



December 2024



A HAPPY CHRISTMAS TO ALL OUR MEMBERS

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1. Ticket prices

The Committee are pleased to advise that our subscription prices for 2025 will remain at the same level as last year.

Full Membership (March - November 2025)

Adult	£115.00
Registered disabled	£100.00
Junior (up to 17 year)	£25.00
Joining fee for new members	£25.00
New members under 17 years- 1st year	£ FREE

Weekly Visitor Tickets

Adult £90.00 Junior £25.00

Day Visitor Tickets

Adults £40.00 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 2025 or attend the AGM in person on 21st February 2025.

Please note that any members who do not renew before 1st April 2025 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 21st February 2025 – 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 collect your 2025 season ticket, hear about the club's news, (possibly) win a prize in the raffle, 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.

	2024 Holder		All Time Record	
Salmon	J Hake	16lb	J Hawken	28lb 0oz
Sea Trout	J Hake	8lb	A Bruce	21lb 0oz
Brown Trout	C Pearson	2lb	G Hake	4lb 1oz
Lynher	D Paine			
Junior	H Davy			

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 2024.

4. Sustaining fishing stocks

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

LDAC reached 100% catch/release for both salmon and sea trout in 2023.

Because of this, and with the observed change in sea trout migration habits the FRA has relaxed the voluntary termination of the sea trout season at end August. Members, if they wish, are now free to fish on for sea trout until the end of September. Please note that we do ask that all September caught sea trout be returned to the river.

All other 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 all the rivers' rules can 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

We continue to encourage all members to keep bankside pathways clear as they fish through our various beats by careful clearing and removal of obstacles such as fallen branches. This is especially important on the less well used beats (eg West Looe) where vegetation growth can impede access to the river.

If any areas need additional resources 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.

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

7. Chairman's Report

It has been another disappointing year with hard work needed to see or catch fish. Sea trout counter numbers seem to be slightly up on the very low numbers of last

year, but salmon numbers appear down. Let's hope it's just a blip.

But with the very low numbers seen in 2023 there is clearly much to do on the national and international scene if our salmonids are to be returned to previous healthy stock levels.

We know rod anglers do more than their fair share: so whether it comes to sustaining stocks with excellent catch/release records, or working in the river, volunteering at hatcheries or attending interminable meetings we all do more than do our bit.

It really is time that 'others' did their bit too... and delivered.

Notwithstanding the paucity of fish, I hope a lot of you did find a fish or two.

We had much better river levels this year with a very damp summer; good for both SWW and migration of those few fish that managed to get back to our rivers.

Both the Fowey and Lynher rivers' had fry surveys during 2024 resulting in some with some good and some *not so good* locations. Certainly the results for the Lynher seem to indicate that things are improving.....a good bit of evidence for the positive impact a hatchery can have.

Most of the main rivers in Devon and further afield are now campaigning for a hatchery, so we are very lucky to have one on both of our main Rivers. See the Hatchery reports later in this newsletter to catch up on their performances.

Small teams have been very active during the summer clearing trees from paths and in river, also strimming paths on our main beats to keep them accessible for fishing.

Unfortunately, our smaller rivers get a bit neglected, so if you could trim or clear some paths whilst out fishing please do so. For those already doing so **“Thank you!”**

We are hopeful that we will be able to keep all our fishing but to do so we need members; so **“Thank You”** in advance for renewing your membership and if you have any friends and family that would like to join, please encourage them.

My thanks also go out to the Committee. Without them running things behind the scenes there would, of course, be no fishing.

Finally I hope to see many of you both at our AGM and thereafter on the river-bank.

Tight lines, Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Jon Hake

8. Secretary's report

Rain came in buckets through most of the year and as a result no drought measures were proposed by SWW. The rivers looked to be in good order throughout the year and conditions were ideal for salmonid migration.

Disappointingly the spring run of sea trout and salmon failed to materialise and even the most hardened of anglers were frustrated by an almost complete lack of

fish. A breakdown in the EA counter at Restormel early in the year prevented us confirming what all anglers could see, no fish. However, now repaired the counter numbers have remained stubbornly low.

