



Current Affairs



Newsletter of Llandysul Angling Association
August 2011



In this issue:

- Letter from the Secretary2
- Extraordinary General Meeting3
- Arrangements for the 2011 Annual General Meeting4
- Membership Subscription Proposals4
- Chairman’s Report.....5
- Junior Members' News and Events, by Eric Davies7
- Wildlife Corner: Frog or Toad? by Pat O’Reilly9
- Invasive Weeds – What is happening?10
- Repairs to our Disabled Anglers’ Fishing Platform11
- Boat Fishing, by Andrew Howell12
- Renewing your Membership for 201214
- Llandysul A A Birthday and Christmas Presents14
- Competitions News.....15

Letter from the Secretary



So how is the 2011 season going? the weather is, of course, the first thing which springs to mind. The best we can say is that it has not been kind to the river and to fishing. After the hard winter, the dry spring. Hot and dry weather has been succeeded by cold and dry, often with a blustery wind here in the Teifi Valley. It seems like months since we had serious rain, and the river is showing the effects. Low water is the first impression you get even from the most superficial look from the bank, and we wonder how long this can last. I don't think that I am grumpy, but I feel that way when people tell me what a lovely day it is again, warm, sunny and dry. My response, that we need rain badly, is often met with a blank look, and I apologise for sounding miserable. The plain fact is, though, that we could easily be on the verge of a drought, and water abstraction from rivers must have an adverse effect in these conditions. With all that said, however, there are fish in the river and they are being caught, and the Teifi Valley is still looking beautiful.

Other issues? The netsmen are still taking a significant number of fish and this catch is probably weighted to take the bigger mature fish, which is a matter of concern. Our Chairman's article in this Newsletter covers the work being done by the Teifi Rivers Trust to improve both habitat and access, and this is a continuing labour of love from volunteers. There is the stocking project which we hope will result in more fish in the river over time. We recognise that this has its controversial aspects but the work is being carried out according to best practice and is being monitored and evaluated. We are aware of our duty of care to the river and its biodiversity, and indeed anglers are to the forefront here.

The canoe/rafting issue drags on and is a matter which receives a great deal of attention from both this Club and the Teifi Fisheries Federation, and we are now involving local Assembly Members and Councillors. We are still working for a resolution which respects our rights and concerns but which does facilitate responsible access by other users of the river. We work on in hope.

Finally, you will see later in this Newsletter that the Committee is calling an Extraordinary General Meeting for Saturday 20th August. Please do attend if at all possible, since we need a minimum of 30 people present to carry valid resolutions.

Enjoy your fishing, and Tight Lines!

Yours sincerely,

Andrew Howell, Hon. Sec.

Extraordinary General Meeting

It has been brought to the notice of the Committee that attendance of twenty members at the Annual General Meeting held on 3rd December 2010 did not constitute a quorum according to the Rules of the Llandysul Angling Association, and that decisions made at that meeting are therefore invalid until ratified by a quorate meeting of the Association.

Legal advice has been taken, and to remedy this position all members are hereby formally notified that an Extraordinary General Meeting will be held on **Saturday 20th August at midday** at the Porth Hotel, Llandysul.

The business of this Meeting will be as follows.

1. To vote on the appointments to the three Committee places which fall vacant according to the Rules of the Association. The members whose term has come to an end are Gwilym Jones, Raymond Jones and Dewi Roberts. All three have confirmed their willingness to continue to serve on the Committee if re-elected.
2. To confirm the proposed Membership subscription rates for 2011. These are specified in the February 2011 edition of the Newsletter 'Current Affairs'.
3. To vote on the re-election of Officers, namely the President, Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer of the Association, all of whom have confirmed their willingness to continue in these positions.
4. To consider the Report of the Treasurer and to vote on acceptance of the Accounts of the Association.

Notice is also hereby given of a **Special Resolution** to be considered and voted on at the E.G.M. The Rules of the Association specify at Section 11(5) a quorum of 30 members at an AGM. These rules date from 1989, and in view of our reduced membership and that so many members live a long way from Llandysul (and travel in December can be problematic) the Committee puts the following proposal to the EGM:

“In view of declining membership and levels of attendance at AGMs of the Association, it is proposed to reduce the necessary quorum at these meetings from 30 members to ten.”

