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Fowey River, Morning Mist - P Jordan

*Angling is somewhat like poetry, men are to be born so.
Izaak Walton – The Compleat Angler. Pt. I. Ch. I.*

December 2014

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

Your committee have confirmed a small (inflation-linked) increase in the adult subscription process for 2015 season and, after due consideration, has decided to finally raise the price of OAP season tickets to the same level. Junior prices and disabled angler prices remain fixed for the fifth year in succession. The joining fee also remains fixed at £15.00.

Adult visitor ticket prices have been raised to reflect the quality and quantity of fishing on offer and to better reflect the cost of such sport elsewhere in the County and region.

Membership - full season (March - December 2015)

Adult/Over 65	£ 90.00
Registered disabled	£ 82.50
Junior (up to 17 years)	£ 15.00
Life membership (after 3 years membership)	£ 1125.00
Joining fee for new members	£ 15.00
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

**See The Treasurers Report for further details -
what to send, where to send it etc.**

AGM Invitation

Please note that all current members are invited to attend the Annual General Meeting of the Liskeard and District Angling Club on 10th February 2015 – starting at 19:30 - Constitutional Club, 9 Market St, Liskeard, PL14 3JH - in the upstairs meeting room.

Pay your subs, collect your 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.

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.

	2014 Holder	All Time Record
Salmon	T Sobey 15lbs	J Hawken 28lb 0oz
Sea Trout	J Hake 10lbs	G Hake 13lb 8oz
Brown Trout	P Jordan 2lb 2oz	G Hake 4lb 1oz
Lynher	N Lintott	-
Junior	Not awarded	-

There is a submittal form included with your newsletter – or you can download one from the website.

Please note all entries must be received by 31st December 2014.

Fishing Mayhem

Plymouth Road Liskeard, Cornwall PL14 3PB
(Tel: 01579 340447) .

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

Authorised LDAC ticket sales for visitors

Chairman's update

As I write this, the 2014 season is coming to an end and with the river running clear and no sign of imminent rain, a late run of Salmon is looking less likely but we must remain optimistic. The season overall has been unpredictable and although good numbers of Sea Trout came in to the system the long dry summer did not make fishing easy. However those of you who ventured out with the night time fly or those who managed to get on the river following the occasional heavy showers were rewarded with some good fishing.

As for Salmon, the beginning of the season brought some large salmon into the catchments of both the Fowey and the Lynher. The best spring salmon reported for many years (at 18lbs) came off the upper Lynher in mid-March, with several others well into double figures also reported during the same month. The largest spring salmon reported from the Fowey was estimated at >12lbs (32.5" long), caught in May. Despite these early catches the summer Grilse never really arrived in any great numbers. This appeared to be the situation generally on rivers throughout the South West. Counter figures on the Fowey however, show that good numbers of fish are still coming into the system with a total of 8,385 Sea Trout and 1,373 Salmon/large Sea Trout being recorded up until the end of August.

On the conservation front, some vital gravel rehabilitation work was carried out, with Chris Janes organising tree removal and weed clearance on three consecutive Sundays up in the Draynes Valley. I would like to thank Chris and all those who turned up to help, for all their hard work. It is hoped that we can continue to improve these spawning areas and that will depend on your support next year. Look at the website for further details nearer the time.

We are again facing the prospect of having to remove a large number of fallen trees that have come down during the year, obstructing both the river and anglers access. As most of you will appreciate, it is not possible for the club to pay contractors to carry out this work as the cost would be very high and would lead to an unacceptable increase in the price of membership. Whilst we are lucky enough to have very capable people willing to give their time to such tasks, they are few in number and it is impossible for

them to tackle all the problems that occur unless they receive far more help from club members. A timetable of bank clearance dates is printed in this newsletter so please come along and help out.

Despite the challenges LDAC remains strong and with access to over 20 miles of fishing we have a club to be proud of and I would like to thank all the members of the committee for their continued hard work and support, without which this club would not be the success that it most certainly is. I look forward to seeing you at the AGM.

Roger Lashbrook's Fishing Tackle

at Stan Mays, Higher Bore Street, Bodmin, Cornwall PL3 1JZ. (Tel: 01208 78006).

For tackle that won't let you down....

