

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

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WINTER NEWSLETTER 2008

Chairman's Note

For members that don't already know, Adam Honeysett and myself have reversed roles as Chairman and Vice-Chairman.

This season continues to be busy due to ongoing projects. I have started to install the new signs, two at Hartlake Bridge, two at Longfield Lake and one at Fish Hall, whilst the rest will be installed in the very near future. Chris Lawrence and I repaired the footbridge on the woodside of Longfield Lake and attempted to replace the platform that detached itself on Haysden Lake, unfortunately it was just too heavy to move so it will be done at the next opportunity. Pat Galpin continues to do the strimming and bank clearing with help from some of the regular match anglers. As the newsletter editor I do need pieces from members to be able to put together a worthwhile copy, so once again I remind you all to send me photo's, stories, news, etc. I have received a few pictures which feature in this newsletter. If you have anything for the next issue, please E-mail it to me at abattell@hotmail.co.uk.

I would like to thank *everyone* who helped with the organising and prize donations for our very successful A.6.M this year. Those members that attended, I'm sure will agree that it went very well and finished with a fantastic raffle with £1500 worth of prizes. Special thanks to Kev Smith and his wife for doing the lovely food and Kevin Mardell and Svendsen Sports for sponsoring the raffle and giving loads of prizes. Also thanks for prize donations go to Friendly Fisherman, Manklows, Medway Tackle, Tonbridge Angling Centre, Rod 'N' Line and West Mailing Angling Centre. Please support your club and come along to the next A.S.M. and buy a *raffle* ticket or two and have a chance of winning in our 'Grand Raffle'. (Full report on page 3). I hope you enjoy the rest of this newsletter and continue to enjoy fishing our club waters.

MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR

Tight Lines,

Austin Battell. (Chairman).

The 'BIG PIKE' man will be missed

We are deeply saddened to have to report the death of Terry Dwyer. A man with hundreds of friends, not all of them anglers - was most welcome wherever he just 'dropped by' for a chat. His cheery 'Hi ya mate, how yer doing' greeting will be missed by many. He chaired the TDAFPS committee for many years, as head bailiff he organised the patrolling of our waters and was probably our best litter picker ever. He *represented* the Society at the Tonbridge Sports Association, Kent Fisheries Consultative Association, Haysden Country Park Users Panel and at many other meetings. He also issued guest tickets and small water permits and carried out numerous other tasks for the Society with quiet dedication. He loved the natural world in and around the Tonbridge area. He witnessed the urbanisation of areas he ranged as a boy with stoical acceptance of change whilst fearlessly defending the rights of anglers and the protection of 'wild' lakes and riverbanks.



Terry with a Barbel on one of his River Wye trips.

EASTERN EUROPEANS

We have had a few reports of eastern europeans fishing our waters and taking fish. Please report any sightings of anyone looking like they shouldn't be on our waters to the Chairman on 07974488040.

The Old Ballast Pit

WE NOW OWN IT.

Here is a brief history of our purchase of the above. In September of 2006 the owners of the Pit put it up to sale by auction. Our then President and Treasurer attended on the clubs behalf in an attempt to purchase, but unfortunately were the under bidders. Some few months later, the new owner was met by Alex, Adam and Tony with a view to buying from him. After seriously protracted negotiations, Adam brokered a deal directly with the new owner which was ratified by the committee. As we were not in sufficient funds, we arranged a commercial loan and a grant from Tonbridge & Mailing Borough Council to enable us to complete the purchase which eventually took place on the 30th September this year. All that we need to decide, is what to do with the lake to benefit the membership in general.

We have carried out minimum maintenance at the Ballast Pit in recent years, knowing it would come up for auction and not wanting to give it added value prior to our purchasing it. The Society now own the water and this is the time to make this the super fishery it can be. Your assistance at one or more of the proposed main working parties would be appreciated by the committee. Please call Alex on 01732 832352 or just turn up on the day.