Please note that a quorum of 30 members will be required to pass this amendment on 20th August. A simple majority of those attending and voting is sufficient to carry these items of business, and declaration by the Chairman that they have been carried is conclusive.

There is provision in the Rules for a poll of members to be carried out before such a declaration can be made if it is demanded by not less than 75% of members present and entitled to vote, Section 11(6) of the Rules. A member can also nominate in writing a Proxy to vote on his/her behalf and any such nomination should be made to the Secretary at the Association office, Room 101, The Porth Hotel, Llandysul to arrive no later than 9th August 2011. Please make every effort to attend this important meeting.

Arrangements for the 2011 Annual General Meeting

The 2011 AGM will be held on **Friday 2nd December, beginning at 8 pm in The Porth Hotel, Llandysul**. Our president, Dr David Roberts, will chair the meeting.

Agenda:

1. Minutes and matters arising from the 2010 AGM
2. Minutes and matters arising from the Special General Meeting of 20 Aug 2011
3. Report on younger member activities and award of prizes
4. Chairman's report on local, national and international fisheries matters
5. Annual accounts and Treasurer's report
6. Secretary's report on the 2011 season, membership and correspondence received
7. Election of officers
8. Election of committee members
9. Membership fees for 2012
10. Any other business (to be notified to the secretary in advance of the meeting)

Nominations for committee membership

In accordance with normal procedure, four committee members are standing down; they are Eric Davies Eurig Thomas, Pat O'Reilly and Alan Williams. All four have expressed a willingness to continue to serve on committee if that is the wish of the AGM, and Committee is nominating them for re-election.

Any full member may nominate another member for a place on the committee. Nominations in writing, with a statement signed by the nominee confirming that they are willing to stand, should be sent to the secretary at Room 101, The Porth Hotel, Llandysul SA44 4QS to arrive no later than Friday 18th November 2011. If there are more nominations than vacancies, a ballot will be held during the AGM.

Membership Subscription Proposals

Committee is very aware of the present financial constraints that affect all Members, and so, subject to AGM approval, the membership fees for 2012 would remain unchanged at the following levels:

- Adult full membership £149
- Pensioner member (at least five years as a full member to qualify) £74
- Severely Disabled (Tyr Dref beat only) £10
- Joining fee (adults only) £15
- Student membership £43
- Junior (schoolchild) trout fishing membership £2
- Weekly permit up to 31st August £67
- Weekly permit, 1st September to 17th October £77
- Guest day permit (and introductory day visitor available to 31st Aug) £25

Chairman's Report



I am delighted to begin my summer report with the very good news that the club has successfully purchased the County Gate Hotel water in Llanfihangel-ar-arth. As you may already know we have been renting it for the past two years but it is now a permanent addition to our portfolio of fisheries and a very welcome one. Although it's not a long stretch it is an exceptionally good one with a consistent record over many years for numbers and size of salmon and sea trout. I have been fortunate enough to have viewed the catch records held at the hotel and several 20 pounders feature on the list, the largest being a specimen of 28lbs.

The fishery comprises two main holding pools, namely Sheep's Pool and Horse Pool, with a long and productive run leading into the former, and hopefully it will continue to fish as well for us as it has done in the past for guests of the hotel. It will be served by a car park in Dolybont Field (just downstream of the bridge) when permission for this finally arrives courtesy of Carmarthen Council planning department. We have just re-submitted our planning application and pray that it will succeed this time around. Could I just take this opportunity to remind members that although there is a track that runs behind the hotel and leads leading to the fishery, vehicular access via this track is not permitted.

So far, this season seems to be following the pattern of the last few years with a long, dry spring and very low water levels, but some serious rain has now fallen and we are enjoying some good sewin fishing, with one fortunate clubmate landing an 11 pounder. I know that some of you have had some fun with early season trout fishing, with some quality brownies being taken and a few sewin and salmon showing up even in the drought conditions. TTA colleagues tell me that several salmon have been taken at Cenarth and good runs of sewin have been observed ascending the falls.

Now that the Welsh Assembly elections are over and we know who our environment minister is, we can resume discussions on the canoeing issue as the current situation remains highly unsatisfactory for all parties.

