



SALMON & TROUT
ASSOCIATION
SWALE, URE & NIDD
BRANCH

NEWS LETTER - September 2011

Branch Events:-

Yorkshire Grayling Day, Sunday 9th October at Wensley. Full details & entry form are enclosed. This year two new committee members, Colin Whitham & Stephen Walker, have taken over organisation of this annual event. We are very grateful to them & wish them every success. According to available records, it is the 45th year for this major fund raising event, which is enjoyed by S&TA members from all over the North.

Fly Tying Sessions A room is booked at Masham Town Hall for the fly tying group to meet on the following Wednesday evenings - Nov 2nd, 16th, 30th, Dec 14th, Jan 11th, Feb 8th, 22nd, and March 7th. These informal fly tying evenings start at 7.00pm and run until about 9.15. We tie flies, show each other our favourite patterns & methods, but we also enjoy the social gathering. Beginners are very welcome and they will be helped to get started tying flies. To cover room hire, the cost is usually £2 per session collected on the night. Non members are also welcome. For further details please contact George Anderson at littlefoxholme@gmail.com or on 01765 688990.

End of Season Luncheon, Sun. 23rd Oct, Buck Inn, Thornton Watlass. Details and booking form enclosed.

Annual General Meeting, with Pie & Peas Supper 7.30pm, 23rd Nov, at Buck Inn, Thornton Watlass.

"Put the Fly Back Into Fly Fishing" Wed 25th Jan, Leeming Lodge, Leeming Bar 7.00pm for 7.30 start. Stuart Crofts, who has entertained us before, will give his new illustrated talk, which I am sure will provide us all with food for thought. He has made a life-long study of aquatic insects and his slides are superb photographs. The cost will be £5.00 per head, to include tea/coffee and biscuits. Guests are welcome so why not bring your fishing friends to an event which will prepare them for next fly fishing season!! Reservations to G Anderson, contact details above.

Two Very Successful Training Days:- Peter Mitchell, who has been Branch Training Officer is to retire at the next AGM and he has organised some excellent training days, for which we thank him very much. The junior day took place at Thornton Steward Reservoir courtesy of Felling Fly Fishers Club on 16th April. 15 Boys and girls took part in what would have been a memorable occasion for them. After watching a delivery of stock fish they had basic casting instruction before attaching a fly and starting to fish. Several had takes, but only one fish was successfully landed and that was by Charlotte Mason whose photo appeared in The D&S Times with a report of the event. A special prize for "attitude, application and downright doggedness" was presented to Andrew Marley, the youngest entrant. He received a fly rod & line, kindly donated by John Norris of Penrith, plus a reel from the branch.

The Adult Training Day was held on 4th June on the Ure, courtesy of Jervaulx Fly Fishers. We had 11 people taking part, all of whom joined the S&TA, in order to benefit from this very enjoyable and effective introduction river fly fishing. They had casting instruction, a demonstration of the actual river fly life, several hours fishing the river,

followed by a meal at the Buck Inn, which allowed them to discuss what they had learnt and make new friends. This event was over-subscribed and so a second one is to take place on 10th Sept, to cater for the remaining applicants.

These three events rely on volunteers who act as mentors and the generosity of the host clubs, all of whom we thank for their contributions. 18 New members have been recruited and 15 youngsters introduced to trout fishing!!

Donation to Yorkshire Dales Rivers Trust:- At our branch committee meeting in July it was agreed that a £1,000 donation be given to YDRT. The Trust raises money from external sources to fund various projects undertaken on our three rivers, Swale, Ure & Nidd. However they require help with core funding, to cover their basic overheads. What they really need, is many more individual members, whose subscriptions would swell their domestic income. So we appeal to all S&TA members to join the Trust and increase its basic financial security. Currently YDRT is involved with improvement projects on all 3 rivers or their tributaries, so our local fishing will benefit!! If you are not already a member, please contact Nick Buck on 01677 424294 for details.

Great Yorkshire Show:- For 20 years John Lazenby has organised the running of the S&TA stand at the show, which is staffed by volunteers from local branches. In his recent letter thanking them for their help this year John states that he will be unable to run the stand next year and feels that it is time to find someone else to take over. It has been suggested that the job could be split into three sections – Team Leader in overall charge of the stand and the preparations, another to organise competitions & casting tuition, and a third to supervise second-hand tackle sales. This would make the roles less daunting. A volunteer has already offered to do the tackle sales and so two more people are now required!! The show stand raises valuable funds for S&TA and John has got procedures in place to simplify the work. Also he will assist with arrangements during the lead up to next years show. Please would any member, willing to consider either of the roles please contact him at stayorks@aol.com or on 01757 269454.

Jervaulx Fly Fishers face big decisions about taking on salmon fishing rights in addition to trout and grayling on the Ure at Jervaulx. This may mean increasing their membership numbers, in order to raise the extra rent. The syndicate also have another beat on the Ure plus trout fishing on 5 small still waters. S&TA members who may be interested in joining, should contact Mick Burt on m.burty@btinternet.com or 01969 622142.

Notification by e-mail:- About 90 of our 230 members now receive their branch correspondence via e-mail. This saves about £1.20 for each member for the three mailings per year, thus leaving more funds available for good causes. So if you haven't already done so PLEASE notify George Anderson of your email address. Also if you change your e-mail address, please remember to notify George. His address is littlefoxholme@gmail.com.

Junior Trout Masters National Final:- Again our S&TA branch, with help from Cleveland and York branches, provided the fishing stewards for this important junior event held at Stonebridge Fishing Lakes, Scruton. It was sponsored by "Trout Fisherman" magazine and the youngsters taking part, qualified at their local fisheries all over the UK. It was good to see young people so enthusiastic about fly fishing and our volunteer stewards particularly enjoyed this aspect. More entrants used imitative fly patterns this year, as bright conditions made fishing hard. Special thanks go to Cleveland branch for providing an S&TA marquee with fly tying lessons & demonstrations.

EA River Stocking Policy:- George Anderson, Branch Sec, reported recently on various meetings with Julian Smith MP, the EA and also YDRT. The case had been put that, no scientific research had been carried out with triploids on our northern rivers and that a blanket nationwide change of stocking policy was therefore not appropriate. Furthermore not enough research had been carried out on the feeding habits of triploid trout

on our dales rivers, which do not compare with chalk streams where food is more abundant. He reported however that the EA had not accepted these arguments and that there was unlikely to be any change in their policy. The simple choice for clubs in 2015 would likely be either, a no stocking policy or stocking with triploid trout. Efforts would however continue.

A Plea To All Members:- In two of the preceding items requests are made for volunteers to fill roles which are now vacant. Our branch is rightly proud of what we currently achieve for the S&TA, river environments & game fishing in general. However this activity can only continue if people agree to fill vacancies when they occur. In our branch we now need an Events Organiser and two people to take on organising training days (previously done by Peter Mitchell). Candidates need to be found prior to our AGM in November. Please would members actively seek out suitable people and notify suggestions to me, before our branch declines!! Also don't forget the Yorkshire Show stand, team vacancies. John Burton, Branch Chairman. 01677 426780 or e-mail johnmburton@tiscali.co.uk