



A HAPPY CHRISTMAS TO ALL OUR MEMBERS

December 2019

Contents

- Ticket subscriptions and prices
- Club Trophies
- Reports from your club officers
- Important changes and additions
- Other news, club initiatives & conservation updates
- Dates for your diary.

Ticket prices

After 2 years of fixed prices the Committee has reluctantly had to increase annual subscriptions but they have been kept to the minimum necessary to sustain the Club. Application forms for the 2020 Season are enclosed with this newsletter.

Full Membership (March - November 2020)

Adult	£100.00
Registered disabled	£85.00
Junior (up to 17 year)	£15.00
Life membership (after 3 years membership)	£1,250.00
Joining fee for new members	£20.00
New members under 17 years- 1st year	£ FREE

Weekly Visitor tickets

Adult £70.00 Junior £15.00

Day Visitor Tickets

Adults £20.00 Junior £7.50

PLEASE SEND YOUR SUBSCRIPTIONS (with a SAE ***and*** last season's catch return) directly to Trevor Sobey, (Honorary Treasurer), Higher Trevartha Farm, Pengover, Liskeard, PL14 3NJ; before 1st April 2020 or attend the AGM on 12th February 2020.

Please note that members who do not renew before 1st April 2020 will need to pay the Club joining fee again.

AGM Invitation

All current members are invited to attend the Annual General Meeting of the Liskeard and District Angling Club on AGM 11th February 2020 – starting at 19:30hrs - Constitutional Club, 9 Market St, Liskeard, PL14 3JH - in the upstairs meeting room.

Pay your subscriptions, collect your 2020 season ticket, hear about the club's news, (possibly) win a prize in the raffle, listen to the guest speaker, have your say and meet other members and the Committee. Perhaps even stand for the Committee?

Club Trophies

Members are encouraged to submit catches that could qualify under one of the four categories: the Brown trout, Sea trout, Salmon and Junior Achievement. We also welcome nominations for the Lynher contribution trophy.

	2019 Holder	All Time Record
Salmon	J Drew 16lb	J Hawken 28lb 0oz
Sea Trout	J Drew 8lb 2 Oz	G Hake 13lb 8oz
Brown Trout	Not awarded	G Hake 4lb 1oz
Lynher	A White	-
Junior	Not awarded	-

There is a submittal form at the end this newsletter – or you can download one from the Club website.

Please note all entries must be received by 31st December 2019.

Sustaining fishing stocks

In an effort to maintain our sport we agreed to implement annual voluntary measures with the FRA and EA, such as restricted hooks, a shortened Fowey season and higher catch/release rates for both sea trout and salmon.

These voluntary measures are currently being reviewed and minor changes may be introduced for 2020.

A full update will be advised to members when they are agreed and these will be sent out with their season tickets for 2020. They will also be on the Club website in a prominent position.

The EA were pleased to advise that the proposed salmon net-buy-out of the one remaining net on the Fowey was completed successfully in late 2019 and going forward there is now a net limitation order of zero on the Fowey.

This positive news strongly supports all our Club efforts in maintaining a sustainable fishery on the River Fowey.

During 2019 a new EA bye-law was enacted on the Camel and remains in force for a minimum of 5 years. See Secretary Report for further details.

You will all no doubt also recall that 2019 saw the introduction of new EA national measures to help secure salmon stocks across the country. Our southwest rivers were no exception. Details are available at the following link.

<https://consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/fisheries/proposed-national-salmon-byelaws/results/salmonandseatroutprotectionbyelaws2018.pdf>

We will always strive to advise members of any changes on the Club website - but it is anglers' responsibility to be aware of and abide by all EA and Club measures.

Lost and Found

Don't forget to contact the Honorary Secretary at secretary@ldac.org.uk if you have either lost or found any item on the clubs' waters. We do attempt to reunite any items reported to their rightful owners.

Chairman's update

The 2019 season has again proved to be a difficult year with river levels in general having been extremely low throughout. The long dry spell through the summer has once again been followed by seemingly never ending rainfall and recent very high river levels have been equally challenging for members.