The TFF continues to function well, and our restocking programme will commence soon as we have over 100,000 fry in the hatchery. These will be stocked upriver in two stages with 30,000 introduced this spring and the remainder stocked as parr in the autumn. There will again be out of season fishing for broodstock after the season ends. Should you be interested in participating then please pass your details on to David Griffiths, who can be contacted on 01239710254 or davidgriffhis@tiscali.co.uk. David is conservation officer for TTA and has to register your licence numbers with the EA.

Teifi Rivers Trust is busy again with about fifteen improvement projects on the books encompassing the rivers Clettwr, Cerdin, Creuddyn and Berwyn. However government bureaucracy continues to be a constant annoyance. Sadly the Trust is suffering from a lack of volunteer support and all these schemes have been recruited by myself, once again. I'm afraid that I am not prepared to carry on as sole agent on behalf of the Trust for much longer but I will honour my commitments as far as the current spending round is concerned. If we cannot secure more support for this work then the Trust will have to revert to river survey work and invertebrate monitoring only, meaning that habitat improvement in the catchment will be left to the Environment Agency who may not be able to deliver much.

The restocking is also proving to be a very expensive undertaking and should any members be feeling generous enough to make an additional financial contribution towards the club meeting these costs then all donations will be gratefully received. Finally, I would like to sign off with last season's catch return figures, wish you all a good time on the Teifi and hope to see you at the Extraordinary AGM on 20th August 2011.

Best wishes,

Ian Thomas, Chairman

Catch Return Figures for 2010

	Salmon	Sewin
April	0	2
May	0	5
June	3	49
July	14	256
Aug	32	103
September	124	56
Oct	73	19
Totals	246	490

Fly	43	233
Spinner	162	239
Bait	41	13
Returned	52%	65%

Catch Return and Prize Draw

Please send in your club catch return promptly at the end of the season (17th October). Catch data are essential evidence in our submissions to Government on byelaw changes etc. Please remember that failure to submit a club catch return before 1st February 2011 results in an automatic £10 surcharge on next season's membership fee. On a more positive note, every catch return is entered into our annual Prize Draw. Why risk losing £10 when you could be £25 better off?

Junior Members' News and Events, by Eric Davies



With the earlier than usual printing of the Autumn Newsletter there is as yet no news to report on The Youth Section other than to wish Trystan Davies success for him and the Welsh Youth Team on the Lake of Menteith, Scotland, on the 27th July.

Left: a rather thin Teifi trout. (Compare this one with the tubby trout shown below.)



With this space I'll show you the flies that have taken fish for me in the last two seasons from the Teifi between Llanfihangel-ar-arth and Pentrecwrt Bridge before darkness.

For dry fly fishing the grey size 14 Klinkhammer fly has been my best; though the best trout was taken on the Sedge pattern used as an indicator for two weighted nymphs on a 10ft cast, the trout (left) was about 3/4lb and the fly was only about 6in. from the fly line (he was not line shy). Two bullheads came out of this trout's mouth; a lot more may have been inside its stomach.



The tungsten bead nymphs shown below are sizes 16 to 12 and they have been used as Czech nymphing or bugging method on a 10ft cast either with an indicator material on the end of the line or a floating fly as an indicator as mentioned previously. They have all taken sea-trout up to pound and a quarter.



Three of Eric's bead-head nymphs



The tungsten bead size 12 Dunkeld is a real gem when used in peaty water, and the best method is down and across on a fast glass line with a couple of spider patterns as droppers like the Greenwell or Black Spider (not shown). Once the water is clear I find a tungsten Silver Butcher better. This method has taken sea-trout up to 2lb - very exciting stuff on a 10ft #4/5 weight rod.



