



Golitha Falls: Fowey River
D White

December 2017

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Ticket prices

Your committee have confirmed a small (inflation - linked) increase in the adult subscription process for 2018 season. All other ticket prices have been held, junior and disabled prices remain frozen for a seventh year. The joining fee increases to £20.00.

Membership - full season (March - December 2018)

Adult	£97.50
Registered disabled	£82.50
Junior (up to 17 year)	£15.00
Life membership (after 3 years membership)	£1218.75
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

Application forms for the 2018 Season are enclosed with this newsletter.

Please send your subscription (with a SAE ***and*** last season's catch return) directly to Trevor Sobey, (Honorary Treasurer), Higher Trevartha Farm, Pengover, Liskeard, PL14 3NJ; or attend the AGM on 13th February 2018.

AGM Invitation

Please note that all current members are invited to attend the Annual General Meeting of the Liskeard and District Angling Club on 13th February 2018 – 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.

	2017 Holder	All Time Record
Salmon	T Coleman 12lb 8oz	J Hawken 28lb 0oz
Sea Trout	J Drew 8lb 6 oz	G Hake 13lb 8oz
Brown Trout	Not awarded	G Hake 4lb 1oz
Lynher	J Hake	-
Junior	Not awarded	-

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

Please note all entries must be received by 31st December 2017.

Using barbless hooks

You will all no doubt be aware that the thrust of the EA 5 Point Salmon Action Plan for rivers is to increase the survivability of rod caught salmon that are released. To do this fish need to be returned to the river in the best possible condition.

During this season a number of anglers, both on and off Committee have been using barbless hooks for their fishing. It is clear from their results that there is ***no increase*** in the number of fish being lost whilst playing them. Further, being able to release the fish with the minimum of stress and handling results in far less damage.

Because of this, and in support of the objective to increase the survivability of rod caught fish being released to spawn, the Committee has approved the following guidelines that members should adhere to

- ***Barbless hooks only before June 16th for all fishing methods on all rivers.***
- ***Barbless hooks to be used for all bait fishing at all times on all rivers.***

Lost and Found

Don't forget to contact the 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

Looking back, the 2017 season has seen regular spates occurring from the start and with generally higher river levels fishing conditions have certainly been more favourable, hopefully many of you will have had better sport than in recent (drier) years.

The Fowey saw a welcome but limited return of some large early "Springers" up to 12lb followed by fairly good runs of Sea Trout and "Summer Grilse" from June to the end of September. But as in recent years the later run of larger Autumn Salmon has been disappointing despite higher river levels. A few fish were taken and one large cock fish caught was in the region of 17lb. Despite improved rod catches the latest available Restormel Fish Counter

figures to the end of September show that runs of both "*Large*" and "*Small*" fish were very similar to 2016 - and down again on the 10-year average. As a very significant percentage of the "*Large Fish*" are likely to have been Sea Trout, salmon numbers continue to be of concern.

The Lynher produced very good numbers of both Salmon and Sea Trout during the summer months and into autumn, with good size salmon being caught throughout the season, one reported to have been around 16lb.

Meanwhile recent developments both locally and nationally have caused great concern amongst the angling fraternity.

Firstly as most of you are aware the electro-fishing results carried out on the Camel catchment showed a serious lack of juvenile salmon in the main river and almost a total absence in the major tributaries, prompting the Environment Agency to implement an emergency bye-law for 2018.

Secondly the recent nationwide consultation on The Management of Salmon Fisheries in England & Wales is a result of declining Salmon stocks on a national scale. It would appear that our sport will almost certainly face some difficult times ahead. I do not intend to get into the various arguments here regarding the reasons for the decline of salmon, the causes are many and varied and everyone has their own opinion. We must now await the results of the consultation and the decisions that arise from it.

On a more positive note the FRA Hatchery at Colliford has successfully completed its first year with around 30,000 juvenile salmon being released into the St Neot. The team at the Lynher Hatchery have also had another successful year, with a similar number of juveniles being released, a full report on both hatcheries appears later in this newsletter.