However poor the conditions it cannot be ignored that fish numbers across all our rivers have been declining in recent years and this has been the case across the whole country. The EA have recently published the 2018 catch statistics for England and Wales which show that the salmon rod catch was down 36% and Sea Trout down 49% on the 5-year national average.

However rod catch figures are heavily influenced by river levels and it is encouraging that our main rivers are holding their own, as recently as 2017 when fishing conditions were more favourable the total rod catch on the Fowey was 169 (salmon) compared to the 10-year average of 137 and for seatrout 779, compared to a 10-year average of 790. On the Lynher the salmon rod catch was 124 compared to a 10-year average of 81 and for seatrout it was 262 compared to the 10-year average of 248.

The start of the season did again produce some good early spring salmon on the Fowey and Lynher, but summer grilse were fairly scarce.

During late summer reliable sources on both rivers reported large salmon making their way into the catchments.

Seatrout were slightly different, large fish at the start of the season were hard to find but during the summer when we did have a shower or two smaller "school peal" appeared to be present in reasonable numbers.

Electrofishing surveys carried out by West Country Rivers Trust on the Fowey showed that the juvenile numbers for salmon and trout across the catchment are holding steady and I remain convinced that the main problem facing migratory fish lies with reduced survival rates at sea.

This is now the second year of changes to both our fishing methods and catch limits agreed in talks with the FRA and EA.

Whilst nobody welcomes these restrictions they are still favourable compared to those imposed on many rivers in other parts of the country.

These are being reviewed annually and we will continue to work with the EA wherever possible in order to remain in charge of our own regulations and avoid mandatory Bye Laws.

Sadly as is the case with other clubs we are facing difficult times ahead, an ageing membership and a decline in younger people taking up the sport means that we will need to make some hard decisions in the future. Whilst we continue to negotiate with our landlords to obtain reasonable rates for our fishing, many factors are beyond our control and more details about this are set out in the Treasurer's report.

Hatcheries on both the Lynher and Fowey continue to operate and our thanks go to all those involved in their day-to-day running.

This is now the third year of the new Colliford hatchery being operational - with 40,000 juvenile salmon being released annually into the St Neot catchment.

It has been an EA requirement that a large number of them were "fin clipped" in order to ascertain the success of the project. It is from 2020 onwards that it is anticipated many of these fish are likely to return so if you are lucky enough to catch a salmon in the coming season please remember to check if it has a missing "Adipose" fin. A photograph and approximate weight along with location caught would be very much appreciated.

Another autumn of heavy rainfall and high winds have meant that there is a considerable need for work to be carried out on our fishing beats to clear trees and debris and make repairs to our bridges and stiles. Much of this work will be carried out during our "Bank Clearance" days and a timetable of dates is printed in this newsletter so please come along and help out.

Finally I would again like to thank our Secretary Paul Jordan for all his hard work in putting the Newsletter together and all members of the committee for their continued hard work and support.

On behalf of the committee I would like to wish you all a Merry Xmas and a Happy New Year – one that will hopefully bring better fishing conditions.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the AGM when we can keep you up to date in more detail.

Rob Williams

Work Party incentive scheme

The incentive programme is in place and members are using this to introduce guests and friends to our waters. There are opportunities to get a free visitor ticket in 2020 so you can take a friend fishing for a day on the Club's waters at no cost.

When you qualify for this please do contact the Honorary Secretary so you can get a permit to take your guest fishing (at secretary@ldac.org.uk).

Working Party Dates 2020

Meet at beat entry point at 10.00 hrs to participate

Lynher

- Sunday 19th January Wotton
- Sunday 26th January Dogleg
- Sunday 2nd February Frogwell

Fowey

- Sunday 9th February Doublebois
- Sunday 16th February Wheelpit
- Sunday 23rd February Lewarne

A38 Night Closures (TBA): Org: R Williams

Secretary's report

As yet another year comes to an end it is time to reflect on what has again kept the Committee occupied.

Most members would probably say 2019 was the year when rules and regulations became an overwhelming burden on being able to enjoy just going fishing. The Committee recognises this and has worked hard with the EA and the various River Associations to minimise the impact whilst also trying to balance efforts to sustain the stocks of fish in our rivers.

We do so against the backdrop of a rapidly changing regulatory framework.

