

Members' Newsletter – Autumn 2016

Fishing reports and prospects

Despite lots of low water conditions the **fly fishing** has been better on the **river** this last few weeks than I would have expected. Small nymphs fished in the quick runs or small dry flies cast to rising fish in the flat glides have been working for me. I suggest you use a 9' or 10' 4-weight rod combined with a fine (3lb) tippet and a leader length of 10-12 feet.

The **Grayling** fishing should be excellent all winter long. Obviously avoid fishing in flood conditions but there are spots where good catches can be made in a falling river even with 18" of extra water. Low cold conditions can be difficult but a trotted gilt tail worm can still produce good sport. And throughout the winter why not try for one of our big **Chub**. The best tactic is legered bread fished into the slower deeper pools in the late-afternoon and evening.

We had a bit of useful free promotion of our river fishing just recently. The November edition of '**Trout & Salmon**' magazine contained a booklet entitled 'Top Game Fisheries 2017'. In it it said that 'The River Wharfe is possibly Yorkshire's finest angling river', and the Ilkley AA stretch was one of only three lengths of the river specifically given a mention.

Have any of you caught a Brown Trout of over 3lbs on our stretch this year and you have a photo of it? If so please enter it for the club **Helliwell Trophy**. Just email me a photo and mention the weight or length of the fish. Similarly let me know if you caught a Grayling of 1lb 12oz or more.

While it is fresh in your mind please make a note of **your Trout catches** on our stretch during the 2016 season so that you can submit this information in the New Year with your membership renewal (due in March). We just need to know approximately how many times you fished our river stretch and approximately how many trout you caught.

A mother **Otter** with two cubs was spotted recently by one of our members fishing up by the Riverside Hotel.

For the past year we have been closely monitoring the activities of the Ilkley sewage treatment plant operated by Yorkshire Water and our club President Steve Fairbourn has been logging all suspicious discharges into the river. If you see anything suspicious call Steve on 07515 350929. If you can see pollution entering the river anywhere on our stretch immediately call the Environment Agency incident hotline on 0800 807060.

The **Roadside Pond** will be worth fishing for **Pike** for the next month or two. And as it is deep it will take a while to cool down so Roach and Perch are also a possibility on floatfished maggots or worms. Fish swims alongside the road (not the river side) to find the best weed free water.

Ponds regeneration project

Following a visit to our two ponds by two professional fisheries consultants in July this year which

showed the aquatic environment in both ponds to be very healthy for coarse fish, during 2017 it is planned to carry out major works at the Members' Lagoon with the prime objective of improving the quality of the **coarse fishing** sport for our members. As part of this project around 40% of the large leaf lilies will be removed thus significantly increasing the amount of fishable water. This project will be self-financing and it is not planned to spend any of the club's finances to fund the project.

Working parties

Working parties are planned to take place at the **Members Pond** on **Saturday mornings 26th November and 17th December** starting at around 10.30 and continuing until around 1pm to 2pm. If you can spare an hour or two please try to come along. They are enjoyable social events. There will be hot and cold drinks available and bacon/sausage sandwiches (all free). If the weather forecast for the morning is very poor then the working party might not take place. If you want to check then call Steve Fairbourn (club President) on 07515 350929.

Winter matches

Our club winter match series starts on the river at Ilkley on 20th November. Trotting or fishing small maggot feeders for Grayling are the two winning tactics. Occasionally a big Chub is caught. The matches run from 9am to 2pm on Sunday mornings and the dates are November 20th, December 4th and 18th, January 15th, February 12th and March 12th. The draw takes place at 8am in the free car park by the river next to the Riverside Hotel. Entry pools are £7. Any queries contact Trevor Smith on 07540 445150 or email tamsatsunset@gmail.com. But feel free to fish the river on these dates because 90% of the spots on our length will be free to fish, even during the matches.

AGM

The club AGM will take place at the Ilkley Bowling Club (just off Bolton Bridge Road, entrance near to what was the small My Local supermarket) from 7.30pm on the evening of Thursday 8th December. There will be a presentation of trophies; a Pie & Peas (plus Veggie option) supper will be served and there will be a **prize raffle** (do you have something that you could donate as a prize?). The AGM is a great opportunity for you to meet the club officials and other club members. There are vacancies for two new committee members so if you'd like to be considered please put your name forward at the AGM. Please put the date in your diary now and try to attend.

Club finances

We are expecting to report a small surplus at the AGM for the last club financial year (ended 31st October). Revenue from annual memberships is a little up on last year but day ticket sales are a little lower. Thus there will be no changes taking place for the 2017/18 season in **annual subscription rates** or day ticket prices. Membership renewals are due from mid-March 2017.

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 myself, for inclusion. The URL of the website is www.ilkleyanglingassociation.co.uk. Some interesting fly fishing content has recently been added to the website – see the 'Articles' section.

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

8th November, 2016