

# Carlisle Angling Association

Serving the people of Carlisle for 150 years

## Annual Newsletter



Number 15

Summer 2015

### Secretary and Chairman's Report.

The 2015 salmon season got off to a slow start in January and February. However as March and April arrived a significant run of Spring Fish entered the system giving sport for members who ventured out. It was good to see a good number of these fish were in to the high teens and some over the twenty pound mark. If only more members would fish, a bigger proportion of the fish taken above CAA waters could be accounted for on our own fishery. Fish have been taken from most areas of CAA waters, with the bottom beats producing as the water levels dropped towards the end of April. Despite unsettled weather and water conditions fish were still entering the system well in to May.

At the Annual General Meeting in February members present voted unanimously to adopt the Salmon Carcass Tagging Scheme for the 2015, 2016 and 2017 seasons. **Members are reminded to collect tags from either John Norris Fishing Tackle or the Tourist Information Centre and they must produce a current EA rod licence for tags to be issued.** Tags will not be posted out to members. **CARCASS TAGS ARE NOT REQUIRED FOR SEA TROUT. A one Salmon per day, six per season limit is in place for these periods.**

Despite the tagging scheme being operational we would like to remind members we need to get the catch and release figure for the whole of the river up to 90% or more to help prevent compulsory measures and to protect stocks. Unfortunately as the Haaf Net fishery is being limited to only 3 tags for the 2015 season it would seem unlikely the rod fishery will remain untouched for the 2016 season. Some beats above CAA are operating 100% Catch and Release now and others a two fish per season limit.

Similar to last season the Sea Trout fishing appears to have also got off to a slow start. Cold evenings and unfavourable water conditions in April and early May meant anglers did not venture out night fishing despite reports of fish being seen early in the season. Hopefully as June and July arrives water conditions will mean sport will improve for night fishing.

Decent hatches of Large Dark Olives followed by March Browns at the end of the opening month of the season have ensured that our trout have been well fed and in good condition since opening day on the 15<sup>th</sup> March. Fluctuating temperatures and water levels have meant the trout showed a reluctance to respond to the surface fly on many days but sub-surface offerings – in the form of North Country Spiders and nymphs – fared well and some decent fish were encountered. Our yearly Grannom hatch started in the third week of April, and once in full swing, this early season sedge came off the water in their thousands. Those lucky enough to be out during a hatch had good sport to dry and pupa imitations. The Grannom were joined by sparse hatches of Iron Blue duns and good hatches of Olive Uprights; fish turned onto the latter, with some good rises and sport to dry imitations. The unsettled weather has meant that sport has been a bit up and down, with some hatches yet to materialise, but hopefully things will settle down and the trout angler will have a good summer to look forward to....

### Guide Fly Fishing Casting Day.

On June Mr C Mitchelhill in association with Jim Fearn of Guide Fly Fishing is holding demonstration day on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> June 2015 where free tuition will be given to members attending on the Association waters. This has been a regular event for the last few years and has always been well attended. The event will be held at the Memorial Bridge as usual and will run from 1100am until 3pm. Come along and have some free coaching and try some of the latest equipment and lines.

### CLA Game Fair 2015.

In line with requests from members at the AGM, the committee are running a trip to the CLA Game Fair at Harewood House near Leeds on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> August 2015. The cost of the bus will £10.00 per member, payable to the Hon. Secretary when booking your place and will be non-refundable. Please contact Mr. N. Austin 01228 592745 to book your seat. Members are responsible for their own entry costs to the show.

### **Members Casting Evenings.**

There are three dates still planned where members can receive free tuition from APGAI Instructors Mr. C. Mitchellhill and Mr. G. Johnson. These are June 30<sup>th</sup>, July 30<sup>th</sup> and August 27<sup>th</sup> 2015. Sessions start at 6pm and are being held below the Memorial Bridge in Rickerby Park. Both single handed and double handed casting is covered.

### **Lowther Show.**

The club will be attending Lowther Show again this year. The show runs on the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> August and we would like to invite members to volunteer to man the stand. Car passes and entry tickets will be provided. Please contact the Honorary Secretary if you are interested in attending.

### **Tiger Trout.**

Several Tiger trout have been caught on CAA waters recently. These are escapees from a trout fishery above Carlisle. It is imperative anyone catching one of these fish kills it immediately and does not return it to the river. They are non-native to the Eden and could do a lot of harm to juvenile stocks of both trout and salmon.

### **Caledonian Bridge Repairs.**

Story Rail has informed the committee significant repairs to the Calley Bridge will be starting in July. These will involve a barrier across the river with pipes to allow water flow and fish passage during this period. Access under the bridge from the Sheepmount side will remain in place for the most part unless machinery is operating. We will be monitoring these works very closely to ensure there is no major impact on our fishery.

### **Riverbank Clearances/Improvements.**

The committee have been active with several major projects this spring. The Bone Mill pool will be having rocks removed to enable safer wading for members and over 600 Willows have been planted in Rickerby Park to help prevent further bank erosion. Existing Willows have been coppiced in this area too. There has been a large bloom of Giant Hog Weed on both the left and right banks of the river between the Swan neck and suspension Bridge. These have been treated and sprayed aggressively by committee members. If any one finds signs of this invasive species please contact any committee member so we can continue to manage these plants. **We would like to remind members equipment is available for all to use for bank work - not just committee members.**

### **Litter.**

The committee has received a complaint about litter being left on the Sheepmount. We have argued that at the time litter was being left it was probably not anglers due to the time of year, however we would like to remind everyone to take rubbish home from all areas of the river.

### **Bailiffs.**

Four new additional Bailiffs have been appointed this season. These are Messrs. Bob Low, Ian Mc Vitie, Les McVitie and Steve Beckett. The Committee would like to remind members that Mr Robbie Graham is the Head bailiff and can be contacted on 07832140027, and the EA can be contacted on 0800807060 on matters relating to poaching or pollution. The Committee would like to remind members, ticket holders and visitors that the CAA bailiffs must be supported and tickets or cards must be produced when asked for by the bailiffs or any other member, there are no exceptions. See rule 8. The Committee would also like to thank the bailiffs for the excellent duties that they carry out. Mr. Graham also issues the exchange tickets for members to use on other waters, please contact him directly if you would like to take advantage of the exchange ticket scheme.

### **Catch returns**

**The Committee would also like to remind members, ticket holders and visitors that catch returns are due to be sent to the Hon Sec by the 28<sup>th</sup> of October, (see rule 22).**

**This is valuable information and the Committee is looking for your compliance with this matter, and rule 22 will be enforced for the 2015 season – the committee will fine members not sending in returns. It is especially important this year to help us fend off compulsory EA restrictions.**

Tight lines for the rest of the season.

Chairman

Hon Secretary

*P. Davidson*

*N. Austin*