



Newsletter 2008

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Vice Chairman - Austin Battell
Secretary - Kevin Smith
Treasurer - Tony Hyland
Membership Secretary - Alex Heggie
Match Secretary - Dave Williams
Junior Secretary - Vacant
Match Recorder - Bill Smith

&

COMMITTEE

Sam Anscombe
Norman Ayling
Maurice Fuller
Pat Galpin
Chris Lawrence
Bill Mitchell
Tom Sawyer

Dear Member, Notice is hereby given that the 133rd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Society will be held at the **RIVERSIDE LOUNGE, ANGEL CENTRE, TONBRIDGE** on **Saturday 31st May 2008**, at **6.30p.m.** Prompt. Members attending must produce their 2007/2008 Membership Cards to gain admission.

THIS WILL BE FOLLOWED BY THE PRIZEGIVING, RAFFLE & BUFFET FROM 8.00p.m. WHICH ALL MEMBERS AND GUESTS ARE WELCOME. PLEASE NOTE-THE BAR WILL NOT BE OPEN UNTIL 8.00p.m.

AGENDA

- 1.Adoption of the Minutes of the AGM of 2007.
- 2.Adoption of the Annual Report (News Angle) 2007/2008.
- 3.Adoption of the Financial Report of 2007/2008.
- 4.Member's Propositions.
- 5.Committee Recommendations.
- 6.Membership for 2007/2008.
- 7.Elections.
- 8.Honoraria.
- 9.Officers and Committee Statement.
- 10.Any other Business.

Kevin Smith - Hon.Secretary

CHAIRMAN'S NOTE

NOT SUBMITTED

A Buffet will be served and the bar opened following the conclusion of the official business.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

It has been an interesting season with once again the weather conditions affecting how our waters have fished. I feel the Society is progressing well and the fish are certainly getting bigger, as you will see from the specimen fish recorded, especially the Carp in Barden Lake which has the potential to produce a 50lb fish in the near future.

It is good to see the senior match attendancies increasing but we do however need to think of new ways to encourage more juniors into the club. At present we have no junior match leader, so we may be running fish-ins rather than matches this coming season.

Hopefully come June, the Society will have completed the purchase of the Ballast Pit. The lake will need a lot of work done over the next few years, but i'm sure we can re-create a top all round fishery.

Good luck and tight lines for the season ahead.

Kevin Smith (Hon.Secretary).

FISHERMEN HELP KEEP WATERSIDE CLEAN

Our Society was recognised for its efforts at a clean-up event along the River Medway in Tonbridge when a novelty wheeled bin was presented to the club for collecting the most sacks of litter. The litter pick itself took place in October and was organised by the Medway Valley Countryside Partnerships with the help and support from Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council who provided protective litter-picking equipment, collected the waste at the end of the event and supplied the novelty 'dazzling bin' as a prize for the biggest litter collection. Six anglers collected 16 of the 21 sacks of the litter collected. Assistant Partnership Officer for the MVCP, Anna Presswell, says: "The Tonbridge and District Anglers are most deserving of this recognition, as they volunteer at each of our River Rubbish Roundup events - whatever the weather! Here at the MVCP we are indebted to their tireless efforts to help keep the local waterside clean."

This event provided the Society and anglers in general with good publicity in both local press and TV news, just think what the Society could do with a few more volunteers. Are you willing to help? If so call Alex on 01732 832352.



Norman Ayling, Anita Ayling, Terry Dwyer and Alex Heggie. Not shown in photo are Andy Jones and Adam Honeysett.

MATCH CAPTAIN'S REPORT

Matches at club level this season have been well attended, averaging 18-26 most sundays. The fishing has not always been as good as we hoped for, but the jokes first thing in the morning certainly are. A few of the lads have aquired new nicknames, i.e. 'Ditch' Howard, after getting his van stuck over the ditch at Hartlake, also 'Bob the Bream', who catches good fish at times and wins some coins.

We have a varied age group amongst our regulars, the youngest being 45 years old and the eldest being 92 years old. There seems to be a lack of youngsters coming through the ranks these days, i.e. 20-35 year olds. You don't have to be that good an angler as most of the lads will confirm. I can blank 3 weeks in a row but still enjoy the countryside and all that goes on around me, including the Robin that always turns up for free maggots.

I would like to thank Tony Hyland for helping run the matches, also thanks go to the other lads who help at times.

Dave Williams (Match Captain).

