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Gillingham & District Angling Association Newsletter 2002/3.

Secretary's Address.

Dear Association members new and old,

Welcome to the 2002-2003 season newsletter. I hope you all enjoyed last season and caught plenty of fish from our waters, and I believe the quality of the fishing provided by the Association is well worth the membership fee, be you a pleasure angler, a match angler or a specimen angler.

In general I thought the Association waters fished well with good mixed bags of Carp, Bream, Tench & Crucians caught from Mappowder, & Turners Paddock fishing superbly well in the warmer months for Tench & Bream bags in excess of 100lbs.

The River was in very good form when it was possible to fish it with good bags of Roach, Chub & Bream, but as usual these days my sympathies are with Dave Hillier, the match secretary, who is fighting a losing battle against global warming, and winter flooding! We keep stocking good quality fish into the river and I'm sure that we will reap the benefits in years to come.

My thanks must go out to everyone who helps run the Association: John Stone, the Chairman, who runs the Committee meetings in a fair & efficient manner; Paul Stone, the Treasurer, who keeps the finances in good order; Dave Hillier, the Match Secretary, who runs excellent matches in the Summer & Winter on a wide variety of venues; Barry Taylor, who runs the Junior matches, and who with his good lady Erica, obtains the prizes for the Christmas Match; and last but not least all the Committee members who do a lot of work both on and off the bank. Finally I must invite you all to the Annual General Meeting of the Association, which is on Wednesday 7th May at the Coronation Club, Gillingham with a 7.45 start. It would be nice to see as many people there as possible and any proposals should be in to me a week beforehand. If any of you have any questions or encounter any problems whilst out fishing please do not hesitate to phone me on 01747 825931 or 07990 690613, or e-mail me on ditch@ham5.fsnet.co.uk.

Regards,

Simon Hebditch.
(Hon. Secretary)

Match Secretary's Report

The seasons seem to be coming and going faster then ever, this part seeming more hectic to me than the rest. Cups to retrieve, and present back and venues to book for the coming season. Nevertheless, after frantic rescheduling of events, last season's competitions managed to take place with only one casualty.

We began our summer campaign at Greylakes on The Kings Sedgemoor Drain. A baking hot day and a struggle for quite a few, although Bream were showing through most of the length. Bob Gullick showed us the way home with 22lbs -7oz.

The second match, always popular with places hard to come by, our own Turner's Paddock. This venue has fished well all season with large bags of Bream and Tench being taken. Charlie Barnes won this one with 56lbs - 4oz

The third match saw us off to a new venue, available to all club members free of charge. The River Parrett at Wick (other parts of the river are also available to us). This is a deep, slow moving, part of the river. Unfortunately the river which had fished well the week prior to our match, proved hard on a very warm day. Robert Randall winning with 9lbs – 14oz.

The fourth match and back to one of our favourites. Witherington Farm, on the outer ring of the Snake. Out of thirty five anglers fishing, twenty four made it into double figures, the mark of a good venue. Mark Leslie won with 39lbs – 4oz.

The fifth match was at the Bristol Road End of The Huntspill. A nightmare start with claims from another match group that they had the venue booked. Luckily for us, Bridgewater had actually (for once) marked the gate “Booked for Gillingham A/C”. Another hot day followed, a few Bream showed and the pole produced lots of quality Roach all through the length. Ben Dukes winning with 16lbs – 6oz.

Finally, the last match. Park Lake at Todber. John Candy yet again went on to win the match on his own lake with 53lbs – 10oz. Again eighteen anglers out of twenty five returning double figure bags.

All these results ended in a tight frame with positions changing all through the final standings. 1st... Robert Randall with 486, 2nd... Charlie Barnes with 483, 3rd... Ben Dukes with 478.

Also during the summer, The Jim Debnam Memorial, fished on Lodden Lakes, and the Gillingham Festival, fished over the August Bank Holiday, worked out very well for local anglers. This festival has now become a sell-out and all credit must go to Simon Hebditch and his sponsors for organising this event. Moving on to the river clearing parties which were concentrated this year on the bottom end of the river where many of the swims are overgrown and un-fishable. Many thanks to those who attended. I'm afraid it was the same old faces again. Please, if you can spare a Sunday, the river needs you. The dates for this year will be in the new membership card.