A substantial discount for our members
on presentation of your season ticket.

Authorised LDAC Ticket sales for visitors

Lost and Found

Don't forget to contact the Secretary at sec@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.

Litter

Littering still remains a problem at some beat access points and along parts of the rivers where we fish. *TAKE* your litter home and if you see any lying around pick it up - and help to improve your own fishing environment.

If you see someone littering do something about it!

Treasurer's update

Whilst the underlying financial position of the club remains sound we continue to find ourselves under financial pressure to ensure that the club does not run at a loss.

As discussed at the last AGM the membership levels are key to the future of the club. I am therefore pleased to be able to report a small increase in adult membership for the year; rising from 185 in 2013 to 191 in 2014. At this level the Clubs finances are just in balance.

However the cost of our rented beats will inevitably rise in 2015 (some in line with RPI and some under new lease agreements) and this requires that the Club raise season ticket prices to cover costs for next year.

The Committee has therefore agreed to increase fees to £90.00 pa for both adults (+2.8%) and senior members (+9%) but to maintain levels for disabled and junior members (see Item 2 on page 2 of the newsletter for full details). The decision to raise senior member ticket prices to the same level as adult members has been an aim of the Committee for several years and is predicated on the fact that such (retired) members have significantly more opportunity to use club waters than others.

Despite these increases the costs are still highly competitive with game fishing costs elsewhere in the county and wider afield.

Please note that visitors' day/weekly ticket fees are also rising above inflation – reflecting the quality and quantity of fishing we offer.

2015 membership application – Please send :

- Completed and accurate catch return form for 2014 season
- Membership renewal form duly completed (including an email address where possible)
- Cheque for appropriate amount, including any donations
- Stamped addressed envelope

To - Higher Trevartha Farm, Pengover, Liskeard. PL14 3NJ

Trevor Sobey
Treasurer

Secretary's report

The Club continues to provide the largest choice of game fishing in Cornwall and the southwest. We currently have access to six rivers with a total of 21 miles of fishing.

We rely heavily on the goodwill of our riparian owners for continuing to lease quality water to us – and it is good to report that our relationships with these key stakeholders remain firm.

Just before the opening of the season the Club was saddened to hear of the passing of Mr D Arbon, from Maenporth, Falmouth. Mr Arbon had been a strong supporter of the Club for many years and was always happy to lease Caradon Wood Beat to us on the Lynher. We thank him for the kindness he showed to the Club over the years.

With the fishing rights of Caradon Wood now passing to a new owner (The Woodlands Trust) LDAC are (currently) unable to renew the lease and we therefore no longer have the rights to access or fish on Beat 13.

All remaining fishing was retained and we also extended the Ashford Beat (Beat 3, River Fowey) some 500m northwards. This was through the kind agreement of Messrs J and E Codes, to whom we extend our thanks for their continued support.

No stretches of local river(s) were offered for open sale during the 2014 season and the Club was therefore unable to add to the current inventory of owned waters.

2015 will also see the need for the Club to renew three of our beats on the Lynher and the Committee has approved moving forward with those new contracts. We hope to be able to report that they have been secured for future years in the next newsletter.

To keep abreast of any changes to your fishing please remember to log onto the new-look/up-dated website at ldac.org.uk. Thanks to Richard Grieve for continued support in looking after all things IT.

Your Committee met four times during the year. Attendance by Committee members was good, at 87.5%. The Committee were pleased to be able to see (and now report to you) a marked improvement in catch/return rates for the 2013 season and I am particularly gratified to be able to say that all members adhered to the catch/release targets, particularly in the matter of Lynher salmon. The Lynher catch/release rates rose from 50% (in 2012) to 83% (2013).

We need to ensure that these figures continue to exceed 66% in the future to help support the prevention of commercial nets returning to the Lynher.

Several members have contacted me to discuss the issue of fallen trees and difficult access on some beats during the 2104 season.

As you are aware all the beats are the subject of planned work parties at the beginning of each season (see page 2 of this newsletter for relevant dates and locations). These provide the opportunity to carry out maintenance after winter storms and floods have had their way with our rivers and footpaths.

Members need to continue to come forward and support the work-parties before the season starts, to report any areas that they consider require attention and then to support requests for additional work during the season.

