



Members' Newsletter – Spring 2019

Fishing reports – We currently have a very high stock of **Trout** and Grayling present in our river stretch at Ilkley. In the autumn they were rising all along the river. Since the river level rose in early-December **Grayling** fishing on the river has often been very good, especially in the long Bath Street pool where some very good sized fish were landed by both fly and bait anglers. Please let me know if you caught any Trout of 4lbs or over or any Grayling of 2lbs or over in 2018.

Prospects for the Trout season – Right from the start of the season (25th March) 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 you have a good chance of catching a few fish.

Ponds – The **Members Pond** is constantly improving because of the efforts of working parties and the members who fish it regularly in the warmer months. There are now many easily fishable swims and over the winter we stocked some excellent new fish of a number of species. I suggest you give it a go and see if you can catch one of our 4lb+ Tench or a big Rudd. Please let me know if you do.

Guests - Each member is allowed to apply (to the Membership Secretary) for a maximum of three 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. They are not hard work! The dates that have been scheduled for the next few are as follows: Ponds improvements - **30th March**, River bank tidy and litter pick – **14th April**, Ponds improvements – **4th May** and **18th May**. 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 half-mile of river upstream of the stepping stones). We would be very grateful if there was any member with website design/creation skills or with legal (lawyer/solicitor) skills who could help us with these activities. Please do make contact if you feel you might be able to help out. Thanks.

And if you have any memorable catches on our waters please let me know.

'Tight lines', regards Dave

David Martin, Secretary
11th March 2018