky. Please continue to keep some basic records of your in-season Trout and Grayling catches so that next March/April you can submit this information with your membership renewal.

### **Working parties**

A very productive working party was held on the river on 23<sup>rd</sup> April and another at our Members Pond on 24<sup>th</sup> June. It was nice to see some new faces participating on both days. Our next three dates are 19<sup>th</sup> August, 2<sup>nd</sup> September and 30<sup>th</sup> September. All three are from 10am onwards and will be at our Members Pond. Below I will explain why there is a big current focus on this fishery. Please let me know if you plan to attend any of these dates. That way if it is called off due to a bad weather forecast then I can let you know.

These sessions are always very enjoyable and while we always achieve a lot they are not hard work at all. If you can spare an hour or two then please try to come along. Each time we will probably be done by around 1pm. Food and refreshments will be provided.

### **Ponds project**

Over the past decade the quality of the coarse fishing on our waters has declined and we have lost a number of coarse fishing members to other local clubs with better coarse fishing waters (lost coarse fishing members have been replaced by mainly fly fishing members). After much discussion over recent years the committee has now committed to a major project aimed at improving the fishing on our 8.6 acre club-owned Members Pond

site. For five days starting on 25<sup>th</sup> September contractors will be working at the pond to remove around one third of the surface area of lilies by removing their roots. This activity was recommended by a professional fisheries consultant who visited the ponds last summer. Thus the Members Pond will be closed to fishing during this period. And it is recommended that you do not plan to fish there afterwards until at least April 2018 by which time the site should have recovered. If you have any questions about this activity please contact me. The Roadside Pond will remain open for coarse fishing.

## **Matches**

Last autumn we ran a successful club match at Swinsty Reservoir with lots of fish caught, including Perch up to 2lb 12oz, Bream, Roach, Perch, Gudgeon and Trout (which don't count). So we are holding two matches there this autumn on 3<sup>rd</sup> September and 15<sup>th</sup> October. Please let me know if you are interested in participating in either of these matches.

## **We are still looking for two new committee members**

We have nine committee meetings each year, all on a Monday evening at the Ilkley Bowling Club. Call or email me if you are interested in joining us.

## **Extra waters for you to fish**

I suggest that you get out and try the **Knaresborough Piscatorials** and **Wetherby Angling Club** waters. On 6<sup>th</sup> July myself and Membership Secretary Peter Conner shared a good catch of Perch on the Wetherby stretch with four fish caught weighing between 1lb 10oz and 2lb 6oz. You just need to email me to book a place. I will email you back with an access map for the stretch you want to fish.

## **Subscription renewals**

If you have not already renewed your subscriptions then please do so soon. If you have decided not to renew then please email me to let me know.

## **Ilkley AA website**

We are always in need of new material to ensure that the club's website is interesting and informative. Please let me know if you have any catches news or any other material that you think might be of interest to the other members that could be posted on the website.

## **Your feedback**

If you have any thoughts on how the fishing on our club waters can be improved or any other suggestions on the running of the club then please give me a call or drop me an email.

'Tight lines'

David Martin, Secretary