



Gillingham and District Angling Association

President T.H. Suttle

Match Secretary
D.Hillier
Bay Tree Cottage
Zeals Wilts
Tel. 840544

Hon. Treasurer
P. Stone
The Timepiece
Newbury rd, High St.
Gillingham, Dorset
Tel. 823339

Headquarters
Royal British Legion
Gillingham
Dorset

Chairman
J. Stone
Ferndale, Ham
Gillingham, Dorset
Tel. 822386

Hon. Secretary
Simon Hebditch
5 Ham Court,
Shaftesbury Rd, Gillingham
Tel. 824817

'99 – 2000 Newsletter.

Secretary's Address.

Hello and welcome to the Association's newsletter for the 1999-2000 season. As we enter the new millennium, it is clear to see that the Association is in very good shape, with membership stable and the club's finances in good order. The Association's waters have again fished well this year, and I'm sure that most would agree, well worth the annual membership cost. . The A.G.M. is on Wednesday 3rd May at 7.30pm, at The Gillingham Town Football Club. This is your chance to have your say in the way the Association is run, and to bring any proposals for rule changes, which should be sent to me 2 weeks before the A.G.M. Do make a note of the time and date for the A.G.M. and please try to come along; after all, Your Club needs You!

I must give thanks to all those who have served on the committee this year, and who make the Association run so smoothly, in particular John Stone, who is an excellent and unbiased Chairman; Dave Hillier, who has run the summer & winter championship matches, and had superb attendances all year (over 100 members fished at least one match) and together with Giles Lewis has raised much needed revenue for the club; Paul Stone, who has kept the Association's finances under a tight rein; and last but not least Jerry Martin, who runs the Annual Presentation Night, runs raffles at matches, runs the junior instruction course and junior matches! Unfortunately, this year, Jerry is unable to run the junior instruction course, therefore I've decided to have a go at running it myself, so if there are any sons, daughters, brothers or sisters out there who want to start fishing give me a ring! Further details will be posted in the *Angling News* section of the *Blackmore Vale Magazine*.

Finally I'd like to point out that the first meeting of the Association was held on the 5th June 1951, therefore making the 5th June this year, the 50th anniversary of the club. To mark the occasion Dave Hillier is running an Open match (with priority to club members) at Turners Paddock on May 21st, the proceeds of which will go to the Westminster Memorial Hospital, Shaftesbury. This is a special "ONE DAY ONLY" match that the National Trust has kindly given permission for, although fishing is suspended on this water for the closed season. This water will not be officially open again until 16th June.

Hope to see some of you on the bank in the next year, and let's hope the Association is as successful in the next 50 years!

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)

The club website can be found on www.excaliburproductions.freeserve.co.uk/gdaa1.htm

Match Secretary's report

As most of you will know, this was my first full season organising and running the whole club's events calendar. An easy task I thought. Wrong. Luckily for me, help has been forthcoming. To mention a few: Dave Sealy, running and pegging out, Barry and Erica Taylor for organising Xmas match prizes and advice (sometimes much needed.)

In the end all passed off smoothly, fortune smiled on me with only one event having to be postponed, called off at the last minute with a tremendous amount of rain falling over 24 hours, leaving the Stour resembling a very large reservoir.

The match calendar begins with the summer series, fished on a range of venues, in most cases not our own. This year with up to 30 anglers on some of the matches. Roy Vassie took up the challenge and stormed into the lead, not to be caught. Jason Randall, who can catch a few too, had 51 Ibs of Bream - a nice bag. Also for the summer, we have the Wednesday evening matches on Lodden lakes, fished through July and a series of open matches fished at Turner's Paddock, always a popular summer venue, bulging with Tench and Bream. For several seasons, we have also run a summer festival, fished over three days of the August bank holiday. This is becoming a popular event with anglers coming from far and wide, and thanks must go to Simon Hebditch for the organisation and running of this one.

Moving on into September and October, a short lull in the Club's events enables vital river clearance work to take place. I do not wish to be critical, but these work parties are only attended by match anglers, and very few of them. I would like to this opportunity to ask for more help on this. To all anglers, match, pleasure or specimen, please read "Fishing Lines" in the Blackmore Vale Magazine which will give dates of all up and coming events and work parties, Many hands make light work - improving fishing for all-comers. You may go home tired and aching, but you will feel you have achieved something.

Onwards now to the winter series - to many, the main event. All of these matches are fished on the Stour. Fantastic fishing to be had on the right day. Unfortunately not to be this season. All six matches were fished by the hardy, in conditions often far less than perfect. On reflection, results are on a par for previous years. Some weights up a little, some weights down. Most disappointing for me, personally, the Roach which are now prolific - but you wouldn't think so on some of the matches. Standing at 2 lbs, the largest this season in the competitions, a fish of a lifetime, all the same. These glorious specimens are present throughout our entire length of the Stour. Also on the increase are the stocks of Dace and Gudgeon.

I would personally like to thank all those who attended any of the matches I have run, be it summer or winter, numbering nearly 100 of you. It makes all the hard work worthwhile, especially when it is fished in such a friendly and sociable nature, with moans few and far between (I think !) Congratulations must also go to Malcolm (Charlie) Walters and Rodney Smith, who fought it out to the end and ended with a draw.

It just remains for me to sum up this has been one of the most successful seasons for many a year, so please help to maintain this. We are the envy of most other local clubs. Come along and enjoy the friendly banter, and hopefully, catch a few fish.

David Hillier

Junior Section Report

The Summer Matches for the Junior Championship this year had some pretty good weights with very few blanks. There were some notable fish caught including a Tench of 4lb 4oz, which was good enough to win best fish trophy for Mat Yeatman in his last season as a junior. David Stone & Jamie Genge battled it out again for the Championship with David coming out on top again. Mat Yeatman finishing in third place. Adam Trevis was voted most improved junior after finishing in fourth place. Once again Gillingham juniors came out on top in the challenge trophy match v Sturminster with a total weight of 28lb 5oz.

I must wish both Mat Yeatman & Tammy Martin good luck in what ever they do know as they both become seniors this year.

Winter Series Matches

Myself & John like to take the juniors to the river for at least two of these matches, but this year it was only possible for one match. Just as well as the weights were terrible, the other three matches in the series were fished at Cowslip Farm where weights were good. Jamie came out on top in this series with Jack Stamp showing good form to take second place closely followed by Tim Koch in third. We had a new trophy this year, The Bob Koch Memorial Cup. Which was for the most improved in the winter series. This went to Jack Stamp. Well that's it for another season. Thanks must go to John Genge for his assistance at all of the matches this year, also to the parents who take the time to allow their juniors to fish our matches. First match next season 17th June

Tight Lines Jerry

P.S Just a few words about Presentation night, I was amazed at the turn out this year again numbers are going up every year. It was great to see all of our juniors there & to see the support given to them by our senior match anglers & members. It would be great to see a few more pleasure anglers next year at the event because they are as much welcome as the prize winners. Thanks to all of those who kindly donated raffle prizes & special thanks to Mark Dennis for getting us our signed football. It was a good night a draw profit of £190 was made for club funds.

Thank you.

Jerry

