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It's that time again when thoughts turn to lazy days spent pursuing that very special fish, the wild brown trout.

I count myself very lucky to be able to venture out whenever I please....*sorry, when ever I'm allowed...*to test my skill and my knowledge against a creature that is perfectly adapted to the environment it lives in.

The thrill of tempting a trout to take my imitation fly from the surface of a swiftly flowing river still gives me goose bumps and it doesn't really matter if it's a perfectly formed six ounce beauty or a lumping great 2 pounder, the buzz is just the same.

I really feel sorry for those who have never experienced the excitement of catching a trout and believe me, there are a lot of people out there who have no earthly idea what it's all about.

I wish I had a penny for every time I'm asked, "What on earth to you see in fishing?" or "What fun do you get out of sitting at a river bank catching wee fish and putting them in a net?" Sometimes folk try to be knowledgeable and say things like, "It's pouring down outside. The fishing will be really good today."

When you try and explain the concept of fly fishing to those unfortunates you can often see the blank expression on their faces that mean they still have no earthly idea what it's all about.

The real reward is when you manage to persuade someone to come along

and give it a try, because, more often than not the sport gains a convert and you gain a new fishing friend.

So get out there and keep spreading the gospel.

Tight Lines!

Ed.

COMMITTEE CHANGES?

There were no changes made to the committee this time around as we all agreed to man the bilge pumps for another season.

Our President, John Kimble, has enjoyed his first year at the helm and is looking forward to another challenging season. High on his agenda is the continuing river improvement work and our quest for a still water to add to our fishing portfolio.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

There has been a slight increase in the Adult membership fees for this season, rising from £33 to £35. Senior Citizen fees remain at £15 and the cost of junior membership increases to £10.

Fees are now due and should be sent to the Membership Secretary at the above address. Please make sure that you complete the enclosed 'Renewal Slip' and send it along with your payment. Don't forget to include your email address if you have one as this will enable us to email you future Newsletters and additional information. It will also enable us to provide you with a password that will give you access to the Catch Returns section of the club website.

ANNUAL COMPETITION AND OUTINGS

Last year we tried an experiment by combining both legs of the annual competition with our two fishery outings. This was the first time in the clubs history that the competition wasn't held on club waters but it turned out to be very successful and everyone who took part felt that the format should be continued in the future. Members who attended the AGM also voted to carry on with the new set-up and protect our own fish stocks.

So! Where to this year?

Well, last seasons venues were so popular that we decided to do them both again this time round. This means that the first outing and first leg of the competition will be at North Third on Friday 19 June. The cost will be £23 per person which must be paid, in full, prior to the event.

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NB There will be no discount for those who prefer to use their own outboard. Anyone wishing to attend should complete the enclosed outing form and send it with your cheque for £23 to Neil Smith, 14 Carolside Avenue, Clarkston Glasgow, G76 7AE.

I would advise that you get your application in as quickly as possible as there are a limited number of boats available.

Everyone attending should meet in the fishery car park at 4.30 pm for a 5.00pm start. Life jackets must be worn but if you don't have one the fishery will provide one for you.

The second outing and second leg of the competition will be a day session, bank fishing at Cowans Law on Sunday 6 September. The cost will be £25 per person and a barbeque lunch will be provided. Further details will be made available nearer the time.

HELP WANTED

Over a number of years a few of our members have helped to run fly-fishing training sessions at local secondary schools in conjunction with the National Playing Fields Association.

If anyone is interested in helping to promote angling by giving up some time to teach fly-fishing to teenagers in local schools please contact David Reynolds on 0141 639 4397

WEBSITE

The website continues to attract a lot of interest with members and non-members alike with the message board being the main focus of attention.

Please remember to register for the catch returns section and to enter your returns on a regular basis. I have yet to see another web based catch return system on other angling club websites so I think we were the first to introduce it.

Keep checking the site for news and info on various subjects.

RIVER MAINTENANCE

Last year the beavers managed to carry out a number of restoration projects mainly downstream of the Ford. One of the main projects was to clear out a number of areas that were choked with fallen trees and branches and where accumulations of silt had formed overgrown islands in the middle of the river. Clearing out these areas opened out the river for better fishing access and improved water flow rates.

Pruning back tree branches, building groynes and repairing stiles and fences were some of the other measures taken to enhance the trout habitat and improve the general surroundings.

Mindful that some of our older members find it difficult to walk along the bank we set about creating a set of steps down from the car parking area at the edge of the water treatment plant and also carried out work to improve the stability of the river bank along the length of the water treatment plant fence on route to the Island Pools. The undergrowth was strimmed all the way along this path to further improve access.

In addition to the above the car park area was re-laid with hardcore material kindly donated by Carillion. Our thanks go to Robbie Mitchell who gave up a day of his time to help lay down the hardcore.

The plan for this season is to start off with some badly needed work on the lower section of the Earn Water. Much of the area is heavily choked with fallen branches and trees and needs to be cleared. The area would also benefit from a few groynes to improve water flow and in some cases to prevent bank erosion. There are also some good pools that could be improved.

It's going to be a busy year and we would appreciate any help you could give. Keep your eye on the website for more information or contact the president for details of where, when and what to bring.



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