We would urge members to carry out their own (sensitive and sensible) clearance of undergrowth across and along footpaths as they pass through whilst fishing during the season.

We ALL have a part to play – please do so.

If you want to or can help make sure we have your up-to-date contact details so we can contact you directly.

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

The Club website is enabling us to reach more members than ever before, more cheaply and more quickly – we now have 70% registered, 5% up on 2013. The target remains 100% and we are slowly getting there.....

Remember: If we don't have your (latest) email address please do send it to sec@ldac.org.uk when you read this newsletter.

The mid-year newsletter was once again published, being distributed to all members in August 2014; mostly by email. I hope you found it useful. If you have any views or ideas on it's future content please do contact the Secretary on sec@ldac.org.uk to discuss.

This year we are again distributing the Annual Newsletter, attachments and the FRA newsletter by email wherever possible.

This has a major impact in lowering our printing costs and postage bill. That means we have more money to spend on improving our fishing – far better than spending it on other non-fishing related matters?

Paul Jordan.
Hon Secretary.

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

Work Party incentive scheme

The incentive programme continues to work and members are using this to introduce guests and friends to our waters. There are opportunities to get a free visitor tickets in 2015 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 Secretary so you can take a guest fishing. sec@ldac.org.uk

Working Party Dates 2015.

Meet 10.00hrs @ each beat entry point:

February 2015

Sun 1 st	Lynher	Wotton Farm	Organiser: T Coleman
Sun 8 th	Lynher	Wotton Farm	Organiser: T Coleman
Sun 15 th	Lynher	Dogleg	Organiser: G Hake
Sun 22 nd	Fowey	Ashford	Organiser: B Pearn

March 2015

Sun 1 st	Fowey	Doublebois	Organiser: B Pearn
Sun 8 th	Fowey	Jacks	Organiser: R Grieve
Mon 9 th – Fri 13 th		A38 pm night work	Organiser: R Williams



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Right of Public Access:

2014 has seen a continued number of members of the public walking dogs along the banks of our fishing in Jacks and opposite Lewarne Woods.

The problem stems from the public straying off the forestry paths onto our fishing. With agreement from the Boconnoc Estate new clear signage has been placed indicating the riverside is private and tracks have been blocked with cut branches wherever possible. Regrettably some walkers continue to open up the tracks – so if you see tracks that have been opened up place the cut branches back over them to dissuade public access.

If you meet members of the public trespassing you should continue to politely point out that they are trespassing, that there is clear signage indicating this and ask them to leave.

If problems persist or members are having further nuisance from those few people who wilfully trespass please ask for and take their details (or note their car number plates) and contact the Secretary forthwith.

Website update – www.ldac.org.uk

You can download colour maps, application forms, catch return forms, trophy forms and many other publications from the website

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.

Conservation & Hatchery News:

FRA/Fowey Hatchery

Following the closure of the Fowey hatchery in 2012 the FRA decided that it would concentrate funding on habitat improvements and pushing for a decision from SWW regarding a permanent hatchery on the River Fowey. South West Water is, in principal, willing to provide funding and a location for a permanent hatchery. The Fowey River Resource Group is supporting efforts.

The permanent hatchery is a major undertaking in both terms of resourcing (funds/people) and permitting and locating it. Work continues with the EA to agree a permanent site that meets all stakeholders' requirements.

More details of this – also Counter figures, Fry survey results, River development plans, Newsletters, AGM minutes, News etc can be found on the FRA website at the following address - ***www.riverfowey.org***

Newsflash - the plan to build an offshore rainbow trout farm on the south coast (by CEFAS and the Crown Estates) has just been withdrawn after a major exercise by the South West Rivers Association, STA, Atlantic Salmon Trust , FRA and Angling Trust.

Tributary improvements

Efforts are always directed at improving habitat.

This, in association with hatchery stocking and increasing our catch/return rates is the way to maintain our fishing for the future.

Habitat work in a number of the small tributaries to the River Fowey has begun in 2013. Small ad-hoc working parties have cleared trash dams and invasive weeds on a number of streams important to spawning sea trout.

Additionally, generous funding from the FRA has enabled work to take place coppicing in Lewarne Coombe in 2014– creating much lighter and healthier nursery stretches for salmon parr.

