



Salmon & Trout Association
Fighting for the future of game angling

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Dear Member,

So that is 2008 out of the way. A year that many will not be too unhappy to see the back of. It has, however, been another reasonable year for the Branch.

Once again we have tried to do our best to maintain and enhance the profile of the sport and to assist and encourage new anglers. We returned to the South of England Show in June this year after an absence of some years. It proved an excellent show and the stand was consistently busy. The Instructors barely having time to draw breath between candidates.

Michelham Priory Game and Country Fair was again successful and enjoyable with a steady flow of visitors to our stand.

We attended the Autumn Show and Game Fair at Ardingly in early October and after a slow Saturday due to unpredictable weather we were effectively washed out by the wind and rain on the Sunday.

Can you help us? If there is a possibility that you might be able to assist us on the Stand for any of the show days, please get in touch with either the Branch Organizer or me.

This year it was the turn of the Fly Dressers to host our annual "friendly competition" which was held at Chalk Springs and at which they managed to regain the trophy!

The Programme for this year is enclosed and we would be delighted to see you at any of the events on offer.

Colin Godmans

Those of us who went to Colin Godmans this year had two splendid days, although the October day was a little harder work. If you didn't come this year put the dates for 2009 in your diary. This year they are the 19th of April 2009 and the 11th of October 2009. I don't think you will be disappointed.

Newsletter 2009

Web Site

Don't forget to visit the Branch website at www.east-sussex-sta.org.uk to keep up to date with Branch and Cinder Hill news. Please also pass on any information to members you know who do not have Internet access.

Water Resources Report 2008

Just a couple of years ago we were getting used to rather dry winters and very dry summers: how things have changed! During 2007/2008 we have experienced some of the highest rainfall in recent times, with notably above average precipitation in the summers. As a consequence, flows in local rivers and streams have been higher than is usual. These conditions have generally been beneficial to game fish and have removed the threats of distressed and dying fish due to low oxygenation and high temperatures plus the ravages of Argulus infestation. However, there does not appear to have been a related improvement in the fishing. Many stillwater fisheries, including our own syndicate waters have experienced patchy returns this season and the returns for sea trout in the Ouse have not shown a turn for the better. The reasons for this are not really understood. There is a general perception of a decrease in fly life nationwide, which is not good news for the angler or for the integrity of our environment. This could well be an important factor, but there are many others that have a part to play. I regret that I have a somewhat pessimistic view of the future. The burgeoning and relentless development of the South East puts a heavy pressure on the environment, with increased plundering of natural resources, (water being in the forefront), and an increase in the amount of waste produced. In the end, we are in danger of finding that our rivers are merely conduits for effluent and little else. As anglers, we must do our best to protect and enhance the aquatic environment. We should manage our fisheries with ecology in mind, for a healthy water with good biodiversity will produce fit and healthy fish. We should also be alert to the threats and campaign for protection of the countryside, for improved standards of effluents and curtailment of abstraction. In doing so, we may be able to slow down the

inexorable degradation of our environment, but I am not optimistic that we can halt it.

J.St.Pierre – Water Resources Officer.

Trouting Syndicate

Fishing at Cinder Hill and Piplye this year seems to have followed a very similar pattern to 2007. The beginning of the season was good with average catches of approximately 2.5 fish per member visit. As expected, things dropped off towards the end of July and in August because of higher water temperatures. In spite of fairly heavy stocking in September and October catches remained disappointing. We have suffered with weed growth in the top and middle lakes at Piplye this year and we are continuing to explore ways to try to control this. The water in the lakes has been regularly tested this year and the results have been satisfactory with the exception of the middle lake at Cinder Hill where the ammonia levels rose towards the end of the season.

The stocking plan has been drawn up for next year. We are planning to put in more fish and to stock more frequently. We shall, of course, continue to monitor the water condition and adjust stocking if necessary.

After a great deal of careful consideration, taking into account the proposed increase in the cost of fish next year, **we are holding down the annual membership subscription in 2009 to the same level as 2008.** This will leave us with very little room for manoeuvre at the end of the year and it is almost certain that there will need to be an increase in the subscription in 2010.

We have decided to hold a Syndicate Barbecue in early September this year instead of the traditional Syndicate Supper in November.

We hope you will try to come along.

Very sadly, Brian Raw has decided to give up the role of Trouting Syndicate Organizer at the next AGM. The Syndicate has benefited greatly from his knowledge and experience as well as the vast amount of time that he has devoted to the job over the years. He is going to be a very difficult person to replace and I am confident that the Syndicate will want to join me in thanking him for all he has done for us.

Once again, I must make the same plea as last year to all members to do their best to come along to some of the working parties. It can be quite enjoyable and is a good way to get to know some of the other syndicate members. Please send back the slip to the Branch Organizer and don't forget to put the dates into your diary. We rely on volunteers to help with the maintenance work around the

lakes thereby keeping down Syndicate costs so that the maximum amount of your subscriptions can go towards providing more and better fish.

Lastly, a few requests;

- Fish safely. If you are not in the best of health or not completely fit, it may be best not to fish on your own. Arrange to fish with a friend and make sure you can see each other just in case you may need some assistance.
- Park courteously. Allow room for other members who may arrive after you. At Cinder Hill, please don't take your car down to hut area if you are able to walk from the car park near the gate. At Piplye, please park so that as many cars as possible can be accommodated in the parking area.

River Teise

Don't forget our exchange arrangement with the River Teise Anglers and Owners Association (TAOA). It is not far away and provides a different challenge to those of us more used to lake fishing. If you are interested, please contact Robert Nathan (01825 769320) in advance to arrange a day permit.

Fly Fishing Instructors

The Branch is lucky enough to have several qualified instructors who are members and they will be only too pleased to help you with any casting problems. Their names and contact details are listed on our website at www.east-sussex-sta.org.uk. If you don't have access to Internet, contact any of the Branch Officers listed on the programme and they will be pleased to put you in touch.

Acknowledgements

Once again and very importantly, sincere thanks to everyone who has helped us at our various events throughout the year. Without these volunteers who are prepared to give up their valuable time the Branch would cease to function.

Special thanks to our Show sponsors, Caffyns and Hardy Grey for their invaluable support to the Branch during the year.

My personal thanks must also go to all of the members of the Branch Committee for their help and assistance throughout this year. Finally, may I take this opportunity to wish you and your families everything of the best for 2009.

Tight lines,
Rod. Yuill
Branch Chairman