



Member newsletter

August 2023

Welcome to the first edition of the new Ross-on-Wye Angling club newsletter. At the last committee meeting we recognised that there has been a lot of good work completed by the club and that it would be ideal to share it with the members. We also wanted to invite you all to contribute to what hopefully will become a regular update on club news, and most importantly give you an opportunity to ask questions, raise issues and tell us all about your successes on the bank.

Members' work parties

The committee feel that we need to say a big thank you to those members who have given up their valuable free time to come along and help maintain our waters. We cannot thank you enough as this work is vital to keep our extensive stretch in good condition for all members to enjoy. There is always more to do and we would love to see more of you, as everyone who helps makes a vital contribution. The club has recently bought two additional professional strimmers to give us extra ammunition in our fight against nature. With health and safety in mind, the club has also bought some new first aid equipment which will be available at all work parties.

Summer 2023

Summer 2023, or the lack of it has given us a real headache to keep ROWAC waters fishable. The rain and warmth has resulted in ideal growing conditions, any members who have been down to lower Weirend will have witnessed this for themselves. At the last committee meeting we realised that these unusual conditions had gone far beyond what can be achieved with our members' work parties. The committee decided to appoint a contractor to clear the wilderness that nature had gifted us. We are delighted to report that, thanks to their superb efforts, the lower Weirend stretch has now been cleared and swims are accessible again. Please go and enjoy the superb fishing opportunities they offer. To give you an idea of the challenge faced by our contractor at lower Weirend, here are some pictures:

The footpath before battle commenced!



Before	After
	
	
	

Lower Weirend parking

Just a reminder that two parking spaces are available at lower Weirend thanks to the farmer granting access behind the locked field gates. The combination lock has been changed to use the normal club code. When using them, please park in the designated areas to ensure that the clubs' good relationship with the farmer is maintained. Full details via the club website link below

<https://rossanglingclub.co.uk/2022/12/22/lower-weirend-parking-for-members/>

Club "Species Hunt" event

At the beginning of July the club held its first event of the season. The "Species Hunt" competition was enjoyed by all. As the name suggests the name of the game was to catch as many different species between 9am and 4pm on any stretch of ROWAC water. Congratulations to Roy Jacobs who was crowned the winner after the title was decided on the size of the minnow that he caught. Full details via the club website link below

<https://rossanglingclub.co.uk/2023/08/04/roy-triumphs-in-the-clubs-new-species-hunt-contest/>

Would you like to see more club competitions this season? Let us know if you would, ideas for future competitions would be most welcome.

Club water reports

Please send in your email reports to let us know how you have been getting on. Pictures would be great so that they can be included in future newsletters.

Upper Benhall

Thanks to some excellent work, access to this stretch has been greatly improved from the car park due to the installation of a new gate. This gives direct access to the designated path to the beat via a single gate bypassing two gates.



Catch reports are really good at the moment with some very nice barbel and chub being caught. One of our members over a four day period did rather well catching 27 barbel. Mind you, some of our younger members have been doing rather well!



Lower Benhall

Fishing is good with reports of some quality fish being caught.

Town Stretch

For those that have not visited recently some swims now feature permanent fishing platforms. We have to thank all involved in constructing and installing them. They have been made to a very high standard and are for the use of members and day ticket holders. We are aware that the platform nearest Wilton bridge has suffered some movement and this will be corrected shortly. More platforms have already been constructed and will be installed ASAP.

A reminder that as ever day tickets are available from Badgers Baits and Fishers in Ross-on-Wye. Tickets can still be bought on the bank on the day from the bailiff team. Income from day tickets is very good which of course helps boost club funds.

Weirend

Weirend has seen some quality barbel being caught in good numbers which is really pleasing.



The club's salmon hut now features a new fence, thanks to everyone involved.

Salmon fishing remains challenging with very low numbers being caught by our salmon members. However, Steve Boswell landed a lovely 12lb hen salmon recently, many congratulations Steve.

Full details via the club website link below

<https://rossanglingclub.co.uk/2023/08/14/at-last-another-salmon/>

When fishing at the recently cleared swims at lower Weirend please be careful as there have been reports of wasps' nests.

Sellack

I have no news from the beat as the club has no access until the end of the salmon season. Sellack will become available to members at the end of the salmon season from the 18th October onwards.

“Wye July” event Monmouth

The Friends of the Lower Wye (FOLW) organised a “Wye July” event held in Monmouth on 9th July to bring together everyone interested in improving the health of the river Wye. The FOLW were delighted to have representation from a local angling club at the event. ROWAC had the only fishing club stand which was visited by a good cross section of people. Many were surprised to find out about the town stretch offering day ticket fishing. We also had some membership enquiries as well as other more general fishing enquires. If you would like to find out a bit more about the FOLW here is a link.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/friendsofthelowerwye/>



Committee news

The ROWAC committee continues to meet monthly and remains committed to delivering quality fishing for all our members. You will have already read about some of the work that has been completed to keep our waters available to you. Our chairman Rob is still leading the club's ongoing legal case following some pollution release events into the Wye in 2021 with the assistance of Fish Legal and the Angling Trust. Mark the clubs' PR man added this on the subject:

“Wye pollution update

ROWAC continues to play an important role in helping to highlight the well-publicised pollution issues affecting the river Wye. The heightened profile of this problem now means that barely a week goes past without prominent national TV and press coverage calling on the government, regulators, water companies and polluters to take urgent action.

Former ROWAC chairman Trevor Hyde was one of the first so-called Citizen Scientists to carry out phosphate level monitoring on the river each week. There are now more than 200 folk like Trevor, carrying out vital testing work throughout the Wye catchment, providing an evidence base to challenge and hold the authorities to account.

Among others, we also support the essential work of the Angling Trust and it's Fish Legal team, as well as the activities of leading campaign group, River Action (<https://riveractionuk.com>)”

ROWAC membership for this season is full with all 350 spaces taken. It is noted though that the waiting list is down. Adverts are being paced in both Badgers Baits and Fishers inviting membership applications. Any members who know friends that are interested can express their interest by contacting our membership secretary Nick directly via email (rossmembership@googlemail.com).

Work is being done to make a new trophy cabinet to permanently display the club's trophies, full details to come. At the August meeting all existing committee members confirmed that they are happy to continue in their positions to do their very best for all the club's members.

Finally...

We hope that you find this newsletter useful and informative. The idea is that the committee can keep you updated on club matters and that you the members of our wonderful club will get involved. This is your newsletter so please send in your pictures of your catches, questions, concerns and ideas. It is your club so please let me know what is on your minds.

Tight lines and I look forward to hearing from you.

Chris Dowling

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