



December 2023



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 again in 2024. The increases will not cover inflation but should help to reduce the deficit that we experienced in 2023.

Full Membership (March - November 2024)

Adult	£115.00
Registered disabled	£100.00
Junior (up to 17 year)	£25.00
Life membership (after 3 years membership)	£1,437.50
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 2024 or attend the AGM in person on 16th February 2024.

Please note that any members who do not renew before 1st April 2024 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 16th February 2024 – 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 2024 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.

	2023 Holder		All Time Record
Salmon	J Darlington	12lb	J Hawken 28lb 0oz
Sea Trout	J Hake	7lb 8oz	A Bruce 21lb 0oz
Brown Trout	Not awarded		G Hake 4lb 1oz
Lynher	J Hake		
Junior	Not awarded		

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

We look forward to getting one from our Junior member Harry Davey; catching his first ever sea trout, a fresh run 2 pound fish on 31st July on the Measham Beat. Well done Harry!

Please note all entries must be received by 31st December 2023.

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 meeting our catch/release targets.

There are therefore no new measures being implemented by the Club for the 2024 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 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. If any areas need additional resources details can be emailed to the secretary@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 had developed below Golitha Falls, blocking migration pathways. They have now been removed utilising financial support from the FRA (www.riverfowey.org). This organisation has put in place a rolling 5-year programme with WRT to ensure access to the Draynes Sanctuary area is maintained. Utilising this programme WRT carried out the necessary work for LDAC and the migration pathway is fully open.

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

As another season draws to a close we can reflect on a season with decent water levels throughout the summer months.

Normally this would mean that members could catch a few sea trout and the odd salmon or grilse; but unfortunately the lack of sea trout in our rivers is becoming increasingly concerning.

Indeed in the past members caught more sea trout than salmon but recently it appears to be reversing trend.

There is widespread concern across the country about this decline in sea trout numbers but no one has the answers yet. Perhaps some effective at-sea protection from commercial fishing boats would help?

The Committee has been very active this year removing fallen trees and keeping paths clear. In this regard I was pleased to meet a member who complimented me on our housekeeping, stating how pleased he was to be in a Club that looked after the riverside so well.

As you will see from the Hatchery reports later in this newsletter there continue to be excellent releases of juvenile fish into both the Fowey and Lynher, which can only be good for the future of both rivers.

I hope our members were able to enjoy the better water conditions this year, and in this regard I share the best fishing advice I ever received

“....if you go often you will have more blank days but you will have more good days too....and you certainly won’t catch anything sitting at home.”

Finally I would like to thank all the Committee members who at very short notice turned out to fell 54 ash trees in Lewarne Woods, in dark wet and windy conditions during the last A38 night closure. A job well done!

Merry Xmas and a Happy New Year to all our members and I look forward to seeing you all at the AGM in February.

Jon Hake

8. Secretary's report

8.1 Abstraction on the Fowey

Despite the implementation of the SWW drought permits in winter 2022/spring 2023 the wet weather and efforts of SWW to identify and capture incremental supplies of water during 1Q 2023 meant that Colliford Reservoir was back up to acceptable levels during this summer. As a result no additional abstraction was necessary in the autumn of this year and the immediate threat of more drought permits has gone away.

However SWW advised that they would be looking to replace their current abstraction licence on the Fowey with a new one that would have increased their annual take of river water by 25%; this would clearly result in magnifying the already significant threats to migrating salmonids that the current abstraction levels create.

As part of the Fowey Fisheries Resource Group (FFRG) the Secretary requested EA data and EIR data from SWW pertaining to flows, abstraction and river levels.

Utilising this and after a few online research sessions it transpires that whilst the current (abstraction) licence allows for onset of abstraction *when* a volume of 1.207cumecs is maintained flowing over Restormel Weir into the estuary.

EA published research suggests that this should be set much higher, at 1.9 cumecs. Indeed through the Secretary's this is now formally recorded by the EA/FFRG.

Armed with this information SWW were then advised that any new abstraction licence which sought to increase annual abstraction volumes would be met with a legal challenge (utilising Fish Legal). The focus of the challenge would have been around lifting the abstraction threshold flow to the (now proven) 1.9 cumecs level before any increase in abstraction could occur

With the threat of being challenged SWW have retracted their application for a new licence and whilst we have no recourse to challenge the existing licence there is now no longer the threat of losing another 25% of the Fowey flow to SWW.

