



December 2022



A HAPPY CHRISTMAS TO ALL OUR MEMBERS

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1. Ticket prices

The Committee, having considered the financial position of the Club and the cost of fishing rentals, decided that subscriptions must increase by £5.00 across the board in 2023. This increase will not cover inflation but should be sufficient to keep the Club at a break-even point.

Full Membership (March - November 2023)

Adult	£110.00
Registered disabled	£95.00
Junior (up to 17 year)	£25.00
Life membership (after 3 years membership)	£1,375.00
Joining fee for new members	£25.00
New members under 17 years- 1st year	£ FREE

Weekly Visitor Tickets

Adult £80.00 Junior £25.00

Day Visitor Tickets

Adults £30.00 Junior £17.50

PLEASE SEND YOUR Application Form, Subscriptions and Catch Return (with a SAE) directly to Trevor Sobey, (Honorary Treasurer), Higher Trevartha

Farm, Pengover, Liskeard, PL14 3NJ; before 1st April 2023 or attend the AGM in person on 10th February 2023.

Please note that members who do not renew before 1st April 2023 will be required to pay the Club joining fee again.

2. AGM Invitation

All current members are invited to attend the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Liskeard and District Angling Club on 10th February 2023 – starting at 19:30hrs - Constitutional Club, 9 Market St, Liskeard, PL14 3JH - in the upstairs meeting room.

Pay your subscriptions, hand in your catch return and then collect your 2023 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 this time?

3. 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. The current trophy holders are listed below.

	2022 Holder	All Time Record
Salmon	J Drew 11 1/2lb	J Hawken 28lb 0oz
Sea Trout	J Drew 6lb 0oz	A Bruce 21lb 0oz
Brown Trout	J Drew 3lb 0oz	G Hake 4lb 1oz
Lynher	K Sobey	
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 2022.

4. Sustaining fishing stocks

Good news once again. From catch returns all our members have showed great support for sustaining our fish stocks and all reported meeting our catch/release targets.

There are therefore ***no*** new measures being implemented by the Club for the 2023 season. However, current rules and regulations remain in force and members are kindly reminded of the importance of adhering to all of them to secure the future of our fishing. A copy of the rules is enclosed with your newsletter.

A copy of all the rivers' rules can also be found on the LDAC website or contact the Secretary if you need a paper copy.

Failure to adhere to them will regrettably result in loss of all your membership privileges.

5. Lost and Found

Don't forget to contact the Honorary 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.

6. Work Party changes

All members are encouraged to keep bankside pathways clear as they fish through our various beats by careful clearing and removal of obstacles such as fallen branches. If any areas need additional resources the details can be emailed to the sec@ldac.org.uk. These will then be reviewed and dealt with by *ad hoc* work parties that are organised for such areas. It is expected that by giving the membership ownership of identifying problem areas more useful accessibility will be created.

In this regard it was reported that significant log-jams have developed below Golitha Falls. The Committee have investigated and recognise that there is a major problem in this area. Resolving them is not simple. Remote access, necessary equipment and labour needed to be considered but we are pleased to report that

- The FRA have agreed that they will fund work by WRT to clear the log jams.
- A site visit between WRT and LDAC took place in November and a work plan agreed.

We therefore hope that, subject to river conditions, the log-jams will be cleared by the start of the new season.

Don't forget that if you want to help on any of our rivers send your email address to our committee member Jon Hake who has kindly offered to co-ordinate such work; his email is jonhake@hotmail.co.uk

7. Chairman's Report

This season has again proved to be a difficult one with river levels in general having been extremely low throughout the late spring and summer.

The long dry spell has now been followed by high river levels and a late fall of leaves which have been equally challenging to anglers. Fish runs have again been disappointing with sea trout numbers being worryingly low across all our rivers. The low oxygen levels meant that any fish that were present became less active and reluctant to rise to any fly or lure. Sea trout are the "bread and butter" of our fishing here in Cornwall and it is concerning that many of our members now find it extremely difficult to achieve any fishing success during the summer months. The decline in sea trout numbers has only occurred in the last couple of years and we can only hope that it is a temporary blip and that runs will improve again in time. On a positive note the Fowey Rivers Association have agreed to fund work to enhance the productivity of the Draynes Spawning Sanctuary, this will be undertaken by West Country Rivers Trust and will be done on a rolling programme over the next five years.