I return all my fish and as you can see all my flies are either de-barbed or barbless; it is much better for the welfare of the fish, and less frustrating when releasing flies stuck in the net, or anywhere else. I had my first sea-trout of 2011 (about 3/4lb) on 7th June on a size 14 red collared tattered pheasant tail. The sea-trout are starting to run in numbers now; and I am putting my head on the block that its going to be a good season for the fly sea-trout angler; tight lines to you all,

Eric

Report on Welcome Day, Saturday 28th May 2011

Our Welcome Day was well received and, although the weather was not particularly kind, our new members and guests told us that it was a very useful and enjoyable introduction to the club, its fisheries and the many good people who turned out to make the day a success. Many thanks to our presenters, casting demonstrators, beat guides, fishermen's forum contributors and hosts Andrew and Louise James of the Porth Hotel for all your help. We plan to arrange another welcome event next spring. Details will be published in the next edition of Current Affairs.

Wildlife Corner: Frog or Toad? by Pat O'Reilly

In late June, on the edge of an area of damp grassland, I almost stepped on a young toad. It might have been a frog, but I knew instinctively that it was a toad. As they get older so frogs and toads become much more easily distinguished, but with this very young specimen few people in the group I was with could say with confidence whether it was a froggy far too young to go a-woooing or a potential Toad of Toad Hall. Well, the thing to remember is that baby toads and frogs look like miniature replicas of their parents.

Baby toads (toadlets) have tiny warts that grow into bigger warts as the toad grows into a bigger toad. Froglets also look like miniature versions of their parents, although much darker; their skin is much smoother than that of a baby toad, but when very young they are rather slow moving until they find their feet; then another big difference becomes apparent. Frogs hop, and they can cover quite a distance in a single leap; toads are born old and arthritic, or so it seems, and so they are much easier for predators to catch.

Nature offers the lumbering toad something in compensation for its lack of agility: its warty skin is poisonous or at least awful tasting to most predators, whereas frogs are very palatable. Yes, I have tasted frogs' legs just once; it was at a dinner in the Middle East... but that was before I was informed what that particular delicacy was. Knowing the ingredients of our food makes most of us much more choosy (although some folks make an exception for escargot). Here are pictures of these amphibians in their adult stages:



A (wet) warty Common Toad, *Bufo bufo*



A Common Frog, *Rana temporaria*

Two other differences become apparent as soon as you see these amphibians at close quarters. Firstly, the skin of a frog is always moist, while unless it has been out in the rain a toad's skin is dry. Secondly, the back of a frog has two raised ridges, one on either side, whereas the back of a toad is much flatter. But there is one important similarity that many people are unaware of: both the Common Toad and the Common Frog spend most of their adult lives out of water. They go to ponds, ditches and slow stretches of rivers only at spawning time (in the spring), when frogs lay 'tapioca pudding' masses of spawn and toads lay their spawn in the form of long ribbons of eggs. At this stage identification is simple!

Invasive Weeds – What is happening?

Japanese Knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*) was introduced to Britain by the Victorians as an ornamental plant. (The photograph shows that the weed is growing on the river bank on the Tyr Dref and Rhydygalfe beats of the Teifi in Llandysul.) It can reach a height of three metres or more in summer and dies back to the ground in winter.



This plant is perennial and extremely invasive. It thrives on disturbance. The tiniest piece can re-grow, and has been spread by both natural means and by human activity. The weed can be seen on the banks of rivers and streams, especially near towns and villages. High water flows disperse fragments of the plant downstream where new colonies form. In the past, fly-tipping and transportation of soil containing rhizome (root) fragments have been a major cause of spread, particularly in urban environments. Llandysul Angling Association would like to work in partnership with other organisations to control the spread of this weed and to remove fly-tipped waste from the banks of the River Teifi and its tributaries.

Please report any sighting of Japanese knotweed on our fisheries so that we can quantify the extent of the problem. You are welcome to write to the Association or contact us by e-mailing dewifr@btinternet.com or telephoning 01545 572105 by day or 01559 362659 in the evenings. Please state the location (Beat) and extent (Approx. length of bank). Japanese knotweed often establishes on fly-tip sites where earth containing the plant and other waste has been deposited, and so it would also be useful if members could also report riverbank fly-tip sites, no matter how large or small, to the Association.

Himalayan Balsam

Another major problem on nearly all rivers in England, Wales, Ireland and southern Scotland is Himalayan balsam (*Impatiens glandulifera*). This annual weed spreads by producing hundreds of seeds per plant; the seed pods explode scattering their contents over an area of several square metres. The Teifi is not exempt from this dreadful problem, which is particularly bad in the lower reaches.

