



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 2003-2004 season and I hope you all enjoyed the fishing provided this year.

The Association's waters have continued to fish exceptionally well this year with the long hot summer providing some superb fishing; Turners Paddock still producing huge bags of Bream & Tench; the Mappowder complex giving interesting mixed bags of Crucians, Bream, Tench, Roach and Carp, and the River Stour giving very good bags of Roach, Chub, Bream & Dace when conditions allowed (Dave Hillier, the Match Secretary, had another season of poor weather, with lack of water a problem this year instead of the usual excess!) We continue to stock the River with mature fish, and we are hoping to have some work done on the weir at Highbridge, which will improve the habitat, and I'm sure that over the next few years the fishing will get better.

Lodden Lakes has also fished well this year with several 20lb Carp reported. We stocked some larger Carp in the 8-12lb bracket in the summer and hopefully these Carp will go on and provide the Specimen hunters with some good sport. Those that have been to Lodden lately will have noticed that there has been a lot of work done to the banks to remove most of the trees from around the large lake. This habitat enhancement, together with the introduction of Calcium Carbonate, has been done to make the fishing better, as the lake was suffering from very low Oxygen levels and an anoxic bottom, and this will also hopefully encourage rushes and weed to grow in the lake again.

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 is at least one vacancy for a Committee member 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 5th of May at the Coronation Club, Gillingham, and any proposals should be given to me, in writing, a week before.

I would just like to end by saying that all anglers are bailiffs in their own right, so if you see anything suspicious, for example someone removing fish from one of the Association's waters illegally or an angler misbehaving, please question them and if you feel worried give me or one of the Committee members a ring.

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) 821218 or (07990) 690613, or e-mail at ditch@ham5.fsnet.co.uk.

Regards,
Simon Hebditch.
(Hon. Secretary)

Match Secretary's Report

So another season is over, & a very busy one it has been. The Clubs match calendar, which is split into Summer series & Winter series couldn't be more different. The Summer we spent basking in the sun with water conditions low where as the Winter as before to much rain at weekends. Never the less both are very well attended 40 + for the Summer series & just below 40 for the Winter. A good turnout for a small club, making it worth the effort to organise these events. I thank you

The Summer series despite the heat wave produced some large nets of fish.

Our venues for the series were the River Parrett at Wick, available to all club members free of charge. Twice we visited Witherington Farm a very popular day ticket fishery just outside Salisbury, once again it provided many double figure bags. We used Lodden Lakes this season and three, thirty-pound plus bags were recorded. We also

returned to the Huntspill River on what was probably one of the hottest, windless days of the summer. Only 7lbs 9oz was needed to win this one. And finally..... Turner's Paddock..... Turners Paddock fished exceptionally well off the dam wall, with many bags in excess of the magic ton of Bream & Tench. Even on a fully pegged match it produced 77lb plus.

| Match Winners and Venues were | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------|------------|
| 1 st River Parrett | Toby Foster | 7lbs 12oz |
| 2 nd Witherington | Nick Merry | 62lbs 7oz |
| 3 rd Lodden Lakes | Toby Foster | 38lbs 12oz |
| 4 th Huntspill | Joe Searle | 7lbs 9oz |
| 5 th Turners Paddock | Ben Dukes | 77lbs 6oz |
| 6 th Witherington | Sam Trevis | 64lbs 4oz |

This left the final league table standing at

| | |
|----------------------------------|------------|
| 1 st Rob Randall | 484 points |
| 2 nd Jason Mills | 478 points |
| 3 rd Toby Foster | 474 points |

For the 2004 – 2005 season, we are going to try something new, For the summer series we are going to run 2 divisions, these will be based on an average of points scored over the past two seasons.

Between the week-end matches, there are Wednesday evening matches at Lodden Lakes, very well attended this year and fished much better as well. There is also the Jim Debnam Memorial match, and this year two junior anglers filled 2nd and 3rd positions.

Also Simon's Festival fished over the August Bank Holiday was a sell-out with anglers coming from far and wide. During the break between the Summer and Winter series matches, in September, we had two hard days river clearing. The same is scheduled for this year, and dates will be on your new membership card as well as in "Fishing Lines" in the BVM. Please attend if you possibly can. The trees are growing faster than we can clear them.

