

# Bristol & West Branch

Salmon & Trout Association

## Newsletter 2012

*President: Nick Mitchell  
(elect)*

*Chairman: Alfie Pope*

*Join us in 2012*

◆ AGM - March 4<sup>th</sup> 2012  
at Blagdon Lodge

◆ Junior Coaching  
From May 4<sup>th</sup> at Chew

◆ Royal Bath & West  
(Disabled Games)  
May 30<sup>th</sup> - June 2<sup>nd</sup>

◆ Members Day  
September 9<sup>th</sup>, Blagdon

◆ Annual Dinner  
Friday, November 16<sup>th</sup>  
At Cameley Lodge



## Events 2012

### AGM - Sunday, March 4<sup>th</sup> 2012

Come and hear at this meeting what your committee have been up to over the past year. This is your opportunity to question your branch officers as to what they have been doing in yours and your branch's interest.

We start at around noon with a complimentary glass of wine or two followed by a talk from Paul Reddish, film producer. We shall then have lunch - cost £15.00 - which again this year will be served by Elaine and her team. The menu this year is casserole of spiced Mendip beef followed by sweet and coffee. The raffle follows lunch and the AGM proper starts at 2.15pm.

### Junior Coaching - Friday May 4<sup>th</sup> - Friday June 1<sup>st</sup> 2012

The branch will again be running the junior evenings at Chew. These are on Friday evenings from 4.30pm until 8.30pm starting the 4th May and will run until the 1st June. We need boatmen, fly tying and instructing assistance to make this work.

The previous four years we have run these evenings they have been immensely successful, so, if you feel you could enjoy showing youngsters your fishing skills and love for angling, put your name down for those evenings if you would like to take part.

### Royal Bath & West Show (Disabled Games) Wednesday May 30<sup>th</sup> 2012 - Saturday, June 2<sup>nd</sup> 2012

For many years Brian Kick has looked after the fly casting part of the disabled games at the Bath & West Show with the help of branch members who are able to assist. This is run at the same time as the main Bath & West Show during the spring bank holiday week.

### Members Day - Sunday, September 9<sup>th</sup> 2012

Fishing by boat or bank. The Lord Darling Trophy is awarded for the largest trout caught. Supper in the lodge, again supplied by Elaine's Kitchen. A chance to meet old friends and enjoy a pleasant evening

### Annual Dinner - Friday November 16<sup>th</sup> 2012

This year's event will be held on Friday 16th November at the lovely setting of Cameley Lodge at 7pm for 7:30pm. (Black tie preferred).

## News Items 2011

### Farewell to Chris

Our final junior coaching evening also marked the end of an era as this was president Chris Klee's final function for the branch. Alfie Pope our chairman came along to present Chris with a couple of bottles of malt whisky, and to thank him for all the years of dedicated service he has given to Bristol and West branch.



### Junior Coaching



This year's course was quite an extended affair, we were not able to finish until the 1st July. We lost one day because of bad weather but Bristol Water kindly gave us the following week.

In total we gave coaching to twelve juniors some of whom did all the five evenings and as usual Wells Cathedral school group came.

This year we were fortunate to have the help of Sally Pizii and her husband Tony who introduced some new coaching techniques to our practice. Sally also brought along different jars of water based insects together with identification charts and ran this as a quiz - a good way for youngsters to learn. Chris Klee set up an aquarium with different bugs, this also was very popular and being before Sally did her quiz gave them the appetite to do the quiz.

Malcolm Fisher and Pete McGuckian looked after the boats and as usual everyone wanted to have a go at the boat fishing, but this year it had a rival in the jetty, which on one or two evenings saw action from the fish, most managing to shake themselves free but not all.



## Disabled Games at the Bath & West

Brian Kick has once again this year looked after the fly fishing casting competition section of these games for the branch. Chairman Alfie Pope, a branch member Jonathan Howitt and one of his own friends who came along to lend a hand. Many thanks to all the other members who offered to help.

During the two days male and female competitors from all over the country take part in the triathlon event. Gillian Mathews MBE runs the games and is very grateful to the Salmon & Trout Association for the help we give on this particular section of the games.



## Members Day

John West won the competition for the Lord Darling trophy this year having caught the biggest fish of the day. Elaine once again came up with a first class supper and most people caught fish on the day which always helps to make it enjoyable. Why not come and join in this year and see if you can be the one to collect the Lord Darling trophy. Pictured right is John with his trophy.



## Annual Dinner



A well attended dinner this year the attraction of listening to a famous speaker Don Cameron of hot air balloon fame. It was nice to see Chris and Jill Klee back with us as guests of the branch. Brian ran the raffle with the help of his wife Margaret. A good attendance always creates an enjoyable atmosphere.