We are keeping in touch with a pilot project on the River Ystwyth, where novel techniques are being trialed. This is the third year of the project, and information about the problem and progress is available via www.himalayanbalsamwales.co.uk

In the meantime, every plant that you pull out before it can develop seeds is a contribution towards limiting the spread of this pernicious weed along the banks of the River Teifi.

Repairs to our Disabled Anglers' Fishing Platform

The Teifi may be a small river in drought conditions but it is a mighty torrent during spates. This makes life tough for any bank-side structures that we build, and it's only a matter of time before the Teifi has her own way – hence the loss of our aged suspension bridge at Abercerdin (now replaced by a steel bridge that we hope will last for many decades). In recent years erosion had undermined our fishing platform at Tyr Dref Playing Fields in Llandysul (Beat 12) to such an extent that it was unusable. This picture shows just how dangerous it had become.



The platform has now been repaired and is again allowing disabled anglers to enjoy fishing on this excellent pool. (A concessionary membership rate applies to members and visitors who through disability or infirmity are able to fish only on this beat.)



Boat Fishing, by Andrew Howell

“Believe me, my young friend, there is nothing – absolutely nothing – half so much worth doing as simply messing about in a boat.”

Well, that is what Rat told Mole in ‘Wind in the Willows’ and I think that there are a lot of us who enjoy fly-fishing from a boat who would agree, although we would also claim that there is a great deal more thought and purpose involved than just ‘messing about’.

The walls of my office are decorated with photographs: children, grandchildren, family and friends, but there are also a good number which relate to fishing, and as I look at these I can recall a small bay on Chew, fishing with a friend on Llyn Egnant, look again at a picture of the fishing lodge, the ‘hut’, on Blagdon and a couple loch fishing on a water that looks like Scotland. The irony is that I am a very bad sailor. The sight of the moored boats bobbing in choppy water on a large reservoir is enough to make me feel slightly nauseous, but I do enjoy fishing afloat, drifting gently in front of the wind. Sometimes I even catch fish.

Though most of my fishing has been for trout on reservoirs not all of it has. We have an old friend in Denmark, on the east coast of Jutland, who had a smallholding or croft, now worked by his son, and this included a couple of long lines of pots in the bay in front of their house and a small, half-decked motorboat to tend them twice a day. I often used to go out with him, to lend an inexperienced hand as he hauled in and set out his lines. The sea could get pretty rough at times but I don’t think that I ever did get sick though it was



sometimes touch and go. The catch provided food for the family and could also be sold to the summer house owners nearby. He also kept a small bath filled with water in which he kept small eels, a local delicacy. Cooked or smoked at home these made a good meal with beer and snaps. There were also plaice in the bay to be caught with baited handlines and eaten fresh from the water.

Boat fishing requires some planning even if just booked ahead for a day on a well-fished water and maybe travelling time and accommodation. It always seems that I fish longer and harder in a boat than from the bank, perhaps just because it has been planned and anticipated for some time and whatever the weather you are committed. In the past with my son I have fished Chew or Blagdon for ten hours or more at a stretch – something I would not think of doing today – and enjoyed it all. At least there are motorboats on Chew whereas on Blagdon you row unless you are staying at a local pub and can hire an electric motor. Rowing is hard work over the hours of fishing, but then Blagdon is special and engine noise would spoil some of its atmosphere. If you are bank fishing and the weather is not good you can usually find some shelter, under a tree perhaps or even a fishing hut, and take a break from fishing until it improves. In a boat this is not so easy to arrange. However, there may be some compensation in unfriendly weather.

I remember being in a boat on Sheelin with what seemed like half a gale blowing and white-topped waves rolling at us. The boatman was unmoved, indeed quite approving of the conditions. His theory was that you would catch more fish in this weather because a trout did not have time to inspect your fly but had to grab it before it was snatched away by wind and wave. A plausible theory but I am not convinced, and I am not sure that fear of an imminent ducking helps you to concentrate on the niceties of fishing.

One feature of Irish fishing which I do appreciate is the custom of the lunch break, pulling up on a little island, making a fire to boil the old black kettle for tea, unpacking the food, eating, chatting, relaxing and the chance to have a well-earned smoke before going out refreshed again and eager. All very sane and civilised.