- The EA enacted a full Camel bye-law for 5 years. This impacts our beat on the Camel.
- The National Salmon Fisheries Plan was also enacted by DEFRA/EA on 1st January 2019 and this necessarily informs our discussion on voluntary measures and the decisions the Committee has to take.
- LDAC worked successfully to prevent a further decline of Fowey salmon stocks by agreeing to enact voluntary measures with the EA to protect the river from 2019. Whilst voluntarily introduced by the Club *they are of course rules that must be followed by all our members.*
- All of these efforts have paid a further massive dividend with the announcement of a net limitation order of zero on the Fowey during the year.

2020 will no doubt see the Club's voluntary measures being carried forward in one form or another - and the feedback from members is shaping our discussions with the FRA and EA in trying to ensure that our sport is still enjoyable.

Further details will be enclosed with your 2020 season ticket. Whilst these measures may perhaps seem a little daunting there is as much commonality about the rules and regulations as is possible - bearing in mind the 20 plus miles of fishing we have currently covers six rivers, some with individual or common bye-

laws, regulated by 3 different River Associations and most having different season dates and different catch/release requirements.

All of this change has been going on whilst running a successful and busy Club; organising and supporting work parties, whilst also trying to balance the books as external costs rise.

Despite our best efforts, membership numbers have continued to fall and the Treasurer provides more details about the impact of that in his report.

Throughout these challenging times we continue to rely heavily on the goodwill of our riparian owners for continuing to lease their quality water to us – and it is good to report that relationships with these key stakeholders remain positive. Indeed most owners were kindly in agreement to reduce the rents in 2019 and I would like to take this opportunity to thank them publicly.

The Committee were disappointed to see a significant drop in rod catch numbers for the 2018 season. The headline numbers are reported below

- 2018 Lynher and Fowey catch/release figures for salmon were both 100%
- All members met our catch/release targets.
- The 2018 season saw a significant decrease in the total of rod-caught salmon *year-on-year*, falling from 134 (in 2017) to 58 in 2018, down 43%. Sea trout numbers also declined, from 325 (in 2017) to 114, a decrease of 65% *year-on-year*.
- On a river-by-river basis the Fowey fared much better than the Lynher with a higher number of rod-caught salmon (53) but this is significantly down from the 94 reported in 2017. The Lynher salmon catch dropped catastrophically from 53 (in 2017) to just 4 fish in 2018.
- The Fowey reported just 104 sea trout (compared to the 201 in 2017) and the Lynher reported only 7 sea trout, which compared badly with the 40 reported in 2017.
- Minor rivers all reported a similar picture with disturbingly low catch returns.

Positively, working party turnout was well up in 2018 and I would also like to thank those members who turned out. Dates for the 2020 work parties are included in this newsletter.

Your Committee members attended Fowey River Association (FRA), Lynher River Association (LRA), Tamar and Tributaries Fisheries Association (TTFA) and Camel Fisheries Association (CFA) meetings and AGM's to ensure the Club interests are always fully represented. Information from these is shared via the Club newsletters/website where appropriate.

To keep abreast of any changes to your fishing please do remember to always log onto the Club website at ldac.org.uk.

Remember: If we don't have your (latest) email address please do send it to us as you read this newsletter.

Email your address NOW to secretary@ldac.org.uk.

Paul Jordan.

TURF LAWNS - Supplied or laid

Grass Cutting/Strimming/Rockerries/Patios/Fencing
Top Soil/Sand/Gravel/Rustic Walling Stone/Hardcore

All aspects of landscaping

Barrie Pearn: 07767 218857

Treasurer's Report

2019 has been a very challenging year for the Club financially.

Our income is solely reliant on membership numbers and we have seen these fall once again, from 155 in 2018 to just 126 this year.

This equates to a loss of income of approximately £3,000 pa *year-on-year*.

In anticipation of this we worked hard in early 2019 to reduce outgoing and were extremely grateful to those riparian owners who accepted reduced rentals during the season. In most cases this was 20% lower than normal.

Nonetheless we will still make a loss in 2019.

Anticipating the future, and seeing a consistent *year-on-year* decline in membership numbers (since 2010) we clearly need to reduce our costs even further if the club is to survive. Efforts are now underway to do so.

