



Gillingham and District Angling Association

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Gillingham & District Angling Association Newsletter.

Secretary's Address.

Hello and welcome to the Association's newsletter for the 2001-2002 season, and I hope you have all enjoyed the fishing this year.

The Association's waters have fished well again this year with Turners Paddock continuing to throw up superb weights of Bream, Tench, Roach & Hybrids topped by a new match record for the venue: 122lb of Bream & Tench for Thatchers 2000 star & Association member Gary O'Shea. The Mappowder complex is still proving very popular, and giving large mixed bags of Tench, Carp, Bream & Crucians. Lodden Lakes has seen a quite a few fish stocked in the last couple of years and this seems to be paying dividends with the fishing continuing to improve, and we hope to continue this stocking policy in the next few seasons. The River Stour has thrown up some very good fish this year including a 21lb Pike for Terry Baumber, a 6lb Barbel for Tony West and a 4lb 13oz Chub for Paul Stone. Unfortunately the small fish were a bit thin on the ground this year but there are still pegs capable of throwing up a big weight. We are continually stocking the river with mature fish and hopefully they can spawn and fill the missing generations.

I must thank all those who have served on the committee this year and who have ensured that the Association runs as smoothly as it does, with very few problems to deal with at Committee meetings. I believe that there are a couple of vacancies for Committee members this year so if any of you fancy a challenge put yourself forward at the A.G.M.

The A.G.M. is on Wednesday 15th of May at the Coronation Club, Gillingham, and any proposals should be given to me, in writing, by the 11th of May.

I hope to see some of you on the bank in the next year, and if you have any questions, complaints or feedback about the Association please do not hesitate to phone me on (01747) 824817, or e-mail at ditch@ham5.fsnet.co.uk.

Regards,
Simon Hebditch.
(Hon. Secretary)

Match Secretary's Report

It doesn't seem possible; another Season fading into memory, but, hopefully the closed Season will soon pass, the Mappowder spring series should help it on its way .

Let me begin, our match season began on 17.6.2001 at a new venue to us , Cuckoo's Rest . 30 anglers turned out. On reflection the venue was overcrowded & fished below par though several large fish were hooked & lost & poles broken.

1st Charlie Barnes 15-1 2nd Rob Fletcher 13-11 3rd Rob Randall 11-6

A fortnight later with numbers rising , 35 anglers made the trip to Witherington Farm, near Salisbury. Although fishing below par 70 percent of the field managed to put double figures on the scales, with the frame being very close

1st Rich Chave 24-13 2nd Charlie Barnes 24-3 3rd Steve Dimmer 22-2

Sunday 15th July an early start on our own venue Turners Paddock, probably one of the best Bream & Tench venues in the area. This proved to be a very frustrating day for yours truly pegged between 1st & 2nd .

1st Jason Randall 50 lb 2nd Rob Fletcher 33-10 3rd Joe Searle 24-7.

For the fourth match 32 anglers made the early morning drive to Pallington Fisheries. The venue fished much better than last season with Roach to 2lb being taken, with Carp, Tench, Skimmers & small fish making up the bags.

1st Rob Fletcher 48-14 2nd Jason Randall 32-5 3rd Ken Murchie 29-14

Sunday 12th August & we are off to Witherington again. 37 anglers making the trip, 29 of which made double figures this really is a prolific match venue

1st Jason Mills 43-9 2nd Jason Randall 42-5-8 3rd Roy Vassie 35-3

We now had a break of 3 weeks allowing for the now very popular Bank Holiday Festival, to be run & superbly organised by Simon Hebditch. This is run over 3 days on 3 different venues & is open to all. Bringing in much needed revenue. The event & social side is much enjoyed by all who attend winners & losers alike.

The sixth & final match due to low water levels at Todber Silver Fish Lake had a late change of venue & found us back at Pallington. The position at the top of the table was very close & after 5 hours of fishing remained the same.