8.2 2022 Catch Return Report

The season saw an increase in the total of rod-caught salmon *year-on-year*, rising from 88 in 2021 to 98 in 2022 (a rise of 11%). However, sea trout catches dropped catastrophically again this year, falling from an already record low of just 102 to a worrying number of 64, (a further drop of 37%). This is again the lowest recorded number of sea trout caught on LDAC waters since catch returns began to be recorded in 1994 and is illustrating a

disturbingly steep decline in sea trout numbers in our rivers.

On a *river-by-river* basis the Fowey fared better than the Lynher with overall number of rod-caught salmon (69 versus the 58 taken in 2021, up 19%); the River Fowey however only producing 57 sea trout in 2022, compared to the previous historic low of 76 in 2021, down another 25%. Catch and release figures show 100% for salmon and 95% for sea trout on the River Fowey.

The Lynher saw salmon numbers maintained at 28 *year-on-year*. Sea trout numbers again fell, from a previous historic low of 17 (in 2021), to a disturbing number of just 6 fish in 2022, a further drop of 65%. Catch and release figures show 100% for salmon and 83% for sea trout.

Minor rivers saw even fewer fish; 1 salmon off the Camel, 1 sea trout off the Inny and nil returns for both the Seaton and West Looe. Both the Inny and Camel reported 100% catch/release.

Whilst it is too early to speculate on how the 2023 season has been, anecdotal evidence seems to reflect a fair run of salmon occurred early on but there has been another 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.

8.3 Other Matters

The Committee met regularly this year and attendance was good. However, I note that we will be down at least 1 Committee members next year and we welcome applications ahead of the AGM.

We are now also looking for an Assistant Secretary to support and take over the Secretarial role for the future.

Please contact the Secretary if you would like to support your Club in this way.

Without a Committee or Officers there can be no Club!

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

2023 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 once again drop to a new historically low of just 88 adult members.

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 £115.00 pa and Disabled subscriptions will rise to £100.00 pa.

Some other rates will see a bigger increase.

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

Renewal subscriptions must be received by the 1st of April 2024 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 2024.

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

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

2023 also saw the Club sell the Lewarne Woods at auction. This tract of land adjoins the A38 and maintenance of it has become an increasing burden on both the volunteers who regularly turned out at night to manage falling trees and also the cost of carrying out annual arbo-culture surveys to meet our insurance obligations.

Members will however see no change to access.

***NOTE: As with all our beats, owned or leased,
PLEASE close all gates and take your litter home.***

Trevor Sobe

10. Conservation & Hatchery News

Fowey Hatchery (Colliford)

At the time of writing (late November) we have perfect water conditions on the riverbank and in the hatchery. The reservoir has recovered from the drought and the air and water temperature have plummeted in the cold autumn weather. This has brought our brood-stock fish on really well and yesterday we stripped 4 fish, in November, the earliest we have stripped fish since moving to Colliford in 2016.

We produced a really strong stocking of parr in the summer and stocked them out without any drama. Brood-stock collecting for this year's program has been very weather dependent and we have been battling the leaves for what seems like the whole of October and November. LDAC provide the backbone of the brood-stock fish and anglers – and special mention must go to Jason Drew who has been in daily contact to know what fish we have and what fish we need, catching nearly half our allocation of brood-stock fish single-handedly. In truth he did need help to net a particularly large salmon in a big river and was ably assisted by Jon Hake. I am sure that fish will put in an appearance in the Trophy awards at next year's AGM.

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 will 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

The 2022/23 cycle proved to be another good year for the hatchery with nearly 45,000 fertilized eggs obtained.

Egg losses were minimal, resulting in just under 42,000 fry being stocked to the river, of which 60% were Autumn stocked reared on fry. The ratio of eggs stripped to fry stocked was 94% - a very impressive result thanks to the hard work of our volunteers. Cost per fry stocked was 5 pence.

The start of the new 2023/24 cycle has not been without problems, the river running high for much of the time since the season close. Thanks to the efforts of our brood-stock collectors we have at the time of writing (end November) our quota of hen fish, mainly MSW ones.

However cock fish are proving hard to find. Unless we find more we will be faced with returning un-striped hens back to the river, which will limit our egg numbers.

We continue to remain grateful to our unpaid volunteers and donors, including LDAC, without whom we could not function.

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: 1 st April – 31 st August
	Salmon: 1 st April – 30 th November

River Lynher

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

River Seaton

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

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

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

Season dates	Sea Trout: 1 st April – 31 st August Salmon: 1 st April – 30 th November
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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 Hollycoombe, Drift Lane
Twowatersfoot, Liskeard
Cornwall, PL14 6HH

Email: sec@dac.org.uk

or your email address

2. Catch details

Date	Time
River	Beat
Species	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. _____