An evaluation of all rented fishing is taking place and it may be decided that the only remedy is to let some fishing go. If so all members will be updated when they are sent their season tickets for 2020. Any changes will also of course also be put onto the Club website.

For 2020 the Committee has had to increase subscriptions to cover part of the shortfall. Adult subscriptions will therefore necessarily rise to £100.00 pa and Disabled subscriptions will rise to £85.00 pa.

All other rates will remain the same.

Renewal subscriptions will also now need to be received by the 1st of April 2020 to ensure we have sufficient cash-flow to operate the Club effectively. Failure to do so will mean that late returning members will unfortunately become liable for paying the full re-joining fee of £20.00.

Subscriptions can be paid by cheque (payable to LDAC) or, if you prefer, by BACS (bank details below) – but those members renewing by BACS ***must*** also still notify the Treasurer by post, and provide a

SAE with their submitted catch returns to enable their season ticket to be sent out for 2020.

Beware: ***No ticket means No fishing!***

Account Name	LDAC
Account number	80574988
Sort code	20 - 50 - 40

Could I finally remind all members that they should apply directly to me with

- Complete and accurate catch return form for 2019 season
- Membership renewal form duly completed (including an email address where possible)
- Cheque (if not paying by BACS) for appropriate amount, including any donations
- Stamped addressed envelope

The address to send it to is Higher Trevartha Farm, Pengover, Liskeard, Cornwall PL14 3NJ.

Trevor Sobey

EA Bye-Law on Camel.

The following link takes members to the full EA bye-law now in force on the Camel.

http://www.ldac.org.uk/documents/River_Camel_Salmon_and_Sea_Trout_Byelaw.pdf

Fishing Mayhem (our ticket agents) are moving on 4th January 2020. *See new details below*

Fishing Mayhem

Unit 1, St Marys Business Park
Moorswater Industrial Park
Liskeard, Cornwall PL14 4LN
(Tel: 01579 558 558)

10% discount for our members
on presentation of your LDAC season ticket.

Conservation & Hatchery News

Fowey Hatchery

By September 2019 the Colliford Hatchery team had raised >36,000 Salmon for stocking into the St Neot. Many of the brood stock used in 2018-19 phase were grilse which gave lovely eggs, albeit fewer in number than a multi sea winter (MSW) fish would.

That was our third successful annual stocking of healthy fish and we had a great turnout of volunteers to help perform fin clipping and to participate in the release of the fish into the St Neot river.

As background to this we are required (by the EA) to fin-clip 25% of the fish we stock. Fin clipping is a very time-consuming and delicate operation that has been honed over the many years we have been raising fish both at Colliford and prior to that, at Wainsford.

While it might be seen as a slightly brutal method of marking fish as Hatchery fish – it is crucial to monitor the success of the hatchery.

In this respect we were very happy to have a report (April 2019) of a first (fin clipped) smolt caught making the downstream migration to sea.

This is real proof that hatchery fish not only survive but thrive in our river.

If that wasn't enough to celebrate, in August 2019 a small, fin-clipped grilse was caught just above the St Neot. This event is fantastic evidence that the full cycle of stripping, raising, releasing and seeing returning fish works – a tremendous boost for everyone involved and a huge thank you must go the LDAC for their continued support of our work, to the Fowey Rivers Association for their efforts in managing the re-establishment of the new hatchery at Colliford and, of course, a massive thank you to the volunteers who come and help the operation. The Manager role is only part-time, so it is vital to have their support and help across the catchment.

At the time of writing (December 2019) we are now already well into the brood stock phase for the 2019-20 phase and have enough hen fish to meet our target of stripping 40,000 eggs.

For more information or to get involved please do contact the Hatchery Manager at hatchery@riverfowey.org

Richard Grieve

Lynher Hatchery

Following the success of 2018 hopes were high for a further good year within the 2019 cycle.

However this proved not to be the case, with initial difficulties in getting all the brood stock, some of which were very small. Subsequently high temperatures impacted on the stripping of fish, a number having to be returned un-stripped. As a result of these difficulties only 17,000 eggs were laid down.

Whilst this was a very disappointing start things improved considerably and our egg losses were minimal; 15,500 fry were finally stocked out to the river at various stages through the year.

