

Tonbridge & District Angling & Fish Preservation Society (Est. 1875)

PO Box 131 Tonbridge TN11 8WB

Tel: 07503 111551

www.tonbridge-angling.co.uk



Newsletter 2010

PRESIDENT

Mr .C.J. Warner ,M.A.,Public Notary.

VICE PRESIDENTS

W.Smith Esq., R.W.Keywood Esq.,

LIFE MEMBERS

W.Smith Esq.

HON. SOLICITORS

Messrs. Warners

HON. AUDITORS

Michael.B. Norman - Julian Brown A Co.

OFFICERS

Chairman

Vice Chairman

Secretary

Treasurer

Membership

Secretary

Match

Secretary

Match

Recorder

Austin Battell

Adam Honeysett

Ken Marshall

Tony Hyland

Alex Heggie

Dave Williams

Bill Smith

COMMITTEE

Norman Ayling

Maurice Fuller

Pat Galpin

Geoff Hollands

Angela Hollands

Bill Mitchell

Trevor Oldfield

Tom Sawyer

Dear Member.

Notice is hereby given that the 135th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Society will be held at the **RIVERSIDE LOUNGE, ANGEL CENTRE, TONBRIDGE** on **Saturday 29th May 2010, at 6.30 p.m.** Prompt. Members attending must produce their 2009/2010 Membership Cards to gain admission.

AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE OFFICIAL AGM BUSINESS THE BAR WILL BE OPENED AND BUFFET SERVED FOLLOWED BY PRIZE GIVING AND GRAND RAFFLE.

AGENDA

1. Adoption of the Minutes of the AGM of 2009.
2. Adoption of the Annual Report (as this Newsletter) 2009/2010.
3. Adoption of the Financial Report of 2009/2010.
4. Member's Propositions.
5. Committee Recommendations.
6. Membership for 2010/2011.
7. Elections.
8. Honoraria.
9. Any other Business

Ken Marshall - Hon. Secretary

SECRETARY'S ANNUAL REPORT

This is my first report as the Society Secretary, Kevin Smith, retired from the post last August due to pressure of work and the Committee asked me to try to fill his shoes. I would like to thank Kevin for his hard work over the last couple of years. This has been another very busy year with lots of tasks to keep us all active. With weather conditions affecting how our waters fish, the heaviest snow falls in years, followed by seasonal flooding, most anglers found themselves waiting for the ice to thaw or the flood to subside before fishing.

Work on the Ballast Pit focused on a new path at the entrance to make it more accessible to the disabled members (paid for by the Environment Agency) and 5 disabled platforms also financed by the EA. The number of pegged swims increased to 30. A quantity of small rudd and roach were moved from Pippins Farm by Hadlow College, not as many as was expected despite the Hadlow students and lecturers working extremely hard, perhaps it will be more successful next time. The committee has also allocated cash for the future purchase of quality fish. We will continue to work towards making the Ballast Pit a top class fishery for both beginners and experts alike.

Thanks to all the members taking part in the working parties over the past year. Without your hard work where would we be? It's not always easy in our busy lives to have time to help out on a regular basis but just attending one working party can make a big difference. Working party dates are on our website.

Membership numbers are low, the Society lost 180 members mainly due to the introduction of parking charges at the Country Park. However day ticket sales have improved slightly over the year, so we urge all members to promote the Society by recruiting new members. This will help our membership fees to remain low whilst retaining and improving all our fisheries, so tell other anglers how good the fishing is on our waters. We do offer some of the best fishing in the south at the lowest possible cost. Members are reminded that membership application forms are available from all local tackle shops and can be downloaded from our website www.tonbridge-angling.co.uk.

The 2009 AGM and prize giving evening proved to be a great success, with the raffle and buffet with over 65 members and guests attending the event. Our thanks go to Geoff Hollands for organising the engraving of trophies, Austin Battell for organising the raffle and Kevin and Maria Smith for organizing and preparing the buffet. Finally, I would like to thank the officers, committee members and everyone connected with the Society for their support to me and commitment to the Society throughout the past season.

Ken Marshall (Hon. Secretary)

MATCH CAPTAIN'S REPORT

Another end of season on the match scene, what a year! Snow, flooded rivers, cancelled matches and changed venues, I give up! This is the worst season I can remember for a long time. Most matches have been won with one or two fish i.e. Chub or Bream. Where have all the Roach, Dace and Gudgeon gone? Maybe the River Medway needs restocking? I have read in fishing magazines and papers about the EA restocking rivers, how about us?

Thanks to all anglers for turning out every week. Thanks to T Hyland and G Hollands who help run matches. Maybe some new faces will join us next season. One new face at matches this year was a man with no nickname, until catching so many chub in matches he is now known as Ray (Chubby) Allen

Dave Williams (Match Captain)

GENERAL NEWS AND OTHER BUSINES

Society Matches Have you ever entered a Society match? They are casual, friendly affairs with a £3.50 optional pool which will not break the bank. A club match is the best way to find out where the best swims are and what methods work, also there is always the chance of winning some cash, and one of the Society's magnificent trophies.