It is a fact that for many years young anglers have not been coming into the sport in any number and with a dwindling membership the club faces real challenges, the Committee will no doubt need to make some difficult decisions going forward. We have already negotiated lower rents with most of our landlords in recent years and whilst we have increased our subscription by a modest amount it may not be enough to meet our on-going liabilities. Therefore, with twenty plus miles of fishing, most of which is rented, it may be that in the future the club will need to drop some of our less fished beats and concentrate on the more productive stretches. Whilst we

hope that this will not be necessary, it remains a possibility.

Encouragingly, there was a very good run of large spring salmon from April through to June on both the Fowey and Lynher, and fish between 9lb and 14lb were caught and safely released. Even when river levels dropped some very large fish were still seen traveling through the middle and upper stretches of the Fowey in particular.

Many of us that remember the old "*winter run*" that the Fowey was so famous for are led to think that perhaps the mild temperatures during recent winters has caused these fish to run later; who knows? Whatever the reason it is good to know that spring fish appear to be increasing in numbers.

This increase is also due to the hatcheries that continue to supplement the natural stock and our thanks must go to all those involved in the *day-to-day* running and to those anglers who work hard to catch the necessary brood-stock. There are hatchery reports included in this newsletter.

On a more personal note, I have decided that, due to on-going health issues I need to reduce my external commitments and spend more time with my wife and family. For this reason I have reluctantly decided not to seek re-election to the Committee at the next AGM.

I have been a member of LDAC for some fifty years, served on the committee for close to twenty, and for the last eleven years have had the honour of being the Club Chairman; a role which I have found both enjoyable and rewarding.

It has been a great privilege to represent the club and to have worked with such a wonderful group of people. I

would like to thank all the members of the Committee most sincerely for their commitment, friendship and support during my tenure.

I have always believed that our Club offers some of the best sea trout and salmon fishing in the southwest and, thanks to the dedication of the members of your Committee, it will survive the challenges that lie ahead.

I will, of course, remain a member of the Club and give my full support in any way I can. I wish the committee every success for the future, and I know that they will continue to work with your best interests at heart.

I would again like to thank our Secretary, Paul Jordan for all his hard work in compiling this excellent Newsletter.

I would also like to wish you all a Merry Xmas and a Happy & Healthy New Year, one which will hopefully bring better fishing conditions,

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

Rob Williams

8. Secretary's report

I was hoping that 2022 would be a quiet year when I could settle down to some uninterrupted fishing. How wrong was I.....

The AGM came and went. The early rains came and went. I went on the fishing trip of a lifetime in the Seychelles late March.

I came back for a week, salt-water fly tackle was repaired and cleaned, river tackle taken out and all was looking good. UNTIL three things happened.

Event I (River Fowey)

We awoke one April morning to find a large Mercedes SUV had decided to park itself upside down in LDAC water overnight. Crashing through the barrier on the A38, then through a fence, a flip upside down and a 20' drop...There it sat semi-submerged, doors ajar, no sign of a driver or occupants.

As riparian owners we waited to be contacted by Devon and Cornwall Police with details.....nothing was forthcoming! Complete radio silence.

So, donning both *Trustee and Secretarial Hat* I duly called 101 to report the accident. It seemed the Police were aware and that about summed it up. Aware, disinterested and worst of all un-willing to provide any details of the owner or insurance details because of GDPR...I pointed out that it was on our property, causing damage, potential pollution and it needed to be removed.

Reaction: Nothing. Could they provide advice? Nope.

Where to next I wondered.

“Aha, I thought, I will call the EA. They will surely do something”.

Reasoning given...diesel pollution, in-river obstacle, drinking water-supply, impact on environment.

Helpful chap took down the details and said the EA would look into it straight away. And nothing happened.

With zero progress more follow-up phone calls with the EA. “When would the EA arrange for it to be removed,” I innocently asked.

“Not our problem” they said, “it is down to the owners’ Insurance Company to remove it”.

“But who were they?” I asked.

