



AGM calling notice & Members' Newsletter – November 2019

AGM

The club's AGM will take place at the Ilkley Bowling Club (just off Bolton Bridge Road, entrance near to the Co-op) from 7.30pm on the evening of **Thursday 5th December**. As well as reports from officers there will be a presentation of trophies and at the end there will be a **prize raffle** (do you have something that you could bring along and 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 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.

Dave Armstrong memorial bench

As well as being our bailiff for many years Dave was a big supporter of the club in many ways. As a long-term memorial to Dave it has been decided that the club will organise a bench to be installed on the banks of the river at Ilkley. The club will be making a substantial contribution to the cost and we are asking members that knew him to please consider making a donation. You could make your donation in person at the AGM or by post or bank transfer.

Fishing reports and prospects

What a difference a year makes! In our November 2018 newsletter I reported on 'very low river levels throughout most of the autumn'. This year has been the exact opposite. Last autumn there were fish rising everywhere but this autumn very few because of the high water levels and lots of leaves. Some very good **Trout and Grayling** have been caught this autumn from our stretch but, whereas last year the conditions favoured fly fishers, this year it has seemed to have been the bait fishers that have done best. Trotting a worm or legering a small maggot feeder have been the most successful tactics.

After the scouring of the river bed by the many recent spates **Grayling** fishing should now 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 – for example the side of the Crumbwheel pool or under the main road bridge. Low cold river conditions can make the fishing hard but a trotted small worm can still often produce good sport. And throughout the winter why not try for one of our big **Chub**. The best tactic is to leger a bread or cheese bait fished into the slower deeper pools – for example in the pool just upstream of Beanlands Island - in the late-afternoon and evening.

While it is fresh in your mind please make a note of **your Trout catches** on our stretch during the 2019 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.

For the past few years 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.

Ponds regeneration project

Due to the many working parties held there and the efforts of a few committed individuals the Members Lagoon is now a much more fishable water with a lot less lilies and many more fishable swims. Although some good sized Tench, Bream, Perch and Rudd have been caught this summer the fishing is still slower than we would like it to be so this winter we will be stocking more Roach and some good sized Bream. Our club President Steve Fairbourn will give an update on this progress of our ponds project at the upcoming AGM.

Working parties

A working party is planned to take place at the **Members Lagoon** on **Saturday morning 7th December** starting at around 10.00 and continuing until around 1pm. 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. Further dates will be added for January, February and onwards.

Club finances

At the AGM we are expecting to be able to report a good surplus for the last club financial year (ended 31st October). Thus there will be no changes taking place for the 2020/21 season in **annual subscription rates** or day ticket prices. Membership renewals are due from mid-March 2020. A reminder will be sent out in early-March.

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. This year a number of news items and some articles on how to fish the clubs waters have been added to 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

19th November, 2019