Whilst many of the problems facing our migratory fish are beyond our control, we cannot ignore the fact that we do play a vital part in their complex life cycle and it is now more important than ever that we increase our efforts to improve the productivity of our river catchments. One thing is clear, putting more fish into our river systems by whatever means will not succeed in the long term unless those fish that do make it back have suitable areas in which to cut their redds. To this end Chris Janes led a renewed campaign

to improve the spawning and juvenile habitat in the Draynes Valley and a band of volunteers carried out extensive work on several stretches of the FRA Sanctuary. The FRA has completed the purchase of the "Fishing Rights" over a large stretch of the Draynes Sanctuary thereby securing these areas for generations. I would now ask that you all seriously consider giving up a little of your time to assist with this vital conservation work.

Details will appear on the LDAC website as well as the clubs Facebook page. If computers are not your strong point just let me know and I will notify you by traditional means when the time comes.

This season has again seen plenty of trees coming down and causing problems in the river or obstructing the pathways so we do need your help on our annual Bank Clearance days and a timetable of dates is printed in this newsletter. Please come along and help out.

Finally I would again like to thank all the members of the Committee for their continued hard work and support and to wish you all a Merry Xmas, I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at our AGM in February 2018.

Rob Williams

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

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 ticket in 2018 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 at secretary@ldac.org.uk

Working Party Dates 2018.

Meet 10.00hrs @ each beat entry point:

Sun 14th Jan: R Lynher; Measham/meet Stara Bridge: Org: M Davy

Sun 21st Jan: R Lynher; Dogleg: Org: T Coleman

Sun 28th Jan: R Lynher; Wotton: Org: M Davy/T Coleman

Sun 11th Feb: R Fowey; Ashford Bridge: Org: B Pearn

Sun 18th Feb: R Fowey; Lewarne : Org: B Pearn

Sun 25th Feb: R Fowey; Wheelpit: Org: R Williams

A38 Night Closures (TBA): Org: R Williams

Obituary: Bill Eliot

Just before the close of the 2017 season the Club was saddened to hear of the passing of Mr Bill Eliot, from West Looe. As many will know, Bill was Honorary Secretary of LDAC for over ten years and was key in setting up the Draynes Sanctuary and helped to establish many of the leases we currently enjoy. He was made an Honorary Life Member on his retirement from the Committee.

Bill was always a strong supporter of the Club and its aims. His legacy lives on today in the LDAC and we should all pause to remember and thank him for his unstinting efforts over the years.

Secretary's report

As the 2017 season comes to a end it is time to think about what has kept us busy in the last season. Whilst the fishing seems to have been a bit of a mixed bag (for me at least) the Committee has been busy behind the scenes handling your affairs ...and hopefully making the Club better.

We continue to provide the largest choice of excellent game fishing in the southwest and members have access to six rivers with a total of 21 miles of fishing. As ever, 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.

I must draw your attention to the new emergency bye-law enacted by the EA for all the Camel catchment waters. Following a 2017 survey that showed a catastrophic decline in juvenile parr across that catchment the bye-law came into force in November 2017 and runs until the end of October 2018. It is likely that it will be followed by further restrictions to rod anglers. I urge you to read the section that details the bye-law later in this report.

To keep abreast of any changes to your fishing please remember to log onto the Club website at ldac.org.uk. We continue to look for a new website manager and I would ask for a volunteer to step forward and take on this role. If a volunteer is not forthcoming the Club may have to resort to paying for professional support....this cost would then have to be reflected in your subscriptions!

The Committee met four times during the year. Attendance by Committee members was good, at over 90%. The Committee were pleased to be able to see (and report to you) a sustained improvement in catch/return rates for the 2016 season and I am particularly gratified to be able to say that once again all members adhered to the catch/release targets, particularly in the matter of Lynher salmon.

We need to ensure that the figures continue to exceed 66% on both of our main rivers in the future to help support the prevention of commercial nets returning to the Lynher.

Membership numbers came under downward pressure in 2017, with a drop of 9%. The Committee is aware of this slow attrition and is holding subscriptions as low as possible to encourage members to continue with the Club. More details can be found in the Treasurers report.

Some might suggest that lower membership is due to lower rod catches or too many restrictions on rods from regulatory bodies like the EA? Certainly the 2016 LDAC season saw a drop in the total of rod-caught salmon *year-on-year*, falling from 93 (in 2015) to 59 in 2016, down 37%. Sea trout numbers also dropped from 268 (in 2015) to 202 for the 2016 season, falling 25% year-on-year. This is happening despite our own on-going initiatives on catch/release, support for hatcheries and in-river works.