“Don’t know” said the EA. And that was that.

A week of night closures on the A38 by Highways England followed within the next fortnight. They duly replaced the broken barrier and fence roadside but left the SUV in the river...making it even more difficult to get out. Obviously not their problem either.

“Hmmm. What next?” I wondered.

Two more weeks and many phone calls later (to D&C Police and EA pointing out it was *still* there) I finally resorted to Fish Legal through our Angling Trust membership.

Result: an Organisation that cared. They were truly excellent.

Solicitor immediately assigned to the case, much advice given.....best of all the hint that going public might give the EA a nudge.

So I did and a draft EA press release appeared within minutes. EA investigation begins, resource applied, the SUV owner located and visited, the EA called the Insurance Company. A date for removal booked. Real progress. No GDPR problems there.

After 9 frustrating weeks the long awaited call finally came in from the EA..... *"The insurance Company has called to tell us it's gone".* Would LDAC send a member down to check?" We did.

And guess what? Still there.

"Oops, sorry", said the Insurance Company. "Our computer file says it's gone. We will make a call to find out what's happening."

11 weeks it finally took and here is that final moment for you all to savour.....



Event II (River Fowey again)

So then there was time to go fishing, except by now there was no water. As the summer progressed it was clear that this was going to be a very, very dry year with very, very few fish in our river(s).

So, focussing efforts elsewhere, it was time to gird the loins and see what Cornwall-IFCA had been doing. Remember that consultation in late 2021? The one where we all reluctantly agreed to some (weak) netting restrictions to protect stocks around Cornwall? *“Something being better than nothing”* was the logic in agreeing to it?

Well, at the June 2022 C-IFCA meeting that changed again. The Commercial Fisherman had been lobbying behind the scenes and so C-IFCA decided to water it down even further. Three already agreed exclusion areas were then released back to the nets, two of which are at the mouth of the Fowey in St Austell Bay. Were any of the outstanding angling concerns addressed at that meeting...not one.

And then they all voted it in. It duly went off to DEFRA and MMO for final approval in late June. As I sit here writing this newsletter in late November guess what? Nothing has been approved. Nothing.

So with the lowest water levels on record in the Fowey (-44% in September according to the EA) the Fowey fish are probably still cruising around St Austell's Bay, dodging the nets and, of course, definitely not being caught by the boats.

So no netting protection in place for yet another year. Will it ever happen we ask?

And, as they say, things always come in three's....

Event III (River Fowey AGAIN)

To end a *“perfect”* year on the River Fowey late September saw the announcement that SWW were going

to apply for a drought permit in the region due to low water levels at Colliford Reservoir.

How low was low? Well in late September it was down to 17% and during October it fell to an all time low of 13.4%. As the reservoir provides water supply for 65% of Cornwall this is a big issue.

SWW responded in the only way they could. A rather "*late-in-the-day*" hose-pipe ban appeared and multiple applications for drought permits sought from the EA, specifically in the Fowey catchment which, we all know, is already at a historic low.

There are of course considerable challenges for SWW.

With a customer base of just 500,000 residents in Cornwall, demand surges in the summer to over 2 million users. Additionally there is a plan to build 50,000 new homes in Cornwall in the next decade, all of which must connect to the SWW water supply. Add in thousands of hot tubs (each using a weeks water for one person) at holiday rentals and AirBNB across the County - all being refilled once a week on *change-over* day and we start to see what the problem is.

And one simple solution. Take more water out of the river(s).

A series of intense closed consultations took place (throughout October and into early November) between SWW and various stakeholders. LDAC was one of those.

The consultations culminated in three local angling/river groups formally objecting to the EA about the initial SWW Fowey drought permit (R1); which would see incremental volumes abstracted from the already low Fowey to back-fill Colliford for 6 months. The impact of these valid

objections would have forced a public inquiry, delaying the start of implementation of any drought measures.

Areas of objection included incremental abstracted volumes, monitoring methods and mitigations should the abstraction impact on salmonids/smolts returning to sea or impact migration upriver. Of particular concern was the possibility that the fish pass/counter at Restormel waterworks would be impassable at artificially lowered water levels.