Brood stock collection has now started for the 2020 cycle and the high river levels have helped in this regard, with some sizeable hens caught. Cock fish have once again been small and fairly scarce, although in practice these specimens seem to produce more milt than larger cocks - which are often problematical.

All indications were that last year was poor for natural spawning on the Lynher, so in this context we must not be too disheartened, as even a small contribution from the hatchery must help.

The hatchery operation is often faced with unexpected problems, the latest of which is the unexplained halt in production for twelve months of Pyceze, our anti-fungal treatment. Hopefully we have sufficient to see us through the current cycle, but the alternative treatments are not welcomed by the E.A. so the way forward is yet to be established.

Our thanks as always go to all the volunteers who work at the hatchery, giving of their time without payment; and to Graham Hake and the others who help with brood stock collection.

Also thanks as ever to Nick Lintott who has provided the hatchery site.

Despite the difficult financial challenges facing LDAC they continue to make a vital regular annual contribution to hatchery operating costs. This is much appreciated, as indeed is the support of all our donors.

Arthur White.

Treworkey (Draynes) Sanctuary improvements

This work, previously led by Chris Janes and Rob Williams urgently needs new dedicated and reliable volunteers to make up a small team to work on a limited number of Sundays each summer. Jeff Pearce, from the FRA has indicated his willingness to lead this new work and contact details will be posted to the Club website in the New Year.

Season dates

River Fowey

Season dates Sea Trout: 1st April – 31st August
 Salmon: 1st April – 30th November

River Lynher

Season dates Sea Trout: 3rd March – 31st August
 Salmon: 1st March – 14th October

River Inny

Season dates Sea Trout: 3rd March – 31st August
 Salmon: 1st March – 14th October
 Grayling: 16th June – 14th March

River Seaton & West Looe

Season dates Sea Trout: 1st April – 31st August
 Salmon: 1st April – 30th November

River Camel

Season dates Sea Trout: 1st May – 31st August
 Salmon: 1st May – 30th November

Website

Don't forget you can download colour maps, application forms, catch return forms, trophy forms and many other publications from the website. Go to **www.ldac.org.uk**

Homeleigh Garden Centre

Dutson, Launceston, Cornwall, PL15 9SP (01566 771878)

Homeleigh Angling Centre is Cornwall's largest tackle shop.

There is a huge selection in store.

Expert advice on all game fishing matters.

Please call our angling centre and we will be happy to help.

10% discount (on non sale items) for our members on presentation of your LDAC season ticket.

Swedish Salmon Fishing Trip Report

At the invitation of Peter Prag of Sportfishing in Sweden AB, I had the pleasure of visiting Lake Vattern in central Sweden at the time of their Laxcup, the final event of their Swedish Trolling Masters series, which encompasses both freshwater and sea fishing events fishing for salmon. These competitions attract up to 150 teams fishing from private boats.

Whilst the fishing was in fresh water you could almost feel yourself to be at sea as Lake Vattern is some 110kms long, and up to 35kms wide, and weather forecasts are a necessary prelude to your outing on the lake. Fishing is from boats up to 25 foot in length, in water up to 80m deep, and if the wind is in the wrong quarter the lake can become quite rough. The salmon of Vattern are landlocked Atlantic fish, originating from Lake Vanern, an even larger Swedish lake. Both water support commercial net fisheries and several hundred thousand fish are hatchery reared to smolt stage to support these fisheries, and the sport fishery benefits accordingly. The lake is incredibly rich in food, supporting 31 species of fish, the main feed fish for the salmon being stickleback, vendace and smelt, vast shoals of which can be seen on the fishfinder, a very necessary part of the equipment for catching the salmon. These shoals tend to be found deep during the day, rising towards the surface as the light fades, probably due to the very clear water of the lake that has a

visibility of up to 80ft. Not surprising the lake generally fishes better under cloudy skies rather than sun.