The environmental and commercial pressures will clearly continue on our salmonid fisheries and despite lower rod catches we must still do what we can to preserve and protect our sport.

This will undoubtedly include further initiatives to protect river environment (through work parties), sanctuary work led by Chris Janes, FRA and Lynher hatchery stocking and additional measures to increase survivability of rod caught fish when being returned.

2018 will no doubt be a pivotal year as we hear of the decisions of the EA 5 Point Salmon Action Plan that was consulted on in 4Q 2017. The overall impact of this on our Club/membership/sport will become more evident this time next year.

Despite these external factors and in an effort to boost membership numbers LDAC organised and co-hosted a visit from Trout and Salmon Magazine to fish the river and visit the Colliford Hatchery. Whilst the weather was against them on the fishing front they have nonetheless published an excellent piece on the new Colliford hatchery (Trout & Salmon, Dec 2017) and it is hoped that this publicity will result in additional members joining the Club in 2018.

Regrettably working party turnout has been down this year – both on the river and in the sanctuary area - possibly reflecting the overall lower membership. As you are aware all the beats and sanctuary are the subject of planned work parties at the beginning of each season (see page 2 and the important dates sheet of this newsletter for relevant dates and locations for LDAC beats). These provide the opportunity to carry out maintenance after winter storms and floods have had their way with our rivers and footpaths. It is also a good time to meet new members, explore the beats and catch up with old friends.

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

We understand that additional work is often warranted or needed later in the season – but with total reliance on the same few dedicated volunteers to do the work it is not possible for the Club to address all 21 miles of riverbank - without resorting to outside contractors. This is not viable if Club ticket costs are to be kept as low as practical.

We would also 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.

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), Tamar and Tributaries Fisheries Association (TTFA) and Camel Fisheries Association (CFA) meetings and AGM's to ensure the Club interests are fully represented in these fora. Information from these is shared via the Club newsletters/website if appropriate.

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

We continue to find ourselves under financial pressure to ensure that the club does not run at a loss year-to-year.

This results from increased expenditures on annual rental costs and unavoidable overheads (such as insurance).

From an income point of view the principal funding element is membership dues. I am therefore disappointed to report to you a further drop in full adult membership for the year; it currently stands at 154 for 2017. This number excludes our lifetime, junior and disabled members.

In order to maintain the quality and quantity of fishing that members enjoy we are left with no choice but to raise Club season ticket prices to cover costs.

The Committee has therefore agreed to increase annual fees (by £2.50) to £97.50 pa for adults (+2.5%) but to maintain levels for disabled and junior members (see Item 2 on page 2 of this newsletter for full details).

Joining fees for new members will also increase from £15.00 to £20.00 from the start of the 2018 season.

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

Could I remind all members that they should apply directly to me for their 2018 memberships as soon as possible; ensuring they enclose

- Complete and accurate catch return form for 2017 season
- Membership renewal form duly completed (including an email address where possible)
- Cheque for appropriate amount, including any donations
- Stamped addressed envelope

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

Trevor Sobey

News, new initiatives and general information

EA Camel emergency BYE-Law

The EA has implemented an emergency salmon protection bye-law effective 31st October 2017 that requires all anglers comply with

- 100% catch/release. All salmon caught by rod and line to be returned with minimum delay, whether alive or dead
- The use of worms for salmon fishing is prohibited
- Spinners, plugs and other artificial lures to be fitted with single barbless hooks only
- Hooks used with artificial fly to have maximum gape of 8mm
- Prawn or shrimp may be fished in conjunction with a barbless hook with maximum gape of 8mm
- 2018 season (for salmon, sea trout and brown trout) starts 1st May 2018
- Above measures in force until 31st October 2018 unless revoked or changed by the EA.

For further details go to LDAC website news post of 1st November 2017 or call the EA on 03708 506506.

Committee Vacancies

There are several vacancies on the Committee at present.

We are looking for committed club members to assist in running the Club, with skills needed ranging from managing the website to organising work parties and representing the Club at external meetings. We would be particularly interested in hearing from younger members in an effort to build some long-term resilience into the Committee!

Please do get in touch with Rob Williams if you think you can help.

