



## **Members' Newsletter – Summer 2020**

### **Fishing reports and prospects**

At last we've had a good flush through of the river with the first proper spate for many months. This afternoon, 29<sup>th</sup> June, it looks like the river will peak at about five feet above normal height so the river bed will be nice and clean when it drops back down, for the next couple of weeks at least. After the delayed start to the fishing season (on 13<sup>th</sup> May) fly fishers have been doing well, even in the very low river conditions, catching lots of Brownies and a few Grayling, especially on small dry flies or nymphs.

Just a reminder that on bright sunny warm days don't bother to go to fish in the afternoons, so as to avoid the visitors on the river banks, or pick your spot carefully. But even on these days if you fish upto 11am and after 6pm you should be fine. The downstream half of our river length is much quieter than the upstream half. And anyway in the summer evenings are often the best time of day to fish, especially if you like to cast a dry fly to rising fish. We don't tend to catch many Grayling but once we get to early-September the sport should be excellent with them right into the winter.

Down at our Ben Rhydding ponds summer is the best time to be trying to catch one of our elusive big Tench or Bream. You never quite know what might turn up because last year I also caught Rudd and Perch of over a pound. With the help of a local diving club we have recently removed huge quantities of lilies from the Members Lagoon making even more swims easily fishable. It is a mini oasis and even if the fish are not biting it is a very pleasant place in the summer to while away a few hours. If you do catch any notable fish then please let me know.

### **Dave Armstrong memorials**

Late last year we were very sad to lose our long serving club bailiff to Myeloma. In April a memorial bench was installed on the river bank close to Bath Street, a place Dave used to love to visit and to fish. The club funded more than half of the cost of the bench with member donations not only funding the remainder but also raising a surplus of £255 which has been donated to the Myeloma UK charity. Thank you very much to all who contributed. All committee members are currently acting as club bailiffs but if any of you fancy taking on the role then please get in touch. Thanks.

Our club trustee, ex-Match Secretary and close friend of Dave also plans to hold a memorial match for Dave. This will take place, on a date yet to be arranged, at The Oaks Lakes fishery at Sessay, near to Thirsk. If you are interested in fishing this match please drop me a brief email or text message (to 07544 911441).

## **Extra waters for you to fish**

I suggest that you get out and try one or two of the **Knarborough Piscatorials**, **Wetherby Angling Club** and **Skipton Angling Association** waters. As you will see from their websites they all have some excellent coarse and fly fishing waters. You will previously have received the rules of these access schemes. In brief you need to book in advance with myself by email, phone or text message.

## **Subscription renewals**

If you have not already renewed your subscriptions then please do so soon. If you have decided not to renew then please email me to let me know.

## **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 Knarborough, Wetherby or Skipton waters). Guest tickets are not required if you are taking guests to fish at our ponds at Ben Rhydding.

## **We are looking for new committee members**

We have nine committee meetings each year, all on a Monday evening at the Ilkley Bowling Club. Given the current Covid19 situation the next meeting is unlikely to take place until 14<sup>th</sup> September. Call or email me if you are interested in joining us in the running of the club.

## **Ilkley AA website**

We are always in need of new material to ensure that the club's website is interesting and informative. 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 that could be posted on 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