



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 2004-2005 season, and I hope you all enjoyed the fishing that the Association provided this year.

The Association's waters have continued to fish exceptionally well this year with the Turners Paddock still producing huge bags of Bream & Tench and the Mappowder complex giving interesting mixed bags of Crucians, Bream, Tench, Roach and Carp. The River Stour has seen some improvement this year with increasing numbers of small fish showing on most of the winter matches together with the larger specimen Chub and Perch, which are the main feature of our River. We continue to stock the River with mature fish, and this year have also taken some small Roach and skimmer Bream from Turners Paddock and introduced them to the river at Highbridge Mill. The Environment Agency has removed the old weir at Highbridge and replaced it with a gravel riffle, which will hopefully encourage fish movement and spawning. The Agency will also be doing some work at Factory Farm, in a joint project with Dorchester Club, to dig out some of the reed beds, which are obstructing the flow of water, and I'm sure that all this work will bear fruit in the future.

Lodden Lakes has fished very well this year with several 20lb Carp reported (there were four separate twenties came out over the Easter weekend!). The Bream and Tench fishing has also been superb with quite a few hundred pound bags coming out from both lakes with individual Tench out to 8lb. The work, which was done last year was very successful and the Oxygen content in the large lake is a lot higher than it was a year ago, and we will be introducing some more Calcium Carbonate in the near future, and I'm sure that you all agree that the fishery really offers good value for money for pleasure anglers and Specimen Hunters alike.

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

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)

Club Cups Presentation R.B.L Gillingham May 21st 8pm
All Welcome

Match Secretary's report

Another busy season has passed, another new season is fast approaching. Now, with no closed season on still waters, fishing never seems to stop. Arrangements for next season have already been made with the first date for your diary being the now annual charity match, this year, in aid of the "Air Ambulance", being fished on Lodden Lakes on May 22nd.

A venue which has vastly improved over the last season and continuing work is definitely having the desired effect whatever your chosen method or species, with Carp to 25lb 8oz, Tench to 6lb 8oz, large nets of Bream and Roach now common place, with match weights to 50lbs in the 3 hour evening matches.

Already as I write (April 4th) I have witnessed several 60 – 80lb bags of Tench and Bream. Carp anglers catching up to 8 Carp in a session. A good turn around and worth the money spent.

Turners Paddock as always has produced some large bags of Bream and Tench in excess of 100lbs. Mappowder Lakes have also provided some good bags. The Stour as always largely only fishable in the winter is definitely on the up. Although match weights probably don't reflect this, conditions are always against us. But if you can pick your day, with a little colour, overcast, a good day can be expected, with a variety of fish taken. Roach to nearly 3lbs, Chub to 4 1/2lbs, Dace and Gudgeon showing all through, and specimen Perch to over 3lbs. Plus Bream and Pike.

The Summer Series got underway with 2 divisions this past season, with venues differing from Carp lakes to natural rivers. Matches were won with weights from 97lbs to 8lbs. Witherington as usual provided 97lbs of Carp with numerous double figure Bags, whereas the Stour at Sturminster provided just 15lbs of Roach with plenty of bites for everybody. No complaints.

The series ended as follows

<u>Divi One</u>	<u>Divi Two</u>
1 st Bob Gullick 14 points	1 st Bob Machin 17 points 51lb 12oz 8drms
2 nd Jamie Dixon 14 points	2 nd Tim Thick 17 points 37lb 13oz
3 rd Jason Mills 27 points	3 rd Ade West 29 points

As usual through the summer other events are going on. Jim Debnam Memorial provided plenty of Bream and Tench with bags to over 30lbs. The Wednesday evening matches in July were well attended with bags to over 50lbs in 3 hours. Simon's August Festival also sold out, with this now becoming a very popular event for the anglers with local and travelling matchmen alike.

Also, this summer, I have moved the "Teams of Four Open" to summer, June 5th to relieve a crowded winter programme. The winter series, as popular as ever, with the hardy braving the elements to hopefully fill their nets Chub, Roach, Dace, and anything willing to bite. Bags to over 16lbs were attained in conditions far from ideal. Marnhull produced some fine fish with specimen Perch and Chub, and Roach to over 2lbs in weight. Rectory Straight is now teeming with small Roach. A good sign for the coming years.

After a close fought battle going to a weight count, the title and runner up were decided.

1 st	Mike Hunt.....	488.....	33lb 15oz
2 nd	Andy Hillier...	488.....	27lb 2oz
3 rd	Dave Hillier....	476	

Congratulations to all trophy winners, and thanks to all those who attend, making for a friendly and enjoyable day out.

Just one more thing, the dates for the work parties on the river, becoming more and more necessary, are the 18th and 25th September. PLEASE ATTEND IF YOU CAN...

Many hands make light work.

See you on the bank,

Dave Hillier.