We know that this was not because of in-river impediments so one must look further afield for the problem.

As ever there appears to have been no improvement in the policing of nets offshore. There certainly have been no reported prosecutions or net seizures by IFCA/EA regarding salmonid poaching.

Further afield netting on the high seas for salmon remains a serious issue. In this regard SWRA proposed a new initiative to protect southwest salmon stocks. In essence SWRA were suggesting support for a new EA (mandatory) bye-law requiring 100% catch/release salmon in return for which the EA would approve the setting up and operation of a number of new hatcheries in Devon. Additionally they proposed southwest anglers pay additional funds into a salmon protection fund, which could then be spent by the EA.

A consultative meeting on this took place in April 2024 as part of the 2024 SWRA AGM. Representatives of FRA and LDAC attended the meeting.

At the meeting it was noted that despite successful hatcheries already being operational in Cornwall and 100% voluntary catch/release being achieved not just for salmon, but also for sea trout, the 2024 run for ***both*** species had failed to materialise. Hatcheries and 100% catch/release are therefore clearly not a magic bullet on their own.

Furthermore, having witnessed the lack of effective implementation of the EA 2016 5-point salmon action plan there was little/no enthusiasm to accept any new bye-law.

It was agreed that the SWRA approach would change, no bye-law would be supported, but pressure would be brought to bear on DEFRA and the EA to improve national and international efforts to protect both **salmon and sea trout** in our estuaries and on the high seas.

Watch this space!

8.2 2023 Catch Return Report

The season saw a decrease in the total of rod-caught salmon *year-on-year*, dropping from 98 in 2022 to 84 in 2023 (a drop of 14%). Sea trout catches rose in 2023, from a record low of just 64 in 2022 to a (still) very low number of 89 in 2023; worryingly this 2023 number is the second worst on record despite it representing an increase of 40% *year-on-year*.

On a *river-by-river* basis the Fowey fared better than the Lynher but the news was not good. For the Fowey the overall number of rod-caught salmon fell (to 47) *versus* the 69 taken in 2022. This is down 32% *year-on-year*; and yet it still represents 56% of the total salmon catch for LDAC. The River Fowey also produced 59 sea trout in 2023, compared to the previous historic low of 57 in 2022, up just 3%.

Catch and release figures show 100% for both salmon and sea trout on the River Fowey.

The Lynher saw salmon catch numbers increase from 28 (in 2022) to 37 in 2023, an increase of 32% *year-on-year*. Sea trout numbers also rose from last years record low of 6 fish, but again to a still very poor total of just 12 fish (a 100% increase); again this number represents the second worst annual catch since records began.

Catch and release figures for the Lynher show 100% for both salmon and sea trout.

Minor rivers saw a small increase in sea trout numbers in 2023 but no salmon. The Inny produced 9 sea trout and the Seaton 7. The Camel produced just 2 sea trout. The West Looe reported no fish caught.

100% catch/release is also reported for our minor rivers.

8.3 Other Matters

The Committee met regularly this year (4 meetings) and attendance was good.

I note, however, that many of our current Committee members have been in post for over a decade now; In some cases for considerably longer.

This is simply not sustainable.

Further, and as reported at the last AGM, we need an Assistant Secretary to support and thereafter take over the Secretarial role for the future.

Clearly we urgently need fresh applications for both Committee membership and Officer posts.

Your club is 75 years old in 2025. With your involvement we can make it to 100!

Contact the Secretary now.

8.4 Keep in touch

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

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

2024 has once again been a very challenging year for the Club financially. Our income is solely reliant on membership numbers and I am pleased to be able to report this year that we have seen this increase, albeit by only 1. We therefore had 89 active members for 2024.

In order to encourage renewals and steady the membership roll the Committee has decided to hold subscriptions at the current levels. There will therefore be NO increase in annual, weekly or day tickets for the 2025 season.

See *Ticket Prices* Section earlier in this newsletter for full details.

Renewal subscriptions should be received by the 1st of April 2025 to ensure we have sufficient cash-flow to operate the Club effectively. Failure to do so will mean that late returning members will, unfortunately, be liable for paying the full (re) joining fee of £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 2025.