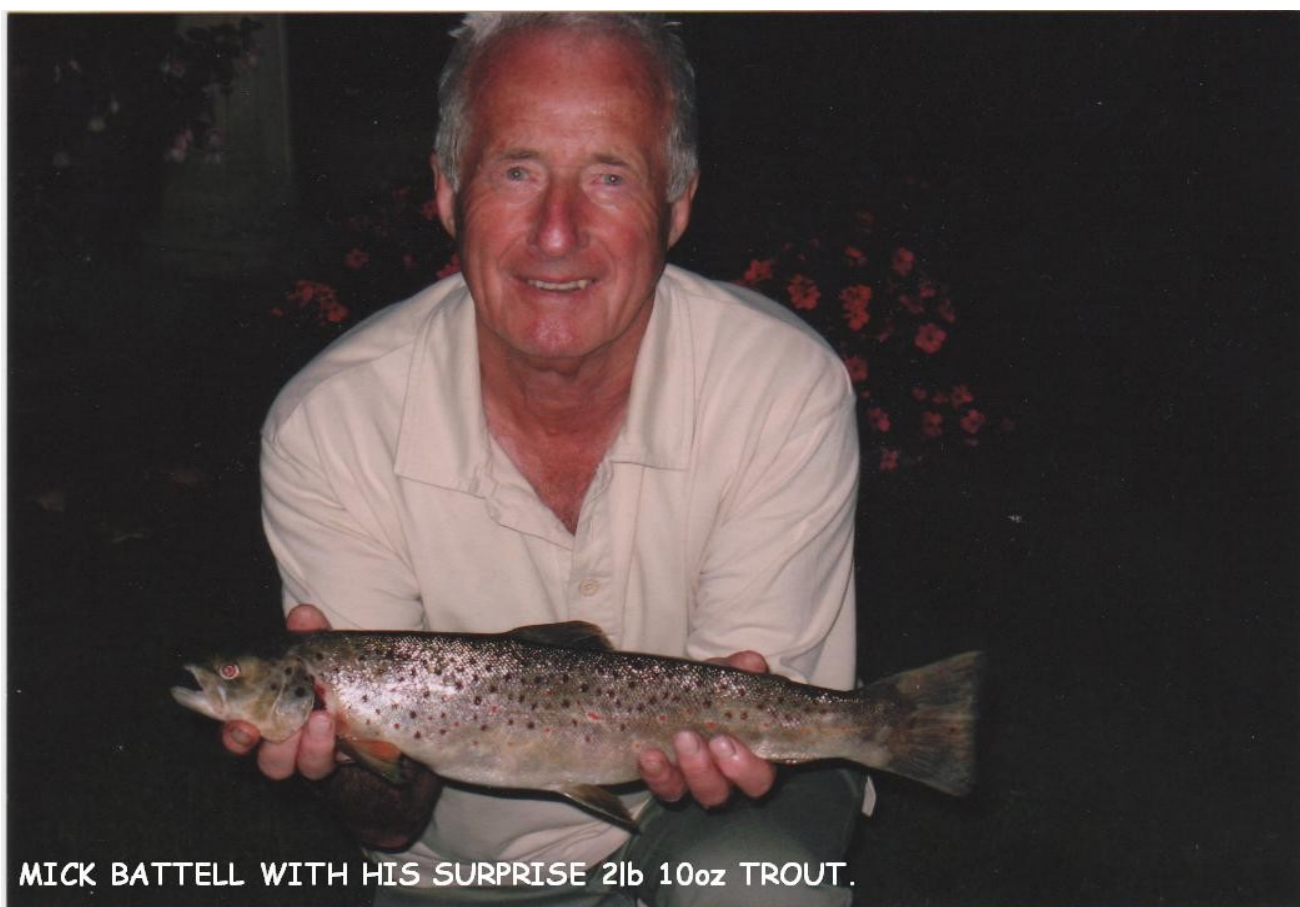
RISING STARS RECENT SUCCESS

One of our Society's young female members has been enjoying some success at a high level this season. 14 year old Charlotte Gore was crowned 2007 Kent Championships Junior Winner and Ladies runner/up. Charlotte had her first England trial in 2007 and has fished many matches around the country as a junior including the N.F.A Junior National, the N.J.A.A and the N.J.A.A Challenge, both Nationals on the Grand Union Canal and the Challenge match on the Ten Mile Bank.

Charlotte is now attending coaching sessions run by the England ladies coach and former World Champion Tom Pickering on venues such as the Stainforth & Headly Canal & Barston Lakes. These events are fished to international rules. Many new skills learnt include handling and fishing bloodworm and joker as well as different techniques using slider and waggler.