Now back to the fishing. The winter series is always popular, with forty three anglers fishing at least two matches. Still the most popular club events on the Stour. Unfortunately, as in the last two or three seasons, the weather has made life for the winter river angler very difficult. It appears that the rain seems to come every Friday or Saturday and we are faced with, at best, high water if not flooded and cancelled. However, the river on the few occasions we caught it nearly right, brought some nice weights and individual specimens were produced, notably Charlie Walters recorded a Roach of 2lbs-7oz-8drums. A fish of a lifetime. Mark Pearce recorded a Perch of 2lbs-15oz. Dace were starting to show at the top of Highbridge, and numbers of Chub showing through over the bottom half. Unfortunately, we did not get on to Ecccliffe or Harpitts but talking to pleasure anglers, some nice bags of Chub, Dace and Roach with fish of over 2lbs are showing.

Rectory Straight has sprung back to life. Once a dreaded draw, now producing nice bags of Roach. Bream are continuing to show from Chantry, Harpitts and Highbridge, with a large shoal being reported moving up river towards the end of the season.

The winter series was nip and tuck all the way to the end. I personally thought Ken Wilson had done enough, but a tremendous last three matches for Barry Taylor clinched the title.

This series ended with points as follows.....

1st ... Barry Taylor 485, 2nd ... Ken Wilson 481, 3rd ... Mark Leslie 474.

Other matches fished through the winter, ie. Xmas Match, all being well attended. Once again my thanks to Barry and Erica Taylor for stepping into the breach and getting all the prizes for the Xmas match. The Pairs Match, again a casualty of the weather. On the Saturday it pegged as perfect, by Sunday morning, a raging torrent, which rose four feet as we fished.

Mark Pearce and Tony West recorded a perfect score of 2 points.

Also this season in conjunction with the winter championships, we ran a Veterans League. Open to anyone over the age of fifty Five, he won't thank me for naming him, but, Tony West has won this one for its very first year.

I think that's enough from me for now. Let's all look forward to the next season, the fish are there to be caught, if the weather is with us.

Tight lines,

Hope to see you on the bank

Dave Hillier

Junior Summer Series 2002

1st Match Park Lake. Jack Stamp started where he left off winning & taking the Merrifield Trophy with 8 lb 12 oz

2nd Match Cowslip again Jack again with 21 lb 5 oz of small carp and Rudd.

3rd Match Mappowder from the deep water, Will Bohne took the win with 12 lb 6 oz.

4th Match Our challenge against Stur for the first time we lost. On Gill's side Will Bohne was our best with 8 lb 8 oz.

5th Match back to Cowslip a great small fish venue Jack's still fighting to retain his title winning with 22 lb 13 oz

6th And final match at Park Lake just winning this match by 4oz. with a weight of 23 lb 8 oz was Will Bohne which gave him the championship .

1st	Will Bohne	497pts.
2nd	Jack Stamp	496pts.
3rd	Jamie Dixon	490pts.

The Winter Series.

I wanted to fish the series on the river to give the lads more experience, but with the wet weekends.

1st Match had to be on Lodden winner Sam Trevis with 1 lb 10 oz

2nd Match Got on the river at Highbridge 'Loop' with small Roach & Dace Jamie Dixon won with 3 lb 14 oz

3rd Match same stretch of river and from the same peg this time Laurence Woods with 2 lb 9 oz

4th Match Highbridge 'Loop' again because it always produces river rising had to call early finish on safety grounds Will Bohne only needed 14 oz.

5th Match added this time we went to Chantry Jamie Dixon had 5 different species for 1 lb15 oz which included a Grayling.

Final positions. Jamie Dixon
Will Bohne
Sam Trevis.

Barry Taylor
(Junior Match Secretary)

NEW WEBSITE FOR THE CLUB AT.....

WWW.THEANGLINGCLUB.NET

This newsletter will be downloadable from there too, as will the application form to join the club. Just print it out, fill it in and post it to us at Timepiece Restoration Ltd. Newbury rd, Gillingham, Dorset. SP8 4HZ. With a cheque for the correct amount. Made out to G&DAA.

The new site will feature news, downloadable desktops, an up to the minute 10 day weather forecast for the area, downloadable information on the club's waters, as well as much much more



TheAnglingClub.Net

<http://www.theanglingclub.net>