

## June/July 2018

### Salmon Fishing

I do not need to say that this is the worse year we have experienced in the Associations history since we purchased our first Usk Fishery in 1979. Excellent river conditions through April into May did not produce any more than two Salmon from our beats. We are now looking at fishing being curtailed by the Wye Usk Foundation on the Wye beats with a request to the Usk Fisheries to think of the fish at this time of exceptionally low water and high water temperatures. To be fair we are not have any bookings for salmon fishing being made. Trout fishing early morning and late evening is still popular.

### Coarse Fishing

In contrast to our river fisheries the coarse fishing side is doing well with good catches being reported for all our ponds and reservoirs. A downside is the fine weather is bring out just more than anglers with swimming being a problem in all or local lakes and the mess that is left behind.

It has also brought out the less desirable angler who likes to take and eat our coarse fish as well as Bar B Que them on the bank. We are taking steps to try to stop this.

### **Usk Local Fisheries Group**

For information and dissemination: we as an Association sit on the Usk Group: The following is an e;mail from Welsh Water advising of a release from Usk Reservoir to help replenish Llandegfedd.

As part of the Usk & Wye Abstraction Group, I've just received an email from Richard Allen, Welsh Water which says:

I've subsequently been told that the release has started and there will be a 48-hour time lag before they start abstracting at Prioress Mill, Usk at a rate to match the water released from Usk reservoir. As the abstraction at Prioress will be spread over 20-22 hours per day, some fluctuation will occur from Usk downstream. End

Response from the Chairman Mark McCloy: Thank you for this information.

We will shortly be starting to make a regulation release from Usk reservoir that will remain in place for several weeks. This release will allow us to abstract water from the Usk river via our Prioress Mill pumping station. The additional volume of water to be released will be approximately 80 MI/d.'

I appreciate that Dwr cymru have to ensure supplies. But from this statement I do not see any concern for habitat or fish stocks (sorry )

In recent weekends i have visited numerous reservoirs including Llandegfedd and i would say levels are down around 12 feet on average. I would be interested to hear how this compares to normal summers ? I have also been to Brecon prom. There was only sufficient flow to go through the fish passes. Although a nice flow was still obviously being taken by the canal. (interestingly there was so much water through the lochs at Llangynidr that the Crawnnon has been running brown !) I wonder what Brecon weir would look like without the input of the Tarrell and Honddu ? A sustained period of warm weather for sure, but the Onneu is still running, it will often dry up in most years, so I assume ground water levels are reasonable.

I will be interested to watch the progress of the release from Usk res, to see how long it takes to travel the length of the river on the reduced flows. end

## Newsletter June July 2018

We as an Association have been working closely for some years with Rachel Evans Director Wales for the Countryside Alliance. She has inside knowledge of the assembly and the following is a briefing after her meeting with Hannah Blethyn the new Minister who is taking some of the work off Leslie Griffiths.

On Access to the countryside, Rachel Evans questioned the Minister on an expected date for a Ministerial statement on the recent Taking Forward Wales consultation which is now expected sometime in July. Reiterating the Alliance's position on access to land and water, Rachel Evans respectfully asked that Welsh Government refrain from any plans to increase access at the present time so as not to put landowners and riparian owners in Wales at a severe disadvantage while at Westminster plans for a future agricultural policy are to include access as part of the delivery of public good.

Rachel Evans said "We have heard that an overarching agricultural policy will include the delivery of public good and access to the countryside has been much talked about at Westminster. A rushed through policy on increasing access in Wales prior to the exit from the European Union can only mean that Welsh farmers and riparian owners would be placed in an unfair negotiating position.

I think that when this is opened up to the sector we will see some very diverse and exciting opportunities developed to increase access to land and water, we really cannot put Wales on the back foot in such important times."

Angling in Wales is facing tough times, the Alliance is not entirely convinced that the recent decision by Natural Resources Wales to impose mandatory catch and release on salmon in 2019 is going to be effective as a standalone measure to increase salmon stocks, and reiterated that message to the Minister. The ruling targets only the anglers and some quite rightly feel victimised. The Alliance felt strongly that this measure should be part of a package and repeated our call for predator control of the fish eating birds to be widely accepted and granted by NRW, and for pollution incidents to be taken far more seriously by the regulatory body than they have been to date.

As you are aware the angling community have been very vocal at last on both the access issue and the New proposed Bylaws. We have the North Wales Anglers to thank for really pushing the Agenda regarding the bylaws as the current set of data being presented by Natural Resources Wales is being challenged as flawed. We as an Association and Angling Cymru the overarching body for Anglers have also joined in the fight. The situation in England is being looked at differently but it appears that Natural Resources Wales are unwilling to change their stance. The Association will be keeping an eye on any further developments. Rachel has added: I would add that there's a new consultation which AGAIN features Access and anglers must respond saying that angling should form part of that "public good" The consultation is called Support for Welsh farming after Brexit and it was launched in July. .

**I would still like some extra news to use in the letter. In particular I would like our Juniors to send me details of catches by e:mail together with details of baits etc. In fact if anyone who posts on Facebook can send the details to myself at: [tonyreesuk@googlemail.com](mailto:tonyreesuk@googlemail.com) I would be grateful.**

**Some of you are aware many are not that our Chairman Gary Davies has under gone surgery to have a Pace Maker fitted. It has been successful and although he has to take it easy for a few weeks we wish him all the best and a speedy recovery**

Newsletter June July 2018

Dawn Sayce-Jones is doing well in the ladies competitions winning the last two: The Canal with Dawn 1st with 8lb 6oz all caught on maggot and Mollies at Redhill with 35lb 1 oz.



Dawns Bag on the Canal Note the Eel





Some catches from our waters. Currently Cyfarthfa Lake, Top Pond and Middle pond Dolygaer and Pontsticill are fishing well.



# Merthyr Tydfil Angling Association

## Demonstration and Information Morning by the Welsh



## International Lakes Bank Fly Fishing Team



On Saturday the 22nd September 2018 the above team will be holding a demonstration morning on the way they set up and the choice of tackle when fishing at such a high level.

Come along to the Model Merthyr Engineering Railway Site  
CF47 8RE in:

**Cyfarthfa Park Merthyr Tydfil on September  
22nd 2018 At 10 am until 2pm and meet the  
Team. They will Answer Questions and take you  
Through the following and other Topics.**

Tackle choice, and why/where they use different rods / lines

Pond craft – Where we would expect to find fish, in which types of water given various / weather / conditions, and time of year etc.

How they would approach the fishing. What methods they would adopt for different types of water conditions, and why.

Fly selection. fly tying – They can also describe the methods they use, when fishing the lakes .

Of course they would also be happy to answer any questions anyone may have on any aspects of fly fishing.

# Newsletter June July 2018

## Penywern Ponds

The current weather this summer has led to an massive increase in the amount of litter that has been deposited on these ponds. We are grateful that most has been in the bins provided saving a lot of work. However we have had to contend with irresponsible swimmers and I mean irresponsible even as far as their own safety is concerned. Below is some of what those volunteers who have helped clean up have had to contend with.



Note the damage caused to our concrete fishing platform top left and right. The Trolleys seven in all above right and middle left and right Trolleys from the previous clean up. We shall be writing to the managers of the stores concerned