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

Conservation & Hatchery News:

Fowey Hatchery

The Colliford Hatchery has successfully completed its first year of operation. Following negotiations with SWW and approvals from the EA the FRA entered into a 5-year contract to provide hatchery services to SWW. With funding secured a hatchery manager was appointed, volunteers recruited and equipment purchased and

installed. The hatchery was operational by October 2016 and following sterling efforts by Jon Hake and others the necessary brood stock were caught and by the new year 40,000 fertilized eggs were laid down. During the spring new chiller systems were installed to maintain low water temperatures and the team successfully reared 27,000 fry, which were released into 19 sites along the St Neot River in September 2017.

With the briefest of pauses the hatchery was then re-configured to accept this seasons brood stock and at the time of writing 10 hen and 10 cock fish are now in residence. Year two has begun.....

None of this could have been possible without teamwork...the financial support of SWW is key, the efforts of the hatchery manager (R Grieve), J Ruscombe King and the indispensable team of volunteers are essential. We must thank the EA for their support and approvals in making the operation successful. Finally the FRA must be recognised for their vision, their efforts in successfully negotiating with all the parties and their continued commitment to making the hatchery a success.

You can follow the hatchery on facebook ([facebook.com/colliford](https://www.facebook.com/colliford)) and if you would like to volunteer then call the hatchery on 07775 526551. You can also read all about the hatchery in this month's ***Trout and Salmon*** magazine.

Lynher Hatchery: 2017

This year has proved a far more successful breeding cycle for the hatchery after two years of problems with high water temperatures impacting on brood stock survival and limiting egg stripping.

Agreement was given by the EA for later brood stock collection, and this, together with lower water temperatures saw some 42,000 eggs obtained, and eventually approximately 30,000 fry successfully reared and stocked to the river, 15,000 swim up and 15,000 reared on and autumn stocked.

The Lynher hatchery runs on a totally voluntary basis - keeping running costs to a minimum. The main overhead is electricity for pumping, some £1400 per year; the total cost of the hatchery being £2500 per annum. This, of course, excludes any necessary

capital purchases for equipment. This equates to a production cost of 8p per fry stocked, thanks largely to the non-payment of any wages/volunteer costs.

The EA have again sanctioned later brood stock collection for winter 2017, an exercise that is well advanced, thanks principally to the efforts of Graham and Jon Hake.

We are optimistic about 2017/18 and believe we will see a further successful cycle this winter.

A number of improvements have also been made to the hatchery, which will make operations easier during the egg development stages.

We remain grateful to our small number of dedicated volunteers and would welcome talking with any member interested in being involved.

We must also thank Nick Lintott who has provided the hatchery site and gives much important day-to-day support.

Financially the hatchery survives only through the generous support of the Liskeard & District Angling Club and our other major donor, Sir John Nott. This financial support, together with individual contributions from members of the Lynher Association is vital in keeping the hatchery open.

Arthur White.

Treworkey Sanctuary improvements

Following the purchase of the Treworkey sanctuary by FRA in 2017 there is a concerted effort by a dedicated team to manage this area for the benefit of all anglers of the river Fowey.

The work, led by Chris Janes, needs dedicated and reliable volunteers to join the small team on a limited number of Sundays each summer. For further details contact Chris directly on 07826 242589.

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 Salmon release rate: 2 in 3 (66%) Please release all sea trout in September Please release all sea trout over 23"

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
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Catch Limits 1 Salmon per day, 2 Salmon per week
5 Salmon per year
4 Sea trout per day

River Camel

Season dates Sea Trout: 1st May – 30th September
Salmon: 1st May – 15th December

Catch Limits **See EA EMERGENCY BYE-LAW for further details.**

Important

LDAC at all times subscribes to the All Cornwall Limit on game fishing and any member's aggregate totals for fish caught across the county should never exceed these quotas. See Rule 17 on your season ticket for further details.

Website update

You can download new 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.

Trip Report: VENEZUELA – Bones and Tarpon

Sunday 30th April 23.00 hrs, Glynn Valley: Car loaded, passports and tickets checked (again) and finally the two of us are off to Heathrow Terminal 4 for the very early flight to Paris and then on to Caracas, Venezuela for a fishing trip *extraordinaire*.

