

# sewin

Pontarddulais & District Angling Association (PAA) Newsletter



Pontarddulais and District Angling Association



Lyn Davies – Editor and General Secretary

## A new season...

Welcome to the first edition of 'sewin' for 2010. As I write, I'm contemplating my second night out on the Loughor. My first trip out was pretty uneventful – but it was 'just nice to be out'. It's now time to hopefully put a bend in the rod and be one of the first to bank an early season sewin!

Speaking to a few of the local masters at the recent 'Welsh Fly Fair', there seems to be definite trend towards fishing (and catching) fish much earlier in the season. Gone are the days when anglers dust off their rods come late May or June, these 'serious' boys seem to be catching in April – and I'm keen to become one of them.

Membership numbers seem pretty healthy – over 100 have joined to date. On behalf of the Committee, I would like to welcome all new members and I hope you begin to enjoy our little river as much as we have over the years. It's never easy – but stick with it – they are there!

## Carparks

All members are reminded to respect the use of PAA carparks.

Most of our parking spaces are obtained from the good will of the land owners – so please obey the rules at all times and remember to display your supplied parking permit.

## Bank erosion

Following a particularly nasty winter, high water levels have caused further bank erosion on the River Loughor. Members are advised to take care when walking along the high banks – the river has changed a significant amount since last season!

## Poor AGM turnout

We experienced another poor turnout at our Annual General Meeting (back in March). Members are reminded to try and support such occasions in future.

## New stiles...

Two stiles to have been re-erected on the Loughor and will be dismantled at the end of the season at the land owners request.

Further maintenance work will take place throughout the season. Any members interested in joining the 'working parties', please let us know.

## Tiddlers 50/50 (2010)

The Committee are in the process of collecting funds for 2010 – we hope to begin draws next month.

## New Committee members

Oliver Burch and Rob Evans recently joined the Committee – welcome on board both. Rob is local, but believe it or not, Oliver will be travelling from Gloucester once a month (for an hour or so meeting) – this just demonstrates his commitment to our Association.

## Weed spraying

Committee members are continuing to spray the Japanese Knot weed and Himalayan Balsam along our river bank – many thanks to those involved. We WILL get there!

## New life member

In recognition of the years of hard work for our Association, Albie Lewis has recently been appointed a 'Life Member' at PAA...



PAA President, Alun Rees presents Albie Lewis with the 'Lampeter away competition' award. Well done Albie, and thank you for your continued support.

Members are reminded to take all litter home. Beer cans, bottles and even a BBQ have been found recently. This is simply unacceptable! Please act responsibly.

## Out and about... Brownies on the Usk



A good Usk brownie about to be released

If you think May is a bit early to try for a sewin from the Loughor, how about a spot of brown trout fishing on the Usk?

The upper part of this river, undoubtedly the best brown trout river in Wales with fish averaging a pound or so, is only about an hour's drive from Pontarddulais and you can get a day on a variety of beats for between 15 and 30 pounds. Some of the upper and middle beats where the river runs through rocky gutters are a bit of a scramble to cover, but there are also easy wading beats with wide gravel flats which will take you all day to search for rising fish here and there.

From April through to early June, the Usk trout fishing is probably at its best, although September can also be good. This is a river which still has significant fly hatches, although the march brown, for which it used to be famous, is now sadly rare. Large dark olives are the first flies to interest the trout in early spring, followed by the grannom sedge which can produce huge hatches in April. At the time of writing (20 April) we have just had a dramatic few days of grannom hatches with sedge flies coming off the water like a blizzard and fish up to 4 pounds taken. Later there will be the falls of hawthorn fly, yellow mays, blue winged olives in the evenings, and finally the August dun as the season draws to a close.

This doesn't mean you need exact imitations at all times and presentation is probably more important than fly pattern. You can do perfectly well fishing dry with small Klinkhammers in tan olive and black, using the New Zealand duo method with a small Pheasant Tail suspended from the dry fly, or I like to fish the Usk in the spring with a team of North Country spiders cast across the current.

For a list of Usk beats available visit the Wye-Usk Foundation's website, call them on 01982 551520, or call me on 07825 410800 for advice about fishing the town and association waters.

Oliver Burch



## for April...

Get out and give it go. As the saying goes, 'You won't catch fish sitting in the house!', and as the late Fulkus once said, 'If you want to fish – then fish'. The nights may be still cold, but the fish have started to run.