



Member newsletter

January 2024

Welcome to the first newsletter of 2024 which in many ways should be called the flood edition. Our favourite river has really been making it tough for us all to get out fishing. Congratulations to everyone who has managed to get out and enjoy the club's waters. We have been hearing about some really good catches. A big thank-you to everyone who has taken the time to get in touch.

Members' work parties

It is getting close to our next work party which is on Saturday 3rd February 2024 at 10:00am. Everyone is welcome as we have much to do on the Ross-on-Wye town stretch. The plan is that we will meet at the Wilton Bridge lay-by before heading off.

Should conditions dictate, we will get in touch ASAP should we need to cancel the work party. Sadly, that was the case for in November, thanks for your understanding.

Here is a reminder of future work party dates:

Saturday 20th April 2024*

Saturday 18th May 2024*

Saturday 15th June 2024*

* We will let you know the meeting place for future work parties closer to the time. All work parties will start at 10am.

We look forward to welcoming members to the work parties. Your assistance is highly valued by all on the committee. There are always jobs to do large or small so, please do not worry about coming along. We can find a job to suit all abilities which will make a real difference.

The Chub and Barbel Bash 18th February 2024

Here is your chance to participate in the first club event of the year. This is a fun event open to all members which has been organised by John Cheyne.

Full details can be found here

<https://rossanglingclub.co.uk/2024/01/17/chub-and-barbel-bash/>

This is a free event but registration is required before the event via the link above. We are delighted that many of you have already registered, and are looking forward to seeing as many members as possible take part. If conditions stop us from running the event on Sunday February 18th, we do have a reserve date of the following Sunday (25th).

I wonder if any of you can achieve the double of catching the biggest chub and barbel?

Future events

Kim got in touch, he rather likes the idea of a “Bring and buy sale” and a ROWAC quiz night. What do you all think?

As ever, if there is an event that you would like to see organised just drop me an email using the normal address (rowac@dowling.xyz).

Young Anglers Project

I had the great pleasure of spending a Saturday morning attending one of the regular Young Anglers Project (YAP) events held at Fordhouse Lakes, Newent. Kevin Timney and Keith Urch had very kindly invited me to attend to see what the project was all about. All of us on the ROWAC committee are keen to get youngsters involved in our sport. The YAP has been in existence since 2000 giving new anglers their first taste of angling. All their coaches are fully qualified and remarkably YAP supply all the equipment need to get people fishing. To say that I was impressed was an understatement. Fordhouse lakes gives first time anglers a safe environment to start their fishing journey. Many of the youngsters were returning after attending previous YAP events. Best of all, everyone who participates in the superbly run sessions is almost guaranteed to catch something. All the youngsters who attended the session really seemed to enjoy themselves which is a great credit to all involved. So if you know anyone who would like to try our wonderful sport why not find out more at:

<http://younganglersproject.org.uk/>

Member focus

Bill let me know about a spot of otter trouble on our upper Benhall stretch.

“Hi, Just wondering if you would be interested in the following account for the club’s newsletter. I had made about 6 trips to the river this summer catching several barbel to 7-8 but I was hoping for one of the larger ones. On this particular day around 4pm I hooked what felt like a good fish and after the usual dogged fight I could see it was a decent one.

Another couple of minutes and it was beaten then as it slid towards the waiting net out of the depths came an otter and grabbed the barbel. I was mortified not just at the thought of losing it, but that it was going to be dinner for an otter. The otter turned and surged out into the river, I clamped down hard but an otter is very powerful and began stripping line from the reel. I tightened the clutch and with the rod bent double I was still unable to stop it. I thought the line would snap or the hook pull out or the otter would let go, none of these happened. The river is very wide at this point and after about 5 mins it was becoming clear that there was only going to be one winner and it wasn’t, me as the otter was now only a couple of yards away from the overhanging trees on the far bank. Then suddenly the otter let go and I was able to quickly get the exhausted barbel back and into the net. After resting it for a while I checked it and apart from some damage to its head it didn’t seem bad. I quickly unhooked it and weighed it at 8-12 then rested it in the net again until it was able to swim off strongly. One lucky barbel. Not something I would like to repeat.”