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

Trevor Sobey

Litter: As with all our beats, owned or leased, PLEASE take your litter home.

10. Conservation & Hatchery News

Fowey Hatchery (Colliford)

At the time of writing in late November we are in a unique position: one of still collecting a few remaining brood-stock but also stripping some of fish that we had in the hatchery. This was because, in the latter's case, the cold weather dropped the temperature in the holding tanks and the salmon decided it was winter-time!

October started off slowly with a few brood-stock being collected from lower river beats, but with rain they were spread throughout the catchment.

As is normal, LDAC are once again prolific donors of brood-stock. Thank you to members and Committee officers alike for their efforts.

Our target, is, as usual, 40,000 fish, all stocked into the Loveny (St Neot); but we are hopeful that in future years that the EA will permit us to stock more widely across the catchment.

Discussions have also been started over the concept of salmon “ranching” in the Fowey. This would entail keeping our juveniles back in the hatchery until they were smolts, giving the possibility of higher survival rates once in the river.

Finally I would sign-off by reporting on the number of fin-clipped fish that have been caught in the last few years – and again urge all LDAC anglers to report them using the form - <https://form.jotform.com/222064387756362> The EA monitor the performance of the Hatchery based on these fish reports – and we have had a growing number each year since the form launched in 2020. Many thanks again to everyone involved.

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

Richard Grieve

Lynher Hatchery

Following a challenging brood stock collection effort in late 2023 we obtained several good-sized hens, but there was a lack of cock fish. Those that we had these were stripped in December/January and just over 60,000 eggs obtained. This was a very good result - although we then had to alter our stocking strategy accordingly. Such high egg numbers necessitated a higher proportion (61%) being stocked out at pre swim-up stage into artificial redds in April and May of this year.

The remainder (23,000) were reared on until late Summer; a total stock for the year of over 55,000 was achieved. This represents an excellent egg-stripped/fry-stocked percentage of 92%.

2024 brood stock collection has gone well, differing from the previous year inasmuch as cocks now predominate and hen fish are generally smaller. They are all safely in the hatchery with stripping planned for mid-December.

The hatchery operated well during the year thanks to our volunteers, and apart from a pump replacement few operational difficulties arose.

Our annual CEFAS audit went off successfully and we anticipate visits from the EA and Angling Trust in the next few weeks.

We have also had a number of visits from other south-west rivers' interested in seeing our operation; in particular our water-cooling system which has eliminated abnormal fry development and reduced egg and fry losses. Whilst we have been happy to share what we have learned over the years it is clear that those river representatives who have visited soon realise that setting

up and running a hatchery is complex and not cheap to run!

Notwithstanding, operating cost were kept below our annual budget of £2,000.

In this regard hanks are due to all our donors, especially Nick Lintott, LDAC, Woodcock Syndicate and Andrew Davy Electrical who largely fund the operation. Of course, without our loyal band of volunteers none of this could happen, so many thanks to them. If you are interested in helping out please do get in touch as none of us are getting any younger!

Finally, the \$64,000 question.

Are we making a difference? Without a Lynher fish counter the success of the hatchery is impossible to fully quantify. However, in recent years we have found ample fish about when collecting brood stock, and I am pleased to be able to report that sport can be good.

One angler took five salmon in one day late this season, and another had both his first and second salmon from the Lynher on his only day's fishing this year....this after fishing the Lynher for 20 years without previous success.

So the feeling is certainly yes, we are making a difference. Those 2 anglers certainly think so!

Further information on the Lynher hatchery can be obtained from Arthur White, LDAC Chairman, or check it out on Facebook.

Arthur White

IMPORTANT

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.ldac.org.uk**

12. Season dates

River Fowey

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

River Lynher

Season dates Sea Trout: 3rd March – 30th September
 Salmon: 1st March – 14th October

River Seaton

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

River Camel

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

River Inny

Season dates Sea Trout: 3rd March – 30th September
Salmon: 1st March – 14th October

River West Looe

Season dates Sea Trout: 1st April – 30th September
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

