



Member newsletter

August 2026

What can I say? I can only apologise for not putting a newsletter together for so long. What a shocker of a summer we have had with the river on its knees. Hopefully, things will soon improve due to us actually having some of that rare stuff rain over recent days.

Members' work party this Saturday

Please if you can, come along and help with some much-needed bank maintenance at Weir End this Saturday September 5th. We will be meeting in the Weir End car park at 10am. See you there hopefully.

New club low water rules

You will all by now have had an email regarding the new low water rules. The committee agreed these after a lot of discussion. It was felt that we should give our members an opportunity, if suitable, to fish in these extreme conditions when otherwise our waters would be closed. It is a recognition that the water temperature and the dissolved oxygen (DO) level can be suitable for fishing despite the very low river levels. Of course, fish welfare is of primary concern to all of us. It is imperative that members who choose to fish when the low water rules are in force adhere to them. As a reminder the low water rules can be found on our club's website using this link:

<https://rossanglingclub.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2026/08/ROWAC-Low-Water-Rules-Final-Final-AUG-2026.pdf>

We have consulted other local clubs about our new rules. These are an innovation, hence why we valued other clubs' input. Our club is highly regarded with others often following our lead. When fishing under these new rules, you are extremely important eyes on the water. If any of you see fish under stress you should report it immediately as stated in rule 6:

"If fish are obviously stressed and do not recover quickly having been rested in the water before they swim off you should cease fishing immediately and report the incident to the Secretary at secretary.rossac@gmail.com."

Feedback from you has been generally positive which is encouraging. Please note that these rules are by design very dynamic. Fishing can be stopped quickly if there is a change in conditions at any time.

Salmon fishing update

Big news from the salmon members that salmon have been landed on our club water. Richard Woodhouse opened up Ross AC's salmon account for the year. For those that have not read the account of his successes, you can find it here on our club website:

<https://rossanglingclub.co.uk/2026/05/02/first-salmon-of-the-season/>



The 18lb salmon he caught

Richard is as you all know one of the committee members and he has kindly written this salmon report for the benefit of us all.

"After the disaster of the 2025 season, this year produced only marginally improved salmon catches up until the end of June, with 44 fish reported caught from the whole river according to figures compiled by the Wye and Usk Foundation. This can be compared to just 32 fish for the same period in 2025.

From opening day on the 3rd March conditions were generally favourable and remained so throughout March and April. But even though significant effort was put in by our salmon members, no salmon were caught during these opening months from club waters, and only 13 recorded from the river as a whole

As we moved into May, salmon catches picked up as more fish started running the river. These included the first salmon of the year from club waters when, on the 2nd of May, Richard Woodhouse landed a salmon of 8 lbs, and followed this up on the 21st May with a better fish weighing 18 lbs. Both fish were caught on spinners, and both came from Upper Benhall.

During early to mid-June a small spate encouraged a run of fish into the river with numbers of salmon spotted moving through club waters. Unfortunately, just as we had numbers of salmon to target, the second heat wave of the year arrived bringing salmon fishing on the whole of the river came to a complete standstill. Even now although the heat had subsided and we have had the first rain for nearly 3 months, we need a lot more if we are to make the most of the remaining 7 weeks of the 2026 salmon season."

Cormorants

I know that many are concerned about the rapid rise in number of cormorants seen on the Wye in recent times. The Angling Times recently published an article on the subject. There is a new project that is requesting help from all anglers to gather data about cormorant numbers. It is estimated that there are 70,000 making up our winter inland population in the country. Each of them consuming around 1lb of fish a day. Maybe that is responsible for my occasional blank sessions!

A website and an app has been launched in which you can record your sightings. The creators of the Hydroscope software believe that input from anglers is crucial. Without current data, it will be difficult for any new cormorant management measures to be agreed. Cormorant management currently requires a licence which is only issued after non-lethal measures have been tried for 30 days. Should you wish to play your part in this project just visit this website for details of the Cormorant Project:

www.hydroscape-group.co.uk

Entering details of your sightings is easy and does not take much time. Every entry will pay a part in fully understanding just how many cormorants migrate to our shores this winter.

Look after yourselves when Fishing!

A recent Angling Times editorial grabbed my attention. Anglers' health is a subject close to my heart after an experience fishing the river Severn a few seasons ago. This is another subject that goes largely undocumented. However, cases of anglers suffering from waterborne illnesses is on the rise. Water pollution is certainly a key issue. There has been a big rise in anglers on the River Severn suffering from sickness and diarrhoea for example. Weils disease is also very much a concern. I have often seen rats on the banks of our waters, especially in the town section.

Please ensure you take this issue seriously and use proper precautionary measures. I now carry some anti-bacterial gel in my jacket. Be really careful when you eat or drink on the bank. Pay attention to any open cuts coming into contact with water. Our club secretary Peter despite the river levels being so low, witnessed a sewage discharge into the Wye recently. Still keen to kiss a fish before safely returning it to the river?

Club water temperature gauge

You have probably noticed that we have taken away our club's water temperature information from our website. There are a couple of reasons for this: river water level and some teething problems with the system. We are getting great support from the company that supplied the system. To their credit, they have told us that it is an issue with the control unit. They have already supplied us with an improved temperature sensor. However, there are some strange electronic issues that have emerged. Much head scratching on their part but they are super keen to resolve them. Stay tuned for further developments. Once we have a stable system the live temperature reading will be restored to our website.

Committee news

If you have any questions / queries, just get in touch: rowac@dowling.xyz

IF you have been down to the day ticket town stretch recently you will see that we have installed chains to assist access.

We are aware that some of the steps down to the platforms would benefit being covered with wire mesh. We have a plan in hand, mesh will be fitted A.S.A.P.

There have been some incidences of unauthorised fishing on our waters. Our head bailiff Mike has recently removed three people from the town stretch while our waters have been closed.

Finally...

I do hope that this newsletter finds you all well and looking forward to some productive fishing on the Wye this autumn. Keep in touch, it is always great to have your news, feedback and concerns.

I never thought that I would be praying for rain!

Chris

Email – rowac@dowling.xyz