

## Members' Newsletter – November 2013

### AGM

The 2013 Annual General Meeting of the Ilkley Angling Association will take place on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December at the Ilkley Bowling Club (just off Bolton Bridge Road, entrance near Morrison's) starting at 7.30pm. A Pie & Peas supper will be served and there will be a prize raffle. This is a great opportunity for you to meet the club officials and other club members. Please do try to come along. There is a vacancy for a new Committee member so if you'd like to be considered please put your name forward at the AGM.

### Fishing reports

The very cold weather in March and early-April made for a slow start to the **river Trout fishing** season on the club's stretch at Ilkley. But as soon as it started to warm up in mid-April, the fishing was excellent for the next two months. Ideal river levels and superb fly hatches, especially of Large Brook Duns, led to large numbers of Trout being caught. The club's stretch now produces more large (1lb-2lb) Trout than it did in the past. This is partly down to increased numbers of members fishing catch & release. The highlight of the spring was the capture of an incredible 26" Trout at Ilkley on 31<sup>st</sup> May by member Colin Molyneux. Well done Colin! Hot weather and consistently low river levels made for challenging fishing on the river through the summer, although some good sport was had by those members fishing dry fly in the late evenings. Autumn brought a return to good river conditions and large numbers of rising **Grayling** showed what a good number of these lovely fish we have at Ilkley and fish up to 2lbs were caught.

The cold spring also brought a delayed start to the fishing on the **Roadside Lagoon**. Working parties had created a number of easily accessible swims and throughout the summer good numbers of Roach and Perch were caught. For the first time in several years, the **Members' Pond** looked healthy with many fry observed in the margins along with tadpoles, daphnia and visiting kingfishers and herons. In the autumn a few members did fish the Members' Pond and a few Roach and Chub to 2½ lbs were caught, although fish stocks are very low. We plan to stock the pond before next summer (see item below).

### Club finances

Following three years of reducing club revenues (from subscriptions and day tickets), 2013 has seen the club's finances stabilise. This has been partly down to the committee reducing unnecessary expenditure and partly down to our increased revenues from day tickets. We are now in a healthier state financially and are in a position to invest in stocking coarse fish to improve the quality of the fishing in the ponds, especially as the Members' Pond water quality issue appears to have been resolved (see later item).

### Scouting for members

Two of our junior members are also members of Addingham Scouts, and such is the lads' enthusiasm for fishing that the rest of the scout group wants to know what all the fuss is about. Various joint activities with Ilkley AA are being planned, such as fly tying, casting demos and possibly an evening on the river in the spring. In addition, the scouts may also be doing a balsam-bashing session on the Members' Pond next year. The hope is that we may recruit additional junior members as a result.

### Wild Trout Trust survey at Ilkley

At the request of the club, an officer of the Wild Trout Trust made an advisory visit to the club's stretch on 19<sup>th</sup> July. Club committee members and our EA fisheries officer were also present. Subsequently we received a 24-page report detailing the current state of the river for wild Trout breeding success. Mainly the report showed that our stretch already has some ideal habitats but it did also highlight activities that the club could consider implementing which should lead to increased populations of Trout. It is planned that some of these activities will be implemented via club working parties scheduled for Feb/March (see dates below).

## River fly life monitoring

As part of the Riverfly Partnership initiative, the Ilkley AA team completed a year of monitoring in May and we have now been given trigger levels by the Environment Agency so that if the sample contains levels of invertebrates below the trigger the EA will be informed and take investigative action. Levels of invertebrates to date have been healthy.

## Ilkley Trout fly fishing clinic

To help you to catch more Trout on the clubs' stretch of the River Wharfe members and their friends are invited to an evening in Ilkley in January where we can all benefit from discussing successful fly fishing strategies with expert Ilkley AA fly anglers including Richard Tong, who fishes regularly with well-known angler Paul Proctor. We hope to have a wide-ranging discussion which will include tactics, techniques, tackle, flies, watercraft, river and weather conditions, etc. If you would like to attend such an evening, please let the Secretary David Martin know by 12<sup>th</sup> December (AGM evening), by email, phone or in person, so that we can identify the level of interest and arrange the venue and date accordingly.

## Members' Pond

As the Members' Pond now appears to be in a good condition (apart from the quantity of lilies) the committee has agreed that £1,000 will be spent on a kick-start restocking. It is planned that this will mainly be of Tench and Bream. The pond already holds a small breeding population of Roach and Perch and a few Chub. Following a recent meeting with our EA fisheries officer, the committee is also pressing for their assistance with additional restocking. Initial working parties at the Members Pond will focus on lily root removal to create five good swims in the first instance, so as to make the water easily fishable next season.

## Working party dates (all starting at 10.30 a.m. unless cancelled due to bad weather)

We have identified a series of dates for the winter/spring programme of working parties, which at the ponds will mainly focus on weed removal. Working parties are great fun and an ideal way to meet other members and to find out where the fishing is currently best. It would be helpful if members proposing to attend a working party would supply their mobile phone number to the club Secretary David Martin (contact details are at the bottom of the page) so that if a working party is cancelled due to bad weather he can inform you.

- Members' Pond: Saturday 23 November, Saturday 7 December, Monday 30 December, Saturday 18 January, Saturday 1 February.
- River: Saturday 15 February, Saturday 1 March, Sunday 16 March.  
**Note** that if the river is in spate then the working party venue will switch to the ponds.
- Roadside Lagoon: Saturday 29 March, Saturday 12 April, Saturday 26 April.

## Marketing

During the year the club has had excellent new publicity via various websites and publications, for example the Bradford Met. tourism website [www.visitbradford.com/Ilkley/things-to-do/Ilkley-Fly-Fishing](http://www.visitbradford.com/Ilkley/things-to-do/Ilkley-Fly-Fishing), 'Covered' magazine and an Ilkley AA club leaflet distributed around local tackle shops, hotels, tourism offices, etc.

## Ilkley AA website

We are always in need of new material to ensure that the club's website is interesting and informative. Please send photos, new items and articles to Roy Johnson, our webmaster, for inclusion. The email address for contact is [info@ilkleyanglingassociation.co.uk](mailto:info@ilkleyanglingassociation.co.uk). The URL of the website is [www.ilkleyanglingassociation.co.uk/](http://www.ilkleyanglingassociation.co.uk/)

## Saving your subscriptions for IAA fishing waters projects

If you have received this club newsletter in the post, it means that we do not have your email address. It has cost us around £1 in postage, stationary and printing to get it to you. If we could send it to you by email this has a zero cost to the club. We do appreciate that not everybody uses email, but if you do and you are happy for us to send you club communications by email, then please do notify your email address to the club Secretary David Martin, whose own email address is below.