Having discovered the delights of Venezuelan bone fishing just the year before it's a return trip for one of us to Los Roques, a national park some 130km off the north coast of Venezuela. The other is about to discover what this all about...covering over 350 islands, cays and islets it is a national park like no other.....full of specimen bone fish to 13lbs, tarpon to 200lbs and schools of hunting jacks, barracuda and wahoo. 100% catch and release too!

And with just 1,500 inhabitants located mainly on the principal island of Gran Roques, with no natural fresh water supply and no running hot water, it is about as back to nature as you can get.

No Hyatt here! Just fish on steroids.

Monday 1st May 15.30 hrs local time, Maquieta airport, Caracas Venezuela: After an uneventful flight the inevitable reality of Venezuela strikes home. One of us skips through immigration and customs...the other is not so lucky. One hour later, and surprisingly still in possession of all his dollars he emerges unscathed into the arrivals hall. Companion

found, travel rep still AWOL, transport hastily (re) arranged and we are off to the beachside hotel for our overnight stay in Maquieta. No bravado late night clubbing here, just a beer and a meal behind our safe hotel wall and its off to bed before the early (05.00hrs) ride back to Terminal Nacional.

Tuesday 2nd May; 06.00hrs: Waiting at the Conviasa check in desk: 2 gringos with fishing tackle stick out like sore thumbs in the teeming domestic terminal. So much so that the local FNB militia single us out. Passports seized, questions asked and an invitation to their security office follow. Such joy. Is this why Venezuela is so "Venezuelan?" Help arrives in the form of a Venezuelan couple who decide that these 2 gringos are not going to have to pay that special FNB *quiet-life* tax.....and then even more cavalry arrive in the form of Greisy, our larger than life travel rep who we were hoping to meet yesterday. After a few phone calls (to whom?) and some rather loud discussions we are reunited with our passports and she hustles us off to the other domestic terminal – Terminal Auxiliaire. A haven of peace, private jets and hot coffee. We have (almost) arrived!!

10.00 hrs: Posada Via Naturela, Gran Roques: Sitting at the table in the dining area, wolfing down eggs and coffee. Safely in despite an aborted landing due to a pet Labrador going for a walk down the centre of the short bumpy runway as we came in on final approach.....Oswaldo, our guide met us at the airport runway, purchased our fishing permits (\$10.00 very well spent) and we enter the National Park for 9 days of fishing heaven.

11.30hrs: On The Flats: We are both into our first bonefish of the day. After a 30-minute ride out in our *penero* and a quick shuffle through the fly box Oswaldo has us hunting down the ghosts of Los Roques. Dark shadows just discernible on the brilliant white flats, tailing in 12" of water 20m away as they look for crab and shrimp...There's nothing quite like it. Almost reminiscent of dry fly fishing for a trout on the Test *except* these are totally wild, probably never fished for before and with no river boundaries to constrain their runs. But there's the hot wind in your face, the sun beating down, sweat pouring off you and a brilliant 360 degree view of nothing but sub tropical seas. This is clearly not Hampshire.

The line tightens and the rod bends as a fish takes. Must remember to gently hold the taking fish momentarily to set the hook, then feed that loose line out against its initial run making sure that the line, as it rips

out, does not loop around the handle. But it does (*of course*)...it all goes tight in a split second and *ping*....13lb fluorocarbon breaks like cotton.

One nil to the bones!!

Move on, look for another fish, cast.....Oswaldo issuing instructions in your ear...."**over there 20m, see him?**". You see nothing but cast to his instructions. "**More line, another 3m, wait, wait, strip, strip, strip.....got him!**"

He's on. He stays on this time.

He makes a 40m run, taking the fly line out and into the backing, non-stop. Then he finally pauses, you play him and eventually he lies on his side by you, 4lbs of bright silver, a small size 6 bitter fly in the corner of his rubber-like lips, fin perfect.



A quick photo, a shake of the wrist to release the fly and he's away. Just 10' out and he's disappeared against the milky white sand and ripples. Was he ever there?

This is surely angling paradise. And there's 9 days of it to perfect your casting into the wind, sight casting to almost invisible fish. Unstoppable fish runs that can take 100m of line, snapping hooks, losing fish, sunburnt ears and salt spray everywhere.