A closed meeting followed with SWW Directors and FRA/LDAC/RAL representatives. We identified key areas for improvement and areas of necessary fishery support.

Agreement was reached on reducing abstraction at certain times, funding for improving efficiency of sanctuary areas and spawning beds, additional hatchery support and enhanced monitoring and reporting by both the EA and SWW in real time.

With these matters resolved the objections were formally dropped and the drought permit (R1) was approved by the EA in early November. Additional abstraction is now occurring at Restormel and this will continue until April 2023. Whilst this will not directly impact river levels above the Waterworks there will be reduced flow in the lower reaches and spates will be topped, reducing the size and frequency of natural freshets reaching the estuary. These are, of course, important in stimulating migrating fish to enter the river. They also help in sending smolts out to sea.

Meanwhile there are still no C-IFCA netting protections in the estuary. Do we have the makings of a perfect storm?

Following on from R1, further closed consultations have also now taken place as additional drought permit applications were drawn up for

- Hawks Tor; where 12.5m depth of water is now being pumped to Colliford Reservoir, impacting the headwaters of the Warleggan. To compensate water is now also being pumped directly into the Warleggan from Hawks Tor. This compensation flow is likely to have to continue into Summer 2023 as Hawks Tor slowly refills naturally.
- Additional Park Pit abstraction is also taking place, but this should not impact the Trenant Stream.
- Abstraction rates at Restormel have also been raised at Restormel (Permit R2) should river flows exceed a set level.

On a single positive note I am pleased to be able to report that through this difficult period a good working relationship has been developed with SWW. They are now acutely aware of the needs of the river and, as we progress through to April 2023, regular fortnightly meetings are occurring to monitor impact and agree actions relating to our fishery.

After all of the forgoing it seems less pressing to reflect on the usual comings and goings of the club. But here it is anyway...

The Committee met regularly in-person this year and attendance was good. However, I note that we will be down at least 2 Committee members next year and we welcome applications for these vacancies ahead of the AGM. Please contact the Secretary if you wish to stand for election.

2021 season catch return summary

The season saw a small decrease in the total of rod-caught salmon year-on-year, dropping from 96 in 2020 to 88 in 2021 (a drop of 9%).

Sea trout catches however dropped catastrophically, falling from 311 (in 2020) to just 102 in 2021, (a drop of 67%). This is the lowest recorded number of sea trout caught on LDAC waters since catch returns began to be recorded in 1994.

On a river-by-river basis the Fowey fared better than the Lynher with overall number of rod-caught salmon (58 versus the 62 taken in 2020, down 7.5%); the river produced just 76 sea trout in 2021, compared to 218 in 2020, down 66%. Catch and release figures show 100% for salmon and 97% for sea trout on the River Fowey.

The Lynher saw very similar trends; salmon numbers fell from 33 (in 2020) to 28 in 2021, down 15%. Sea trout numbers fell from 85 (in 2020) to 17 in 2021, a drop of 80%. Catch and release figures show 100% for both salmon and sea trout in the Lynher.

Our minor rivers (Seaton, West Looe, Inny) saw little or no reduction in numbers caught and all reported 100% catch/release.

Whilst it is too early to speculate on how the 2022 season has been, anecdotal evidence seems to reflect a fair run of salmon occurred early on but there has been a marked absence of sea trout in both the Fowey and Lynher. Numbers seem to be significantly lower than our worst year on record, and that, of course, was just last year.

Some members are even reporting that they have caught more salmon than sea trout this year.

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

Remember: If we don't have your (latest) email address we cannot contact you - so please do send it to us as you read this newsletter. Email your address NOW to sec@ldac.org.uk.

Paul Jordan.

9. Treasurer's Report

2022 has once again been a very challenging year for the Club financially.

Our income is solely reliant on membership numbers and we have seen these at the historically low level of 106 adult members this year.

Anticipating the future, and seeing a consistently *low* membership number for several years we once again need to raise income levels to allow the Club to break even in 2023.

For 2023 the Committee has therefore increased all subscription categories by £5.00.

Adult subscriptions will therefore rise to £110.00 pa and Disabled subscriptions will rise to £95.00 pa.

