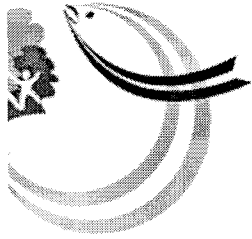


SALMON & TROUT ASSOCIATION

Game anglers for fish, people, the environment



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NEWSLETTER 2011

Dear Member,

The Season at Piplye finished 2 days ago and here we are already under a foot of snow.

Shows: Our attendances at the South of England Show and Michelham were good with plenty of adult and junior casting participants. The Autumn Show however was a washout. It might be less unpredictable if it were earlier, however, that is not our decision. We have planned to attend the same three shows in 2011. Have you considered volunteering to help out at one or more of the shows? You will also get an opportunity to see the rest of the show and it is a good opportunity to meet fellow members.

Courses: Alan Purnell arranged a series of Junior and Adult Courses, which proved very popular and were all well attended with many of the participants showing a serious interest in continuing to fish. A similar series of Courses have been arranged for the coming year.

Match with the Fly Dressers Guild: This year it was the turn of the Fly Dressers Guild to host this event. They had some difficulty finding a suitable venue in May and it was finally decided to hold it at Coltsford Mill in October. The day was cold to start and for some of us the fishing proved very hard. We enjoyed a good lunch at a nearby pub before resuming fishing in the afternoon. It was an enjoyable day but once again the Fly Dressers retained the trophy for yet another year. We really must do better this year. We are hoping to hold the return match on the 7th of May 2011 at Duncton Mill. Please note the date and come and help us retrieve some dignity.

Monthly Newsletter: Our newly appointed Communications Officer, Clive Sparke, put out a series of monthly newsletters during the year. These contained Branch and Syndicate news as well as catch data and were very well received by Members. They were circulated by e-mail and were also posted in the fishing huts. Please ensure that we have your e-mail address so that you will not be left out. Unfortunately, circulation by post is precluded because of the expense.

Colin Godman's: We had 2 excellent days at Colin Godman's again in April and October. Sadly, because of a change of management of the fishery, we will not be able to visit there again this year.

River Teise: Some of us visited the River Teise for a different challenge. Why not consider having a day on the

Teise. It's not far away and well worthwhile. If you are interested, please contact Robert Nathan (01825 769320) in advance to arrange a day permit.

Reservoir Act: The amendment to the Reservoir Act was voted into law in the last days of the old Government. To date, the new Minister has not set a minimum water volume to be covered by this Act, so we await further developments. We must continue to monitor this matter because of the importance it has for all anglers.

Pitldown Landraise: Having received a large number of representations regarding the proposed Landraise sites, including our own, East Sussex County Council has not yet given a decision. This is also something we must continue to monitor as, although things have gone quiet, they have not gone away and the potential threat to the nearby River Ouse is still there.

AGM: The new timing of the AGM seemed popular so we plan to hold it at a similar time this year (4/3/2011) and at the same venue. Please put the date in your diary and come along and have your say.

Water Resources Report:

Each year the Chairman asks me to write something for the newsletter about water resources. This is not entirely surprising as I have the honour to be the Branch Water Resources Officer. My problem is to find something different to write each time, as things don't seem to change that much. However, you may have wondered what a Water Resources Officer (WRO) actually has to do to earn this exalted title, as not many people know we even exist.

Primarily, the Branch WRO keeps an eye on water quality and quantity in the area and flags up problems for attention when necessary. We have a splendid system organised by Debbie Creasy at S&TA HQ. She sends me a countrywide list of all applications for consent to discharge each week and if there is one affecting our East Sussex waters I can find out the details. In one case we were able to persuade a golf course hotel not to discharge effluent into a sensitive stream on the Ouse catchment, except during the winter, by getting them to use it for green irrigation during the summer months when the effects of such discharges are most dangerous to the stream habitat. Of course, we don't win all the time and with the burgeoning increase in our population effluents are of high profile concern. There is also the problem of low flows in the summer, which is a

nationwide problem and of local concern at our syndicate fishery. Unfortunately this is a problem that will for ever be with us and with population increase and climate change the situation is bound to worsen. All we can do is lobby for more sustainable water management and encourage people to use water wisely.

That is it in a nutshell. WROs are small cogs in the S&TA machine, but try and do their bit to support the Association in its continuing campaign to improve our rivers.

J.E.ST.Pierre – Water Resources Officer – East Sussex Branch.