What a tale and thanks to Bill for taking such care of the barbel and returning the fish in as good a condition as possible.

Craig got in touch, he has been doing rather well on our ROWAC stretches. His catches show just what a diverse range of fish can be caught. Congratulations Craig, here is a selection of his successes:



Not your average perch at 3lb 10oz or for that matter a 20lb carp!



A rather nice mid-twenty Pike and a cracking last cast special barbel,
Craig gives us a great reminder of the great fishing opportunities ROWAC offers

Member noticeboard

Richard contacted me after reading the Regen Ben article in the last newsletter. He spotted this interesting article regarding the role of farms contributing to river pollution.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/farms-now-responsible-for-more-river-pollution-than-water-firms-clean-it-up-fw72g2v58>

That reminds me of two upcoming events that are worthy of everyone's support.



Diverse Marine Values
Integrating Diverse Values into Marine Management

Film Screening AND WORKSHOP

COME AND JOIN A NATIONAL CONVERSATION ABOUT HOW WE VALUE OUR RIVERS AND OCEAN, AND WHAT WE AND OUR COUNCILS CAN DO TO SAFEGUARD THEM.



Community voices and conversations

Two evening workshops will be hosted premiering a new documentary film about the River Wye and how it connects local communities to the estuary and the ocean, followed by group discussions. Join us at one of these events and have your say!

Ross-on-Wye

Tuesday 30th Jan 2024
6pm-9pm
The Royal Hotel
Royal Parade
Ross-On-Wye
HR9 5HZ

Chepstow

Wednesday 31st Jan 2024
6pm-9pm
The Beaufort Hotel
Beaufort Square
Chepstow
NP16 5EP

Please use QR code to register by Friday 26th January or email mckinley1@cardiff.ac.uk



Catering will be provided!

Project Partners:



Why not try and attend one of the events?

Let me know of anything else that you would like to share with club members

(rowac@dowling.xyz)

Club water reports

Don't hesitate to 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 / Lower Benhall

Plenty of rewards for anyone making the effort to explore. This was the beautiful scene last week, chilly though.



Sellack

Great to hear that members have been enjoying the stretch and catching. If you get there early you might be rewarded with a great sunrise.



Town Stretch

Fishing has been really good even with the recent low water temperatures. Just to demonstrate this one of our young anglers caught this lovely Barbel with the water at just 4 degrees.



Weirend

Popular as ever with you all with nice chub and barbel being caught regularly. There have been some really nice rewards even with high water levels, when members have found some safe places to fish from.



Thanks go to Colin for repairing the car park gate at Weirend

Committee news

Just a reminder the club's AGM will be held on **Tuesday 5th March 2024**.

We wanted to point out that the club risk assessment is available on the ROWAC website and should be read by all, you will find the link for it here:

<https://rossanglingclub.co.uk/work-parties/>

The committee has had its attention drawn to some rather concerning incidents that have been reported regarding the use of keep nets. ROWAC club rule 15 is clear on the subject:

"15. Keep nets can be used with the exception of Barbel, Carp, Pike or Grayling. The Bailiff has the right to inspect the contents of any keep net used."

The club rules should be read and adhered to by all. As a reminder, this includes members and day ticket holders.

<https://rossanglingclub.co.uk/rules/>

There is some concern about the access track to the Benhall car park. This will be taken care of shortly which will make it easier for cars that have a lower ground clearance.

Finally...

It has been great to feature some of your news and catches. Keep them coming, I look forward to seeing my inbox filled to celebrate your successes and news. As ever, do not hesitate to get in touch with any questions, concerns and ideas. Tight lines, roll on the ROWAC Chub and Barbel bash on Sunday February 18th, see you there!

Enjoy your fishing

Chris Dowling

Email – rowac@dowling.xyz