For me, then, a boat has to be solid and serious, a boat that inspires some confidence; a light, skittish boat that rocks alarmingly as you or your companion moves or one which reacts to wind rather more like a kite than a boat, like some I could mention, means that next time you try a different venue.



If the up side of boat fishing is space and peace, fishing shoulder-to-shoulder only with a chosen companion, physically removed from the everyday world and with a good chance of finding fish, there are some down sides. The big one is gear. Everything you think you could want or need has to be put in the boat before you cast off. Going back for some forgotten item is time off from fishing and can earn you some black looks and comment. Inevitably this means that the boat is pretty full even before you get in, and keeping order is vital. Needless to say house- or boat-keeping standards go down over the course of the day and there are scrambles to find some vital piece of gear which ends up making an even greater mess. All of this of course has to be unloaded at the end of a tiring day.

There is one essential bit of kit, namely a good boat seat. I know from recent experience that hours spent sitting uncomfortably on a thwart, even with a cushion, will give you a sore bum that lasts for days and can involve some embarrassing explanations. Then there is clothing. The great thing about river fishing or a lake for that matter is that you can travel very light if you wish. Indeed, this is a good idea if you will be covering much ground. A day in a boat means donning waterproof trousers and coat over at least a shirt and trousers and possibly a fleece. On top of this a fishing waistcoat and then a lifejacket. I just feel very restricted and clumsy in all this gear. And yet. And yet... There is that free drift down the reservoir or lake, casting in front of the boat, drawing line in with always that chance of a sudden weight on the line as it all goes tight and your rod bends into a good trout. That is still a moment which gives a jolt of excitement unlike any other, which makes you forget all the fuss before, and you know that at least something in your life makes sense and is worth doing just for itself. Now, how about a couple of days on Tallyllyn or fixing a date with my son for us both to fish a boat on Blagdon?

Renewing your Membership for 2012

Please wait until after the AGM (on Friday 2nd December) before sending in renewal applications, as next season's membership, joining and visitor fees listed on page 3 of this newsletter are only proposals until agreed at AGM. You will receive a copy of the Spring 2012 Edition of *Current Affairs* in February together with an application form for renewal of membership. Renewal cannot be obtained without first sending in a catch return for the previous season. N.B. There is no need to send in another passport style photograph unless you have lost your Llandysul A A Member's I/D card. (New adult and student member applicants *are* required to send in a photograph, of course.)

Your completed applications form, with subscription payment, must arrive at one of the permit vendors (contact details below) not later than 28th February 2012. Application forms received after that date are treated as New Member applications and a £15 joining fee is payable subject to vacancies being available. Many members kindly enclose an SAE with their application. This really is a great help to our hard-working permit vendors at what is a very busy time of year. Many thanks!

Llandysul A A's Permit Vendors

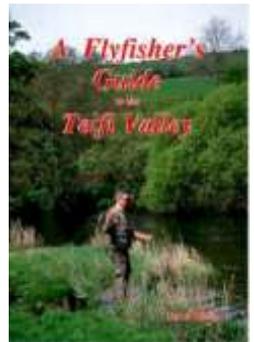
Club permits as well as Day Tickets and Week Tickets, may be obtained from:

- Andrew James, The Port Hotel Llandysul SA44 5QS - Tel: 01559 362202
- Alan Williams, 57 Bridge Street, Lampeter SA48 7AB - Tel: 01570 434313

Llandysul A A Birthday and Christmas Presents

If you are wondering what to give to a special fishing buddy as a birthday or for Christmas present, what about a few days, a week, or better still (because they're worth it!) a full season's membership of Llandysul Angling Association? The fees are always set at the AGM, but it is established custom for the club fees to rise no more than in line with inflation – see page 4 for the fees proposed for 2012. Contact one of the permit vendors listed above and they will be pleased to help you make Christmas 2011 and the fishing season of 2012 very special for someone you care about.