TROUT CAUGHT AT ENSFIELD BRIDGE

There have been three separate reports of Trout being caught on our Ensfield Bridge Section this season. These follow the two trout captures of two years ago on the same section. The first caught this season was by Mick Battell on Friday 7th September and weighed 2lb 10oz (picture below). The second fish reported was caught in mid February by Match angler Stuart Cottingham and weighed 3lb 5oz and two days later, a member caught one of 2lb 8oz which was witnessed by Match Captain Dave Williams. These Trout are most probably Brownies which have been stocked above our waters in recent years, although some reports claim they could be Sea Trout.



MICK BATTELL WITH HIS SURPRISE 2lb 10oz TROUT.

GENERAL NEWS AND OTHER BUSINESS

The Haysden Country Park Volunteers help make the park a clean tidy and pleasant place to visit, would you be willing to help. The group meet within the main car park on the second Saturday of each month at 10.00.a.m. Contact Alex on 01732-832352 for more details.

Car Parking Charges- Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council intend imposing car park charges within the Haysden Country Park later this year. 60P for the first four hours and £2.40 for over four hours.

The Society officers are pressing for a dedicated anglers car parking area paid for by the Society to enable members to park without additional cost, however the only concession to date is the offer of a one year individual pass at a cost of £25. Talks continue, if you wish to make your views known, write to:- Mr Robert Styles, Chief Leisure Officer, TMBC, Gibson Building, Gibson Drive, Kings Hill, West Malling, ME19 4LZ.

New Club Signs had been made and after all the reports of Eastern Europeans and fish thefts across the country, the Committee decided to have them updated with the 'No stealing Fish' sign which can be viewed on the Pike Anglers Club Website. So by the start of the new season, members will be seeing these signs on our waters.

Weed control at Fish Hall- After seeing how bad the weed got last summer, the Committee decided to take action. The lillies were treated late last year and this years immergent soft weed was treated in February. This work was carried out on the bottom and middle lakes and may have to be repeated later this year depending on how well it has been controlled.

Parking at Fish Hall- Members please make sure you display your current parking permit clearly on your dash board and remember not to drive down to the lakes. Not even to drop your gear off.

Specimen Claims- Members are encouraged to enter Specimens as we have some lovely trophies to be claimed as well as tackle vouchers this year.

EDITORS PIECE

It seems to have been a very long season for myself, not in fishing terms but more the organising side of things. I have thoroughly enjoyed it and have made many new contacts and gained plenty of friends through doing it. When I have managed to get out on the banks it's normally to walk my Jack Russell 'Dave' and take in the surroundings our waters have to offer. I've met some characters when out walking but I've also met some really good anglers who have been more than happy to share their fishing exploits with me. As the newsletter editor I rely on feedback, whilst pictures are a real bonus and give our members the opportunity to see what our waters have to offer. If you have any news or reports, whether it be catches, pollution, poachers or fish death and theft, please don't hesitate to contact me on either 07974488040 or abattell@hotmail.co.uk

Now I'm more involved in the running of the club, working alongside the likes of Tony, Kevin, Adam, Alex and the rest of the Committee, I can see how much work there is to be done and feel the Committee are gradually moving the Society in the right direction. Officers of the Committee have obvious roles to play but some of the members of the Committee play just as important roles, one of those being Bill Smith who for the last I don't know how many years has done the Match Recording and done it very well. Others include Dave Williams, our Match Captain who has managed to continually get good numbers at our Club matches, Norman Ayling who most of the Club members would have met doing a great job as our regular Bailiff, Pat Galpin and Tony Hyland who spend many hours bank clearing, Tom Sawyer who keeps the minutes of each meeting and Alex Heggie who without his help and knowledge of the Club, would make the running of the Society that much more difficult.

There are also several other bailiffs who continue to do a great job, whether it be day or night patrolling. The rest of the Committee all play their part and contribute to each meeting, but on a personal note I feel we have room for some fresh faces and ideas to keep the Society moving forward.

I hope you all enjoy our latest newsletter and find it informative, but if you feel that we havn't covered any issues you have, then come along to the AGM and voice your views. Don't forget, Saturday 31st May at 6.30PM. I would like to finish off this newsletter with a lovely picture of a cracking 3lb 10oz Perch caught this winter by one of our members who I met on my last walk before putting the newsletter to press.

Good Luck for the coming season, Austin Battell (Vice Chaiman).



Mark Harvey with a 3lb 10oz Perch from the river.

PLEASE COME TO THE AGM & PRIZEGIVING