Bring it on.....The days merge into a bone fishing extravaganza. The sport is truly amazing. We catch up to 20 fish a day. Each one hard caught, losing many more and learning all the time how to cover them better, how to see them easier...and where the bigger one lies. Best so far 6lbs; magnificent stuff.

Day 5: Tarpon time: Time for a change of pace and as they say, something completely different.

The new 30lb test curve 7' boat rod and Shimano 12000 OC reel are unleashed for the first time. 300m of 50lb braid, a 44lb fluorocarbon leader straight onto a size 2 hook. A lip hooked Los Roques minnow weighing a couple of grams and its tarpon time.

Oswaldo is looking into the blue water under the boat, watching the big tarpon hunting. These are not the 30-40lbbers we were casting a fly to yesterday...these are their parents.

We wait, perhaps a half-hour, perhaps more. Then all of a sudden the line slowly tightens in your fingers, the rod bends and Oswaldo shouts to set the hook. This you need to do...really hard!

And then all hell breaks loose. 120lbs of tarpon explodes out of the water 20' from the boat. All the way out. Turning, twisting, angry as hell! Will he stay on? Of course he won't.....'**Gone in Thirty Seconds**'.

I remember last year, losing four big fish, one after the other. Desperate stuff. The last of them stripped 300m of braid off the reel until it was empty. Then one last lunge somewhere out in the deep and he was gone. Will I be luckier this year?

I am, an hour later the rod is bent into a fish that dreams are made of. Water poured onto the reel to keep it cool (that only happens in films doesn't it?) and a fight for line.... 10' for me then 20' for the fish. It goes on for an hour like this until.....



....the fish finally surfaces, rolls comes to the boat, and yes.....*"We Need a Bigger Boat!"*

We gently guide him to shallow water with the boat. Oswaldo is out in a moment, cradling the biggest fish I have ever caught! I join him and we both hold onto it, photograph it and then wait as both angler and fish recover. Finally it kicks, turns and swims strongly away into the deeper blue water. 170lbs of shimmering fin perfect silver. Scales the size of dinner plates. The biggest herring I will ever see.

I call it quits...time for a *cerveza!*

Epilogue: We got back home after nearly 2 weeks away. Sun burnt, full of stories, photos of beautiful fish and memories of a lifetime. Fish of a lifetime, too....

A final word of warning: Its addictive, really addictive.

And yes, the flights are already booked for May 2018.

"Otro vez para me por favor!"

P Jordan

IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Month	Time/Event	Details
JANUARY 14th January 21st January 28th January	Lynher Working Party Lynher Working Party Lynher Working Party	Measham Dogleg Wotton
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 2017</i>
FEBRUARY 11th February 13th February 18th February 25th February	Fowey Working Party LDAC AGM Fowey Working Party Fowey Working Party	Ashford Bridge Constitution Club, 9 Market Street, Liskeard, PL14 3JH Lewarne, meet Bodithiel Bridge Wheelpit
MARCH 1st March 3rd March	Lynher/Inny Lynher/Inny	Salmon season opens Sea Trout season opens
APRIL 1st April 11th 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
SEPTEMBER 30th September 30th Sept	Fowey/Seaton/W Looe Lynher/Inny/Camel	Sea Trout season closes Sea Trout season closes
OCTOBER 14th October 31st October	Lynher/Inny Camel	Salmon season closes Emergency bye law ends
DECEMBER 15th December 15th December	Fowey/Seaton/W Looe Camel	Salmon season closes Salmon season closes

STOP PRESS..... FISHING on WEST LOOE RIVER

Following the recent sale of the Mill at Sowdens Bridge LDAC members no longer have access to the short stretch of the RHB of the West Looe River *downstream* of Sowdens Bridge. Please ensure you note this change. All ***fishing now stops at the bridge***. We will try to contact the new owners in the New Year and negotiate fishing but until further notice the bottom end of Beat 20 is now at the bridge.

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 (secretery@ldac.org.uk)

- | | | |
|----|---|------------------------|
| 1. | Member's Name
Address | Membership No. |
| | or your email address | |
| 2. | Catch details
Date
River
Species | Time
Beat
Weight |
| | Measurements (if weight not known)
Length (cm) | Girth (cm) |
| | Catch method (delete as applicable) | Fly / Spinner / Worm |
| 3. | Witness (if available)
Name | Membership No. |