What if they are already club a member? Well you could give them their own copy of our hardback book *A Flyfisher's Guide to the Teifi Valley*. All our fisheries, with maps, pictures, fishing tips, parking details etc are covered in full cover, with a wealth of other useful information to add to the pleasure of fishing on our river and in other stillwater and coastal fisheries in the Teifi catchment. The cost is £14 + £2 P&P. Make your cheque out to Llandysul A A Ltd, and post it, with your name and address details, to Room 101, The Porth Hotel, Llandysul SA44 4QS.



Competitions News

Spring Competition, Llys y Fran, Sunday 15th May 2011.

Eleven anglers caught 34 rainbow trout for 61 lb. 10 oz. The fish were strong fighters and did not give up readily; many were lost before reaching the net. The weather was reasonably good with cloud, light winds and a few light showers. Fish were caught on floating and sinking lines – suggesting that the fish were well dispersed.



A combination of a bright ‘attractor’ fly on middle or top droppers and smaller imitative flies such as the ‘Bibio’, fished on a slow sinking line seemed to do the trick. The popular far north end of the reservoir seemed to fish rather slowly that day, whilst heavier bags came from the south east side between the fish cages and the shore. The competition results (heaviest bags) were as follows: Dewi Roberts (6 fish; 11 lb. 10 oz.), David Williams (6 fish; 11 lb. 07 oz.), Eirig Thomas (3 fish; 7 lb. 06oz), William

Mains (3 fish; 5 lb. 13 oz.), Brett Matthews (3 fish; 5 lb. 3oz), and Simon Jones (2 fish; 2 lb. 10oz). In seventh and eighth positions were Ian Thomas and Ieuan Thomas. Guest anglers Gordon Heath and Dr Alan Edwards also had good bags of 4 fish each (7 lb. 12 oz. and 6 lb. 12 oz. respectively). Dr Alan Edwards accompanied David Williams whilst Gordon shared a boat with Eirig Thomas. The heaviest fish was caught by David Williams and weighed 2 lb. 8 oz.

The autumn competition has been scheduled for Sunday 4th September. Please email me for further information regarding club competitions (dewifr@btinternet.com), or Tel: 01559 362659 (Evenings).

Bibio – Tying Details

Body: Black seals fur with a band of maroon or light claret seal’s fur in the middle.

Body hackle: Black cock palmered from the bend of the hook to the head.

Rib: Fine oval silver.

Hackle: Black cock (Long and sparse)

Head: Black

Hook size: 10, 12 or 14

The Bibio is said to have been created in the late 1950s or 1960s by Major Charles Roberts of the Burrishoole Fishery in Mayo and has received a great deal of attention and usage throughout the UK. It was originally tied to represent the heather beetle for sea-trout on loughs Furnace and Feeagh. The Bibio is one of the great Irish wet flies for brown trout, sea-trout & salmon.



The Bibio is taken for a range of dark insects from duckflies (buzzers midges) to beetles. *Bibio* is a genus of true flies (Diptera) that includes the Black Gnat, Hawthorn Fly and Heather Fly. A pair of Heather Flies is shown on the left; the female is the larger of the two.

Water conditions will determine the size of fly to be fished. The Bibio is a good taker of salmon and sea-trout when fished on the dropper on rippled pools in West Ireland rivers and loughs. This fly is best fished as a bob fly in the surface film. The fly is often twitched or pulled just under the water surface to imitate the fly. It is also a good fly to pull through waves on a windy day.

Tight lines. Dewi Roberts, Competition Sec.

Footnote from the Editor



Once again my thanks are due to contributors to *Current Affairs*: Eric Davies, Andrew Howell, Sue Parker, Dewi Roberts and Ian Thomas, all of whom have made time to contribute articles and/or pictures to this edition. As usual, any mistakes in design, layout or editing are all my own work!

If you would like us to cover a particular topic in a future *Current Affairs*, please let us know. We also welcome contributions from Members with, if possible a picture or two. And if you have email you can even save the postage and paper by sending files to us at: laa-enquiries@fishing-in-wales.com

Best wishes for the remainder of your 2011 fishing season on the River Teifi.

Yours sincerely

Pat O'Reilly

Current Affairs

Current Affairs is published twice per year by Llandysul Angling Association. Copies are sent to club members and to people applying for membership.

Copyright © Llandysul Angling Association, 2011. All rights reserved.