CINDER HILL TROUTING SYNDICATE:

Stocking Report For 2011:

This programme began in late February again in an effort to avoid the marauding efforts of the cormorants. Seven deliveries were made in the first six weeks with a total of 900 fish spread over five of the six lakes, of which only 286 were caught by the early season fishermen. Water quality and levels remained good for the first part of the season.

The top lake at Piplye (Grubbero) was stocked in early April after it had refilled following the earlier emptying of the lake to check its condition and contours.

Deliveries continued on a steady basis with variety in the fish sizes providing some lucky anglers with some good specimens and good bags.

Peak stocking was reached in mid-May when approximately 1,700 fish had been released to all lakes out of a target total of 2,900/3,000, although returns were at their highest in April when 470 fish were taken, compared to May's total catch of 360.

There were several dry spots in the summer months and no fish were released in July and August. While water quality fell off slightly, levels did not collapse as in previous years, but weed became a problem in the usual lakes. A working party produced piles of cut weed and aching shoulders as well as some increase in fishable areas, but die-back this year was slower than previous years and large areas remained affected.

A small number of much larger fish to about 9 lbs. have been released and two have been recorded as caught. A number of anglers have suffered broken lines so maybe "Nessie" lives on for next year.

Our extension into November at Piplye seems to have been successful with the car park showing up to 11 cars on one occasion. Unfortunately return figures for November are not available at the time of writing, but the vagaries of wind and weather meant that fishing was fair but fickle. However, water quality was good especially in October, when the clarity at Piplye (excluding the Bottom Lake!) was remarkable.

Fish quality has generally been very good with the occasional tiddler coming to the net and bringing the average down. Average size has been over 2 lbs. with a lot of well-proportioned 3 – 4 lb. fish in the bag.

Next year is not far away and delivery dates have already been fixed with quantities and sizes being very similar to 2010. I will still be releasing a very few of the larger fish, so be prepared.

Tight lines and Happy Christmas to all.

Peter Neave

Catch Data: In accordance with member's wishes we have tried to provide some monthly catch data as near to the end of each month as possible. Once the system was under way, it seemed to work well until near to the end of the season, and has been well received.

Scarecrows: In an attempt to dissuade the Cormorants, we placed 2 scarecrows at each of the fisheries. The one from the middle lake dam at Cinder Hill walked off site within the first few weeks and was never seen again. The others remained at their posts and, hopefully caused as much surprise to the Cormorants as they did, repeatedly, to anglers.

Dredging: We announced last year that we intended to drain and dredge the top lake at Piplye. Unfortunately, we were not able to find a contractor who was able to carry out the work for us at the preferred time. Consultations are ongoing and it is hoped to undertake this project during August 2011.

Weed: We suffered heavy weed growth in the top lake at Cinder Hill and both the top and middle lakes at Piplye this year. We managed effective chain cutting sessions at Piplye and dragged large amounts of weed out of the water. Sadly, a diminishing number of volunteers meant that the session planned for the top lake at Cinder Hill was far from successful. It seems evident that this is going to be a recurring problem and we are going to have to pay a contractor to do this work every year.

Working Parties: Unfortunately, like the poor, this problem is always with us. We do our best to hold down expenses so that the maximum amount of Member's subscriptions can be devoted to buying fish. For that reason we undertake the routine bank maintenance ourselves but it is an uphill battle to get enough people to turn out to help. Some Members are unable to assist due to ill health or injury and this is understood, however, if you are able, please consider volunteering for one or more of the Work Party dates. The more there are of us the more we can do and the less time it will take. (Contact George Martin on 01825 764540.)

Gentle Reminders:

- No vehicles beyond the huts at Piplye or Cinder Hill without the specific permission of the Syndicate.
- Please don't take 2 wheel drive vehicles beyond the car park at Cinder Hill if the ground is at all wet.
- Please, also, don't take vehicles down to the hut at Cinder Hill if you are fit and able. The space at the hut is limited and should, therefore, be reserved for less able members.

Acknowledgements: Once again, my sincere thanks to everyone who has helped us at our various events throughout the year. Without these volunteers, who give up their valuable time, the Branch and Syndicate would cease to exist. My particular thanks also go to all the members of the Branch Committee for their help and assistance throughout this year. Let's hope that 2011 will prove as good and hopefully better than 2010. Tight lines and very best wishes. Rod. Yuill - Branch Chairman