## Contacts

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**The Bristol & West Branch of  
the Salmon & Trout Association  
gratefully acknowledge the help  
and assistance given to them by  
Bristol Water PLC**

*It would be helpful if members could  
let the secretary have their email  
address*

## *River Fly Partnership*

Those of us who have been fly fishing for trout in rivers for several decades will know just how much our river flies have declined in that period. When was the last time you saw a March Brown or Sherry Spinner? As a consequence the Riverfly Partnership was established which is a network of more than 50 organisations representing anglers, entomologists, conservationists, water companies, river managers and statutory bodies including the Environment Agency (E.A.) and Scottish Environment Protection Agency (S.E.P.A.).

The Riverfly Partnership works to protect the water quality of our rivers, increase our knowledge of riverfly populations and actively conserve their habitats. The Salmon & Trout Association host the Riverfly Partnership and provide it with the necessary administration facilities.

A key aspect of the programme is the Anglers Monitoring Initiative (AMI) which was launched in 2007. The purpose of the AMI is to encourage trained groups, mainly of anglers, to monitor the riverfly quality of their rivers by using the standard E.A./S.E.P.A. methodology and feeding their results into the statutory body database on a regular basis. Such a programme has already been the key to identifying problems on several rivers at an early stage. Riverflies which are pollution sensitive are the canaries of our rivers!

The AMI programme will go a long way to assist in assuring that our rivers will eventually meet the Good Ecological Status that is required by the Water Framework Directive. That is the sort of river that we want to fish!

This year my local angling club, the Charfield Angling Association, and the Berkeley Estate Fishing Syndicate, which between them control most of the fishable water on the Little Avon and Ozleworth Brook, decided that we wanted to join the AMI and start officially monitoring our wonderful little river.

Consequently a full day's training was arranged for a Saturday in March at the Tortworth Estate Office for a group of a dozen volunteers, six from each club, to be trained and accredited in the AMI. We were blessed with a fine day and a low river level which was perfect for the training. We were fortunate to have Dai Roberts as our tutor. Dai's enthusiasm for the Riverfly Partnership knows no bounds and whilst his background is in biochemistry he has become an expert amateur aquatic entomologist and is key to a lot of monitoring groups in South Wales. In addition we had the services of both Bruce Pyatt who is an E.A. officer and a leading expert in riverfly knowledge together with Chris Klee, our own S & TA Bristol & West Branch President, whose expert knowledge of riverfly and methodology was extremely helpful.

After an initial introduction to the AMI and its relationship with the E.A., Dai introduced us to the target groups of riverflies and how to identify those that form the AMI programme. These are the Ephemeroptera (Up Winged Flies), Trichoptera (Caddis or Sedge Flies), Plecoptera (Stoneflies) and Gammarus (Freshwater Shrimps).

The Ephemeroptera are identified and counted as Mayfly, Blue Winged Olives, Flat Bodied Upwings and Olives. The Trichoptera are identified and counted as Cased Caddisfly and Caseless Caddisfly.

We were also asked to look out for and report Yellow Mayfly and May Dun flies in order to establish a national map of their occurrence. Furthermore, we were told how to identify Dikergammarus, the so called Killer Shrimp that is present in Grafham Water (probably introduced from a sailing boat previously used in Europe) and to hit the panic button if we find it.

After the theory it was down to the river and into the water for the practical demonstration and our first monitoring using the E.A./S.E.P.A. methodology. This involved standing in the water and holding a net downstream and undertaking a three minute kick sample which disturbs the nymphs etc. which were collected in the net. This was enhanced by weed sweep with the net and followed by a one minute sample which simply involves picking up stones and washing out the attached invertebrates into the net.

The next steps of the process involved washing the sample and then sorting it into the target groups using a segmented tray with a pipette. It was then possible to count or make an estimate of each of the target groups and record the number on a Riverfly Partnership Monitoring Form.

The entire experience was most interesting and it certainly gave those of us present a good idea of what flies we can expect to see in our river. It also indicated that the flies and nymphs attached to our leaders are too large!

Since the training day we have held a further meeting to divide into groups of two each to monitor two sites per month. Working in groups of two will help to ensure some accuracy in the estimates of numbers. In the case of Charfield Angling Association we have identified six key sites eg above and below a confluence and above and below a sewage treatment works so that should there be a problem in the future we may be able to assist the E.A. in identifying the cause.

In addition to the investment in time, there is also an investment in equipment and both Charfield Angling Association and the Berkeley Fishing Syndicate are grateful to Wessex Water for providing a grant for the purchase of our monitoring equipment.

Everybody involved in the programme is looking forward to the regular monitoring of our beloved river and in partnership with the E.A. who have very limited resources to do the work themselves, we should be able to build up a database of the riverfly population and work towards improving it in the years to come – an example of the Government's Big Society!

If other groups or clubs care passionately about their rivers, I would urge you to set up an AMI – details from the Riverfly Partnership, Salmon & Trout Association, Fishmongers Hall, London EC4R 9EL. Website [www.riverflies.org](http://www.riverflies.org).

Polluters Beware!

**John West**