Match Trophies Winners of match trophies are asked to take better care of the Society trophies, following the return of dented and badly repaired trophies. Should you not wish to take your trophy home please return them to Geoff at the end of the Prize giving evening. If you do have an accident with a trophy contact Geoff Hollands on 01892 653953 or email trophies@tonbridge-angling.co.uk to arrange pick up and repair.

Working Party dates 2010 - 23rd May, 4th July, 22nd August, 19th September, 24th October, 21st November.

2011 - 27th March, 24th April, 29th May, Contact secretary on 07503 111551 or just turn up at The Ballast Pit 9am

The Working Party Trophy This is a new Society Trophy, which is open only to members who have taken part in the previous year's working parties. If you would like to take part in the match, then come along and lend a hand.

Good days fishing Have you had a good day? Caught a special fish? Or a personal best? Seen something amusing unusual or special while fishing? Report it! Photos of our members, our waters and our fish are always welcome for our website and could form the basis for an article in the next newsletter or even a National angling paper and may help to encourage more members to join our Society



Keith Whitlock
Fishing at Long Reach caught a 2lb 6oz Roach



Mark Harvey
Caught a Chub 4lb 8oz at Hartlake

Updating your personal details You can assist the membership secretary when you renew your membership by updating your details. Please let him know if you move house, change your phone number etc. You can update your details by post to PO Box 133 Tonbridge TN11 8WB or email to: alex@tonbridge-angling.co.uk at any time, please double check your renewal documentation *before* putting it in the post with your full remittance, cheque made payable to Tonbridge & District Angling & Fish Preservation Society, or just TDAFPS, dated and signed, renewal slip fully completed with full address and correct box ticked, also enclose a stamped self-addressed envelope.

TDAFPS Website When was the last time you saw a water vole? Visit the Society's website and see one eating a blackberry. The photos in the "The Riverbank" and "Year in the Park" sections are super. Angela, the Society IT whiz kid keeps the site up to date with all the news so visit www.tonbridge-angling.co.uk

TDAFPS Juniors Section Leader We are again short of a Junior Leader and need a volunteer / volunteers to assist in this very satisfying role. It involves a few days fishing with junior members providing advice and assistance where necessary to ensure they catch fish and respect and enjoy the rural environment.

[Bailiffs & Boats](#) If you fish at Barden Lake you may have seen our bailiffs placing barley straw or collecting lost tackle from the Islands. If you lose tackle anywhere on our waters please report it as we have equipment to recover it no matter how high in trees or how deep in the water. We must ensure birds or wild animals do not become entangled.



[Norman the Bailiff](#) If you fish the Sportsground or at the Haysden Country Park you must know Norman as he patrols the waters in both these areas every day of the year. He has probably asked you for your membership ID as he collects day ticket fees from those without a current membership card so you will know he is always friendly' smiling and a joy to meet.

However there are some things you may not know about Norman:

Norman Frederick James Ayling was born on the 8th January 1939 (*Yes he is 70 despite looking as fit as a butcher's dog so there are advantages in walking our waters every day!*) He grew up in Hildenborough and attended Bank Street School in Tonbridge. From there, he went on to Sussex Road Secondary. On leaving school he was apprenticed as a wrought iron worker for five years. He went into the Army in 1958, serving in Cyprus as a dispatch rider and then in charge of the armoury. He was eventually made up to Lance Corporal. Norman then worked for Newvell Engineering in East Peckham for more than 25 years.

Norman's wife Anita, and daughter Lisa spend considerably more time fishing than Norman (they are both good anglers their names repeatedly appear on the Society's Ladies cup). Although Norman is now retired he still works on a farm in Southborough and on his own allotment in Barden where he grows vegetables, but chickens have become his main priority, producing fresh eggs for local people. In his "spare" time, he works extremely hard as our Bailiff, always willing to assist to clear swims and introduce new stock to our lakes, spending more time supporting the Society than actually fishing!

Norman is always willing to share the wealth of knowledge gained whilst working as a Bailiff, so next time you see him take the time to have a chat with him, you will be impressed at what he knows about fishing our waters - and life in general.

[TDAFPS Committee](#) The Committee are always pleased to receive constructive comments, advice or recommendations on how to improve the Society's waters and membership numbers.

[Committee Members Contact Details](#)

- Chairman: Austin Battell - Email abattell@hotmail.co.uk
- Hon. Secretary: Ken Marshall - Email secretary@tonbridge-angling.co.uk or phone 07503 111551
- Hon Treasurer: Tony Hyland - Email treasurer@tonbridge-angling.co.uk or phone 01892 520994
- Hon Membership Secretary: Alex Heggie - Email alex@tonbridge-angling.co.uk or phone 01732 832352
- Match Captain: Dave William - 07762 858117
- Trophies: Geoff Hollands - Email trophies@tonbridge-angling.co.uk or phone 01892 653953