All other rates will see the same increase of £5.00. See *Ticket Prices* Section earlier in this newsletter for further details.

Renewal subscriptions must be received by the 1st of April 2023 to ensure we have sufficient cash-flow to operate the Club effectively. Failure to do so will mean that late returning members will again be liable for paying the full (re) joining fee, now set at £25.00.

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 mandatory catch returns to enable their season ticket to be sent out for 2023.

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

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

Trevor Sobey

Fishing Mayhem are the LDAC sole ticket agents.

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.

10. Conservation & Hatchery News

Fowey Hatchery (Colliford)

Water quality, drought and high water temperatures are the key words to describe 2022.

The 2021-22 programme started off well with good fishing conditions to catch brood-stock, and a really healthy spread of fish coming from the bottom and middle of the river.

The winter was dry, so stripping fish and starting the programme was comfortable up at Colliford, where the weather can be very inhospitable at times.

Little did we know that this would be the root of the problem with the reservoir not filling and the demand for water spiralling out of control during the year. Drought conditions could clearly be seen coming.

As a result our water supply started being drawn from levels in the reservoir that had been undisturbed for decades and the quality of this was questionable at times.

Notwithstanding we managed to raise a really nice set of fish, fin-clipping 10,000 and stocking out the full 40,000 in the usual manner.

We are now watching heavy rainfall. This, along with the increased abstraction at Resormel means that Colliford reservoir is slowly refilling and our water quality is improving each day.

Because of the low water conditions this summer our brood-stock collecting has been slow. Ironically, we are also turning away a really healthy number of returning fin-

clipped adults; these are not allowed as brood-stock. However they do attest to the success of our hatchery efforts.

Please do follow the hatchery on Facebook and many thanks to all the LDAC members who keep in contact and donate fish.

Reminder – The Environment Agency are going to judge the success of the Hatchery based on fin-clipped fish caught. While this is somewhat flawed – it remains imperative that anglers should download and complete the FRA/EA Form each time a fin-clipped fish is caught at: <https://bit.ly/38RzofO>

Richard Grieve

Lynher Hatchery

Fortunately we were successful in obtaining our full quota of brood fish by December 2021 and we were able to strip almost 50,000 eggs. These began to hatch in February 2022 after minimal losses.

18,400 pre swim-up-fry were stocked into artificial redds in April with the remainder reared on during the spring and summer of 2022.

By early September these had grown on well and were stocked to the river in numerous locations, with a total for the year of 44,400.

Despite low water conditions throughout the rearing period no major problems were experienced, and we achieved an excellent result of 89% of eggs stripped being stocked to the river as fry at various growth stages.

During the year West Country River Trust carried out the first widespread fry sampling on the Lynher, and whilst full results are still awaited, indications are of extremely good fry numbers in virtually all sampled locations.

As we are not permitted to fin clip we are unable to prove the good results are down to the hatchery, but we feel we must be having a positive impact on future stocks.

As in previous years we remain grateful to the efforts of Nick Lintott who has provided our hatchery site, Graham and Jon Hake for their ongoing efforts from brood stock capture right through to fry release.

In addition thanks are offered to all our donors, including the Club, without whom we could not operate as we have no commercial support for the project.

Financially we have a deficit for the year of about £250, but this is after purchasing all our feed for next year, salt supplies for about 3 years, Formalin40 stock, plus a reserve pump, so are fairly well placed for the new year.

On hatchery expenditure of approximately £2,300 our stocked fry cost was just over 5 pence per fish.

Without any foresight we also fixed our electricity costs in 2021 for a further 3 years; which will prove a blessing as we have to continuously pump all our water supply.

2022 has given us fresh encouragement, and brood stock collection is already well advanced for the next year's progeny.

Arthur White

Make a note of this important number on your mobile phone now:

EA incident hotline 0800 80 70 60

11. 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.idac.org.uk**

12. 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 Seaton

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

River Inny

Season dates Sea Trout: 3rd March – 31st August

Salmon: 1st March – 14th October

River West Looe

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

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

Hon Secretary
Lower Hollycombe, Drift Lane
Twowatersfoot, Liskeard
Cornwall, PL14 6HH

Email: sec@ldac.org.uk