The style of fishing owes much to the North American sport fishery, with the use of downriggers and otter boards fishing baits at a variety of depths and spread. Lure fishing predominates, although fly and bait fishing is sometimes used. Each boat is allowed a maximum of 10 lures, normally one per rod, and these are trolled at between 1 and 2 knots, the use of fishfinders being vital for finding the location of feed fish, and hopefully the salmon. Shore fishing is also possible although less popular, spinning or flyfishing being the normal methods, and it is possible to cast into very deep water from many spots. The record Vattern salmon was in fact shore caught, weighing 20.4kgs, and the lake has produced the 10 largest landlocked Atlantic salmon. Although you may fish all year the main season for salmon is from late summer into early winter.



Although not attending as a competitor I had the pleasure of fishing prior to the competition. The style of fishing once the baits have been set up is fairly relaxed as it is very much a waiting game, although knowledge of the likely locations of fish the reading of the fishfinder and the control of the speed of the boat call for concentration by the boat skipper.

Fortunately for me this was not my responsibility, I merely had the pleasure of dealing with the fish once they took and then enjoying the fight.

My first fish proved to be one of 5.2kgs, average for the lake, but what was surprising was its shape, short and very deep, probably arising from the rich feed and the fact that the fish do not have tides or river flows to contend with. When caught they are usually stuffed full of feed fish. They are nonetheless good fighters, and are usually played with the boat still under way. Subsequently I caught other fish of 3 and 4.5kgs, all on lures. It is almost standard practice to fish lures, normally Rapalas, Tobies, or similar, with only one treble attached to avoid foul hooked fish, and this usually gives a firm hook hold.

As well as salmon there is the chance of char and large brown trout.

It seems that nearly every Swede owns a boat, so the availability of boats for hire is somewhat limited and having a local contact is helpful. Language is normally not a problem as most Swedes speak good English, and indeed during the competition and at the prizegiving many of the conversations were in English as many competitors were from Finland, and few spoke Swedish, and not many Swedes speak Finnish.

A very interesting trip and fishing experience, and whilst very enjoyable - not a style of fishing which would attract me on a regular basis. As I said some of the trolling events take place at sea, in the Baltic, and indeed the record European saltwater caught Atlantic salmon of over 60lbs was caught off the Swedish coast.

Arthur White

Important Dates

Month	Time/Event	Details
JANUARY 19th January 26th January	Lynher Working Party Lynher Working Party	Wotton Dogleg
MUST REMEMBER	<i>BUY YOUR NEW EA ROD LICENCE</i>	<i>DON'T FORGET</i>
DO THIS NOW!!!!	<i>PAY MEMBERSHIP DUES TO LDAC</i>	<i>SEND IN YOUR CATCH RETURN FOR 2019</i>
FEBRUARY 2nd February 9th February 11th February 16th February 23rd February	Lynher Working Party Fowey working Party LDAC AGM Fowey Working Party Fowey Working Party	Frogwell Doublebois Constitution Club, 9 Market Street, Liskeard, PL14 3JH Wheelpit Lewarne
MARCH 1st March 3rd March 3rd March	Lynher/Inny Lynher/Inny Fowey Working Party	Salmon season opens Sea Trout season opens Wheelpit
APRIL 1st April 8th April	Fowey/Seaton/W Looe FRA AGM	Sea Trout and Salmon season opens Boconnoc
MAY 1st May	Camel	Trout/Sea Trout/Salmon season opens - EA BYE LAW IN FORCE
AUGUST 31st August 31st August	Fowey/Seaton/W Looe Lynher/Inny/Camel	Sea Trout season closes Sea Trout season closes
OCTOBER 14th October	Lynher/Inny	Salmon season closes
NOVEMBER 30th November	Fowey/Seaton/W Looe/Camel	Salmon season closes

TROPHIES

Members are encouraged to submit catches that could qualify for one of the four trophies:

- Brown trout
- Sea trout
- Salmon
- Junior Achievement

Members can either scan or detach the form below. Send or email to:

Honorary Secretary
Lower Hollycoombe
Drift Lane
Twowatersfoot
Liskeard
PL14 6HH (secretary@ldac.org.uk)

1. Member's Name
Address

or your email address

Membership No.
2. Catch details
Date
River
Species

Measurements (if weight not known)
Length (cm)

Catch method (delete as applicable)

Time
Beat
Weight

Girth (cm)

Fly / Spinner / Worm
3. Witness (if available)
Name

Membership No.