Lynher Hatchery: 2014/15

Following a rather disappointing start to last year's project, when only 15,000 eggs were obtained, a more encouraging end result was achieved with 73% of these being stocked as reared on fry in July 2014. The fry were stocked at that time in view of the high summer water temperature being seen at the hatchery. The improved egg trays introduced were a major factor in reducing pre-stocking losses.

The collection of brood stock commenced in September 2014 and some good size hen fish have been obtained. However, as in the previous two years, cock fish have been hard to find, and have generally been small, which could impact on the final number of fertilized eggs obtained. As last year the potential impact of winter floods may be a limiting factor – On at least 3 occasions there was half a metre of flood-water in the hatchery building and keeping the pumps running proved a major problem.

In view of the limited number of volunteers it has been decided to stock all fry at swim up stage in early spring 2015, thus giving everyone a break from what had become a year round commitment. In addition this also considerably reduces pumping costs. Despite these limitations we are hopeful of improved success this year.

Despite limited funds the Lynher Association has been able to purchase much equipment from the closed Endsleigh hatchery, and is well placed to continue for the foreseeable future, but is always pleased to welcome extra volunteers for the project.

Arthur White will be happy to provide information to anyone interested.

More news at www.lynherriverassociation.co.uk

Arthur White.

Season dates – Catch Limits

River Fowey

Season dates	Sea Trout: 1 st April – 30 th September Salmon: 1 st April – 15 th December
Catch Limits	1 Salmon per day, 2 Salmon per week 5 Salmon per year 4 Sea trout per day Please release all sea trout in September

River Lynher

Season dates	Sea Trout: 3 rd March – 30 th September Salmon: 1 st March – 14 th October
Catch Limits	2 Salmon per day, 4 Salmon per week 10 Salmon per year Salmon Release Rate: 2 in 3 (66% released) 4 Sea trout per day

River Inny

Season dates	Sea Trout: 3 rd March – 30 th September Salmon: 1 st Mar – 14 th October
Catch Limits	2 Sea trout per day Return all fish over 3lbs 1 Salmon per day Return all fish over 10lb

River Seaton & West Looe

Season dates	Sea Trout: 1 st April – 30 th September Salmon: 1 st April – 15 th December
Catch Limits	1 Salmon per day, 2 Salmon per week 5 Salmon per year 4 Seatrout per day

River Camel

Season dates	Sea Trout: 1 st May – 30 th September Salmon: 1 st May – 15 th December
Catch Limits	2 Salmon per day, 4 Salmon per week 10 Salmon per year Sea Trout: 6 Sea trout per week Return all fish <1lb and >3lbs Please release all sea trout in September

Important - See Rule 17 on your season ticket for further details of the All Cornwall limits LDAC subscribe to.

Month	Time / Event	Details
February 2015		
1 st February	10:00 Working Party	Wotton/Lynher
8 th February	10:00 Working Party	Wotton/Lynher
10 th February	19:30 AGM	Constitutional Club, 9 Market St, Liskeard, PL14 3JH
15 th February	10:00 Working Party	Dogleg/Lynher
22 nd February	10:00 Working Party	Ashford Bridge/Fowey
March 2015		
1 st March	Lynher / Inny	Salmon Season opens
1 st March	10:00 Working Party	Doublebois Bridge/Fowey
3 rd March	Lynher / Inny	Sea Trout Season opens
8 th March	10:00 Working Party	Jacks/Fowey
April 2015		
1 st April	Fowey / Seaton / West Looe	Sea Trout & Salmon Seasons opens
15 th April	Fowey Rivers Association AGM	Bocconnoc
May 2015		
1 st May	Camel	Sea Trout & Salmon Seasons opens
September 2015		
30 th September	Fowey / Seaton / West Looe	Sea Trout Season closes
30 th September	Lynher / Inny/ Camel	Sea Trout Season closes
October 2015		
14 th October	Lynher / Inny	Salmon Season closes
December 2015		
15 th December	Fowey / Seaton / West Looe	Salmon Season closes
15 th December	Camel	Salmon Season closes



Only a few
grilse entered
the system
mid-year

There were
a healthy
number of
large spring
salmon.



A very-
coloured
cock
salmon
being
returned