1st Dave Sealy 25-5 2nd Jason Mills 25-4 3rd Charlie Barnes 24-4

The league was tied. Jason Randall 488

Robert Fletcher 488

Time for a weight count back

Jason Randall 160 lb 8 drms

Robert Fletcher 141 lb – 3oz

Series statistics. 45 anglers fished

1st Jason Randall 488

2nd Robert Fletcher 488

3rd Jason Mills 486

4th Charlie Barnes 477

For those who can make an evening match, four 3 hour matches 6-9 are run through the month of July on Lodden big lake an average of 19 anglers taking part

1st match 1st Charlie Barnes 16-15 2nd Jason Randall 15-10

2nd match 1st Jason Randall 15-6 2nd Simon Hebditch 7-4

3rd match 1st Rob Randall 21-15 2nd Roy Vassie 15-7

4th match 1st Alan Gates 25-10 2nd Bob Pascoe 11-1

In conclusion to the summer matches, Gillingham & Sturminster members turned out on 19 8 2001 at Lodden Lakes for the Jim Debnam Memorial, Fished in memory of a man who devoted a lot of his spare time & energy into developing the lakes in their formative years.

1st Ian Boniface 10-15 2nd Ben Dukes 9lb 3rd Bob Machin 8-13. Most fish John Candy 55 Fish. Heaviest fish Bob Machin Carp 4-14. Heaviest Bag. Ian Boniface 10 15.

Now as the Summer draws to a close, a break in matches allows us to carry out what is probably the most important duty of the season, swim clearing. This task benefits match & pleasure anglers alike. For this season work was targeted at the lower end of our river.

Last season 15 anglers plus 1 non angler turned out this season only 6 plus 1 non angler, please if you could spare a few hours on a Sunday. The riverside trees & undergrowth are growing & falling faster than we can clear them. Dates will be published in the B.M.V. Many hands make light work.

Special thanks go to John Candy who lent us the use of his Sanderson, without which a lot less would have been done. Still enough of the moaning & onto the winter.

As with the previous season the matches started early, the weather couldn't have been more different low levels & plenty of weed. The match scene moved along with no cancellations till the end of January, all of a sudden it was a rush to complete the calendar.

My thanks must go to Dave Sealy for completing my task & running the last 3 matches for me. Also many thanks to Barry & Erica Taylor for once again doing a grand job organising & purchasing the large number of prizes needed for the xmas match.

Now to the fishing, winter tends to bring out the hardier angler, dedicated to fishing the upper Stour. Unfortunately numbers were down a little this season with 42 anglers fishing at least 1 match, with an average of 30 per match, still making our attendance by far the largest in the area, with all matches competed for in a friendly & amiable manner.

The river as usual showed its potential some days & the reverse on others. It was pleasing to see so many Chub caught with fish to 4lb 13oz, large Perch to 2lb 14oz, more Dace, a splendid 6lb Barbel which made the day possibly the season of the lucky angler who caught it. Bream showing through most of the river all be it from known spots, disappointingly the Roach a very fickle species failed to show in any numbers, but I'm sure they are still there to be caught. Now on to the winter series results.

1st match 14-10-01 25 fished 1st Joe Searle 9-5 2nd Danny Mc Coy 7-4 3rd Pat Smith 4-10

2nd match 29-10-01 27 fished 1st Pat Smith 10-2 2nd Rodney Smith 7-4 3rd Dave Hillier 5-10

3rd match 29 fished 1st Mark Leslie 7-15 2nd Mike Trevis 6-2 3rd Alan Rendall 5-4

4th match 25-11-01 30 fished 1st Charlie Walters 8-7-8 2nd Tony West 7-2 3rd Dave Hillier 5-3

5th match 13-1-02 35 fished 1st Ben Dukes 16-11 2nd Mike Hunt 6-11 3rd Judy Leslie 6-10

6th match 17-2-02 25 fished 1st Pat Smith 11-12 2nd Ken Wilson 3rd Jason Mills 7-0-8
This left the final table as follows

1 st Dave Hillier	478
2 nd Pat Smith	470
3 rd Joe Searle	468
4 th Charlie Walters	465

The other matches through the winter, pairs match went to the likeable duo Tim Thick & Bob Machin. Xmas match keenly contested as always, won by Adie West. The pairs open & Stour open all keenly contested.

A date for your diaries. We will be holding a charity match at Lodden Lakes on June 2nd to tie in with the Queens Golden Jubilee Celebrations.

Hope to see you on the bank

Dave Hillier