

Members' Newsletter – Spring 2018

Fishing reports – Over the winter **Grayling** fishing on the river has been very good, especially on the section upstream of the Crumbwheel pool as far as the Old Bridge. Some 1lb 8oz to 2lb sized fish were landed by both fly and bait anglers. Did any of you catch a big Grayling that you could enter for the IAA **Grayling Cup**? There is a similar competition for the **largest Brown Trout – the Helliwell Trophy**. This competition runs for fish caught in the open Trout fishing season. Over the winter as usual some large out-of-season Brown Trout were caught with the largest being over 4lbs.

All cup entry fish must be returned alive. All you need to do is to take a photo of the fish (laid on soft grass or a landing net) next to a tape measure or your rod. Measure the fish (inches or cm - tip of nose to fork of tail) and email (or post) me the photo with your measurement. If you did weigh the fish then also let me know the weight but only the measurement is needed to enter the competition.

Prospects for the Trout season – Right from the start of the season look out for hatches of Large Dark Olives around the middle of the day. Consistent fly hatches of assorted mayflies, especially Large Brook Duns, and Grannom start around mid-late April, peaking through May and June. To get the best catches on our stretch pick your day to fish. A falling river after a spate is best – with the river not too high and not too low. Don't bother to go fishing if the river is low and the weather is cold and/or very bright. Ideally fish on warmer cloudy days. And in the summer don't bother to fish on bright hot sunny afternoons, although on such days if you fish early in the morning or in the evening for good sport.

Ponds – The **Members Pond** is looking better now than it has done for over 20 years so if you like a bit of coarse fishing, once the weather has warmed up, I suggest you give it a go and see if you can catch one of our large Tench. It is a mini-oasis and a very relaxing place to while away a few hours.

Even more waters to fish in 2018 - We have continued the arrangements for IAA members to be able to fish the waters of the Knaresborough Piscatorials and Wetherby angling clubs and now we have added a similar partnership with **Skipton AA** (see rules attached to this email).

Guests - Each member is allowed to apply (to the Membership Secretary) for a maximum of 3 guest tickets per year at a cost of £3 each. These are for use on our river stretch at Ilkley (not on the Knaresborough, Wetherby or Skipton waters). Guest tickets are not required if you are taking guests to fish our ponds at Ben Rhydding.

Working parties – these are very enjoyable social events, usually run on a weekend morning from around 10am until around 1pm. The dates have been scheduled as follows: River bank tidy and litter pick – **15th April**, Ponds improvements – **22nd April, 12th May** and **9th June**. If you plan to attend then please let Steve Fairbourn or me know and then he or I can let you know the meeting point and time and if the working party has been cancelled due to poor weather or a high river level.

Member skills – The committee is keen to improve or replace the club website and also to update the Land Registry records of our two land ownerships (the Members Pond and the river upstream of the stepping stones). We would be very grateful if there was any member with website design/creation or legal (lawyer/solicitor) skills. Please do make contact if you feel you might be able to help out. Thanks.

'Tight lines', regards Dave

David Martin, Secretary
23rd March 2018