Ballast Pit working party dates

Start time 10am	Saturday	Sunday
January 2009	17th	18 th
January	31st	
February	1st	
February	14th	15th
March	14th	15th
March	28th	29th
April	4th	5th
April	18th	19th

River Medway Tanyard Farm

We have been unable to come to an agreement with CEMEX on a fishing lease for the Tanyard Farm section of the Medway downstream of Cannon Bridge and therefore members do not have permission to fish on this section of the River Medway. Please find enclosed with this newsletter [a self adhesive update to pages 3/4 of your waters guide.](#)

The area up and down from Cannon Bridge as indicated on map is still within the Society's control and has been the most productive area this season with good catches of roach, perch and several large pike, the best going 26lb.

Exchange tickets

All exchange tickets are now with the Secretary. To book any of these, call Kevin Smith on 01732-359385.

Good news with car parking charges

The Tonbridge & Mailing Borough Council have agreed to further parking concessions for our Society members at the Haysden Country Park three car parks as follows.

There are two options

- 1)- Purchase a one year individual pass at a cost of £25 valid for all three car parks.
- 2)- Purchase a 60p parking ticket at the main car park on **each** visit.

Display the parking ticket with renewal section of membership card on the car dashboard at any of the **three** car parks.

This concession has been offered with the following reminders;

- The 60p pay and display ticket is valid for the day only, if a member stays overnight, then another ticket will have to be purchased for the second day.
- Failure to display a valid parking ticket along with renewal card will result in a fine being issued.
- A 60p parking ticket will have to be purchased at the main car park prior to parking in Haysden Lake or Audley Rise car parks. Fines will not be waived with a claim that a member was walking through to the main car park in order to purchase a ticket.

The Committee would like to urgently remind members not to park in the residential streets adjacent to the Audley Rise car park. This is anti-social as it causes problems for local residents and traffic flow. Now that we have this concession, there is no excuse.



Mark Harvey with a 4lb 6oz Chub and 3lb Perch. Both fish coming from the River Medway.
Some recent catches



Chris Shorter with a 4lb 12oz Chub caught at the Shallows on a Sprat using light Pike fishing gear.



Len Humphries with a nice 19lb Pike from the river.



Myself with a late summer 25lb Pike from the river.

One from the past



A work party on the Old Ballast Pit carrying out a well planned and orchestrated netting operation, although

the end result was very disappointing, with very few fish being netted. The idea was to net and remove the then masses of stunted roach, bream etc. I wonder how many faces some of our older members will recognise.

This years A.G.M

We had approximately 60 members plus the committee attend this years A.G.M, which is an improvement on previous years. Having it at the Angel Centre makes a huge difference as it is well laid out with the added bonus of a microphone. The plan is to continue using this venue and format in the future. We also hope to receive the same support from all the local shops and tackle dealers which will enable us to repeat our 'Grand Raffle' which was a huge success. By keeping this years format, we aim to attract more members to the A.G.M and hopefully some more guests for the raffle which may encourage them to join our Society. We are aiming to add a few special prizes next time and perhaps auction them. (Watch this space).



Kevin Mardell from Svendsen Sports with our secretary Kevin Smith before the A.G.M got under way,

Main prize winners

- Carp barrow/bedchair - Alan Gonzalez (Guest).
- Pair of carp rods - Paul Laws.
- Seat box System - Lisa Bedford.
- Avon quiver tip rod - Ditch Howard,
- Match luggage combo - M. Smith
- Barden night ticket - Ken Marshall.
- Barden night ticket - D. Latter.
- Match trolley - Stuart White,
- Power float rod - Austin Battell.
- Electra match reel - Anita Ayling.
- Match carryall - C. Weller.
- Lightweight chair - Elizabeth Percy.
- Baitcasting pike reel - J. Warman,
- Triple remote alarm set - Rodney Craft.
- Spinning rod - Paul Laws,

There were 30 other very good prizes.