Now to the Winter Series. With some re-scheduling, all the matches except one got fished. Despite the poor weather conditions for most matches some fair specimens were netted. Bream over 5lbs, Perch 2lb 7oz, Chub 4lb 4oz. The match results do not really show the potential of the water. Over the Christmas period the river was in good condition, and freelance anglers recorded some very large bags of Chub and Dace, with Roach of over 2lbs showing.

Back to the Matches, We have fished virtually the whole stretch of the river this year. Trying to match the stretch of water picked, to the weather conditions in force at the time. The results are as follows.

| | |
|--------------------------------|------------|
| 1 st Mark Leslie | 12lbs 8oz |
| 2 nd Aide West | 6lbs 4oz |
| 3 rd Tony Gates | 3lbs 14oz |
| 4 th Keith Hansford | 7lbs 9oz |
| 5 th Dave Sealy | 5lbs 15oz |
| 6 th Mike Trevis | 18lbs 14oz |

The Veterans Shield open to the 55's and over, found a new home this season, with club accountant Bob Machin, well done Bob!

Other matches including Teams of Four Open, Club Pairs, Christmas Match, and the Stour Open, all went ahead keenly contested on the day. Once again my thanks to Barry and Erica Taylor for organizing the Christmas Match prizes.

Now to other matters, Firstly Lodden Lakes. A great deal of time and effort; not to mention hard cash, are being spent on the venue to rejuvenate and improve it. Making it, over the coming months and years, a better venue for the benefit of all users, and one we can be proud of. A work-party will be required for this venue, which will be on June 12th. Also at Lodden Lakes, we will be holding a Charity Open match on May 23rd. All proceeds going, for this season, to the Joseph Weld Hospice. This will now be an annual event.

And finally on to more serious matters.

Just before this was printed, it came to our attention that persons un-identified at present, may have tried to illegally net one of our lakes. To all members, IF YOU SEE SUCH AN ACTIVITY ON ANY CLUB WATERS, IT IS QUITE LIKELY THAT IT WILL BE UN-AUTHORIZED!

If myself or Dave Sealy are not in attendance, PLEASE CALL THE POLICE and myself immediately! These people could be ruining your fishery.....

Best Wishes,

Dave Hillier, Match Secretary.

Junior Match Report

1st Match at Park Lake Todber, 7 fished, 1st place Will Bohne 52lbs 15oz
2nd place Jamie Dixon 42lbs 8oz
Also takes Merriefield Trophy, 1st Match Winner.

2nd Match at Cowslip Farm, 4 fished, 1st place Adam French 24lbs 2oz
2nd place Jamie Dixon 22lbs 13oz

3rd Match at Cowslip Farm, 6 fished, 1st place Jamie Dixon 32lbs 2oz
2nd place Will Bohne 21lbs 4oz

4th Match at Turners Paddock, 4 fished, 1st place Will Bohne 26lbs 12oz
2nd place Jamie Dixon 19lbs 7oz

5th Match at Lodden Lakes, 3 fished, 1st place Will Bohne 7lbs 12oz
2nd place Jamie Dixon 4lbs 8oz

6th Match at Park Lake Todber, 5 fished, 1st place Jamie Dixon 42lbs 7oz
2nd place Will Bohne 33lbs 1oz

Jamie also takes the Phil White Trophy for the 6th Match Winner.

The Springfield Trophy for the Heaviest Bag goes to Will Bohne for 52lbs 15oz

Junior Specimen Trophy goes to Joe Miller for a 2lb 2oz Tench

Jack Alger Cup for best 14yr old or underOn equal points,

Lawrence Woods and Joe Miller with 289 .

The Most Improved Junior "Timepiece Trophy" goes to Lawrence Woods.

Gillingham beat Sturminster Newton in the Annual Lodden Lakes Challenge Match.

Overall positions in the summer match series.....

3rd Place..... Genge Cup to Adam French with 490 points.

2nd Place..... South West Packaging Trophy to Jamie Dixon with 497 points.

1st Place.....Junior Challenge Cup to Will Bohne with 498 points.

Will anyone who is willing to take over the junior instruction and junior matches please make themselves known at the AGM.