

## **Members' Newsletter – Spring 2020**

### **Fishing reports**

Due to consistently good river levels over the winter bait fishing for **Grayling** has been very good. River conditions were less good for fly fishers but those who persisted with weighted nymphs usually caught fish. 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 (25<sup>th</sup> 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 (upto about 11am) or in the evening you can often get good sport.

### **Ponds**

The **Members Lagoon** has received some very significant re-stockings over the past 15 months and many previously unfishable swims have been opened up. It is a very pleasant fishing environment 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, Bream, Roach, Rudd and Perch. It is a mini-oasis and a very relaxing place to while away a few hours.

### **Lots of other club waters for you to fish in 2020**

We have continued the arrangements for IAA members to be able to fish the waters of the Knaresborough, Skipton and Wetherby clubs. Book to fish by email or text to myself.

### **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.

## **Subscription renewals**

Your current club membership runs out on 14<sup>th</sup> March (the last day of the river fishing season) so if you have not already renewed, sometime between now and the end of March please renew your membership. The 2020 Trout fishing season starts on 25<sup>th</sup> March. Our subscription prices are unchanged...yet again. A subscription renewal form is attached to this email. Please follow the instructions on it. If you have decided not to renew your membership then please email me to let me know.

## **Dave Armstrong memorial bench**

As well as being our bailiff for many years Dave was a very big supporter of the club in very many ways. As a long-term memorial to Dave the club has organised for a bench to be installed on the banks of the river at Ilkley (between Bath Street and the New Bridge). The total cost is £614 and club will be making a 50% contribution to the cost and we are asking members that knew him to please consider making a donation. You can make your donation at the same time that you pay your subscription, either by cheque or bank transfer – as a **separate transaction** marked 'donation'. Or if you see our Membership Secretary Peter Connor you can give him cash. Should there be any surplus funds then the committee has decided that these will all be given to the Myeloma UK charity.

## **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 – **26<sup>th</sup> April** (meet at Middleton Woods footbridge), Ponds improvements – **21<sup>st</sup> March** and **30<sup>th</sup> 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 update the Land Registry records of our two land ownerships (the Members Lagoon and the river upstream of the stepping stones). We would be very grateful if there was any member with (lawyer/solicitor) skills. Please do make contact if you feel you might be able to help out. Thanks.

## **Ilkley AA features in 'Trout Fisherman' magazine**

The January edition contained a six page feature on Grayling fly fishing based on our stretch. Despite only fishing for just over one hour on 6<sup>th</sup> January, Fred Bainbridge caught 3 Grayling and liked what he saw....and enjoyed fish & chips at The Riverside afterwards!

## **Ilkley AA website**

We are always in need of new material to ensure that the club's website is interesting and informative. The URL of the website is [www.ilkleyanglingassociation.co.uk](http://www.ilkleyanglingassociation.co.uk). Some interesting items have been added to the 'News' section of the website over the last few months, take a look. Please let me know if you have any catches news or any other material that you think might be of interest to the other members.

'Tight lines', regards Dave

David Martin  
Secretary

20<sup>th</sup> February 2020