Bill Smith-TDAFPS Vice-President

It's always nice to see an angler and angling club getting a positive mention in a non fishing publication, especially when that angler is our well liked Vice-President Bill Smith. The following item was spotted in the summer issue of Invicta Support News.

What a catch!

Service user William (Bill) Smith is now a respectable 93 years old and started fishing when he was a young lad of five.

Bill has enjoyed fishing all his life, including deep sea and course fishing but now, owing to age and health, he has been advised not to go deep sea fishing any more. However, this has not stopped him from frequently taking part in course fishing in the local river and lakes around Tonbridge.

Bill has won several cups and trophies throughout his fishing days and is a very active member of his local fishing club, Tonbridge and District Angling and Fish Preservation Society. They have shown considerable support to Bill collecting and driving him to his fishing lakes, setting up his tackle and ensuring his safety while he is out-enjoying his hobby. He has been a member of the Society for the past 40 years and is also Vice President; in recognition of this they awarded him Life Membership, which is a real honour. He has also kept records for the club for over 20 years and takes great pleasure maintaining them to a high standard.

Bill tells us his ambition now is to be able to fish on his 100th birthday!



Bill continues to attend our monthly committee meetings and still records all the match weights which makes my job a lot easier when it comes to the end of season newsletter. Keep up the good work Bill.

Match results

Hartlake Down (12 fished - 10 weighed in 20-2-0).

1st - D. Howard 6- 4- 0

2nd - D. Lee 5- 9- 0

Sun 9th Nov - Houghton Cup Round 4 (Cancelled).

Sun 2nd Nov - Pike Match (Cancelled).

Sun 26th Oct - Rover

Vexour Bridge (17 fished - 17 weighed in 49-9-0).

1st - A. Heggie 6- 8- 0

2nd - T. Hyland 5- 5- 0

3rd - D. Lee 5- 2- 0

Sun 19th Oct - Restocking Cup -

Long Reach/Bungalows (26 fished - Weight 42-11-0).

1st - S. Parker 8- 4- 0

2nd - B. Wicker 4-12-0

3rd - R. Trask 3- 9- 0

Sun 12th Oct - Houghton Cup Round 3 -

Ensfield Bridge (21 fished - Total Weight 55-2-0).

1st - D. Lee 5- 9- 0

2nd - S. Lancley 5-8-0

3rd - P. Salpin 4-14- 0

Sun 26th Sept - A.C.A Cups

Longreach (20 fished - Total Weight 51-10-0).

1st - D. Howard 7-14- 0

2nd - T. Hyland 7- 0- 0

3rd - R. Trask 6-12- 0 (Specimen Bream) 1-12-0

Sun 21st Sept - Cheeseman Cup

Longfield Lake (20 fished - Total Weight 28-15-0)

1st - D. Frances 10- 0- 0

2nd - D. Lee 9- 4- 0 (Specimen Bream) 3-8-0

3rd - D. Williams 2-2-0

Sun 24th Aug – Rover

Hartlake up (25 fished - 23 Weighed in 95-6-0).

1st - D. Lee 16- 8- 0 (Specimen Bream) 3-2-0

2nd - C. Fowler 10- 6- 0

3rd - T. Hyland 8- 8- 0

Sun 17th Aug - W. Smith Match Recorder Cup

Muckstream & B/house Field (22 fished Weight 61-15-0)

1st - C. Fowler 6- 8- 0

2nd - R. Trask 6- 7- 0

3rd - T. Hyland 5- 0- 0

Sun 10th Aug - Aubrey Cup

Long Reach/Bungalows (20 fished - Weight 75-12-0).

1st - S. Parker 17- 8- 0 (Specimen Bream) 1-10-0

2nd - S. Lancley 7-14- 0

3rd - R. Trask 5-14- 0

All other match results will be printed in the next newsletter.

We hope all members find this newsletter interesting and informative. We would also like to see many more of you supporting your Society at the A.G.M.

Tight Lines,

Austin Battell (Editor/Chairman).