



# Aber Angling News 2012



## Water Water Everywhere!

Unlike the last two seasons, the 2012 season was wet, very wet! The average rainfall between May and October was 100.7mm (4") per month, 40% higher than the same period in 2011 and 25% higher than the average of the last five years. 2012 was the third wettest year recorded at Aberporth since records began in 1942. All this rain meant that the river was at a height to allow free movement of fish for much of the season. Despite this, catches were very similar to last year with 27 salmon and 258 sea trout recorded. Many anglers again operated a self-imposed 'catch and release' policy which bodes well for future fish stocks whilst not detracting from the sport. With regard to fish stocks, whilst the bag limit of four fish per day remains unchanged, the AAA Committee respectfully requests that anglers take no more than two brown trout per day so that we might help preserve the genetic integrity of the wild brown trout populations in our lakes. Again this year it was evident that the fish were of good quality. The first sewin caught weighed 3lb 8oz, the heaviest salmon was 13lb 3oz, the heaviest sewin on fly 12lb 2oz, and the heaviest spinning/worm 10lb 11oz.

June was exceptionally wet with 148mm recorded at Aberporth, and in the second week of June, we had exceptional rainfall which proved to be too much for the river system as evidenced from the photos below.



Floating Caravans at Glanyravon



Lletty Parcs new water feature!



Big River Below Morrison's

## River Improvements: Official Launch Of 'Wild Fishing Wales'

Members of the Association joined with Environment Agency Wales Officers and other local Angling Clubs and Associations for the official launch of the Wild Fishing Wales Project which has now reached completion. Renowned local angling guru Moc Morgan, representatives of the Associations and the EA addressed the gathering and thanked their respective members and the Environment Agency for the support they had received without which, none of the projects would have been possible. The grants awarded from the project have enabled each of the beneficiary Clubs and Associations to undertake fisheries work which would not have been feasible without the grants.

Anthony Bevan gave a fly tying demonstration and there was a casting competition which kept a number of the young anglers busy. Moc Morgan presented the young anglers with goodies and prizes for the casting competition.



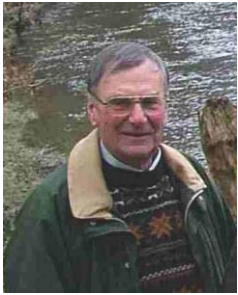
Moc Morgan presented the Junior Competition Winners



Over thirty anglers and EA officers attended the launch

## Thanks To Our Departing Chairman Chas Webb

Whilst the position of chairman in most organisations is one of ultimate responsibility (the buck stops with the Chairman) it is usually a much sought after post since it is normally very well remunerated with many perks and a multitude of 'underling' staff to actually carry out the various tasks agreed on by the senior management and sanctioned by the chairman.



During his tenancy as Chairman of the Association however, this is not the attitude that was adopted by Chas Webb. Chas not only chaired monthly and annual meetings but attended and acted as foreman at just about every workparty and fish stocking during the period that he held that office.

In addition to this, for the last few years, Chas pretty much single handedly organised The Fur & Feather Competition ensuring that there were sponsorship prizes for pretty much every competitor! He also worked quietly behind the scenes (mostly on his own) refitting and or repairing boats, boat pumps and attended to the Associations caravans at Frongoch, often acting as an emergency handyman when something went wrong with the plumbing, etc., and the call for help came from one of the tenants. More often than not, he was on hand to meet and greet the incoming caravan visitors and to offer friendly fishing advice, and all this for little recompense.

The Committee thanks Chas for his 'above and beyond the call of duty' commitment to the Association during his chairmanship and wishes him good health and good fishing during his retirement.

## The Rivers

With rainfall and hence water levels high for much of the season, there was sufficient water most days for fish to run the whole length of both the rivers. Both salmon and sewin seemed to be later arriving than in recent years, but perhaps the early runs were simply spread more because of the high river levels.

The first Sewin of the season which earned him the L.W. Lloyd Trophy weighing 3lbs 8oz was taken by Dave Lloyd.

Dave also landed this fresh run Sea Trout on June 4th weighing 10lbs 11oz.



Andy Selly caught his first Sewin in June which weighed in at a very respectable 9lbs 8oz



The First Double Figure Salmon of 2012 recorded was this fresh run fish weighing 10lbs 6oz caught on a flying C by Chris Truckle on Friday 20th July.

Meurig Lewis caught this well marked fresh run sewin at 10pm on a tube fly on Tuesday 14th August in low water. It's was the heaviest sewin weighed in during the season at 12lbs 2oz and earned Meurig The John Lewis & Sons Trophy, for the heaviest sea trout on fly.



Brian Davies landed this fine brace of sewin weighing 3lbs 8oz and 4lbs at dusk during August.



The river Ystwyth fished well again in 2012 and Friday the 13th of July proved to be a lucky day for Graeme Smeaton who landed this 8lbs Sewin on the river Ystwyth!



Rob Evans caught this 5lbs 4oz Sewin on the lower



stretch of the Ystwyth on a 1.5" Stoats Tail with a lumi-butt during August.

Secretary Mike Barrett landed a sewin weighing 8lbs 8oz caught below Glanyravon and a salmon about 4lbs a few days later.



Alister Dryburgh caught this 7lbs salmon on the Capel Bangor stretch



Neil Beck landed this 4.5lb salmon on the Rheidol and also landed a Sewin within minutes of each other on orange and blue tormentor.



Mike Leggett had three small Sewin before netting this fish weighing 8lbs 9oz on June 12th



Chris Truckle landed this clean fish weighing 10lbs 3oz on an orange Rapala on October 14<sup>th</sup> just 3oz lighter than the fish he caught in July!

## The Lakes

The New season got underway with unusually warm weather (before the rains came) and a good number of insect hatches. A number of anglers recorded good early catches of both 'wild' brownies and stock fish.

Tom Davies who caught that majestic brownie on Rhosrhydd last year, has been at it again, landing this 2lbs 8oz fish again from Rhosrhydd. Tom also had a good day on Frongoch recently, catching seven rainbows of which he kept four weighing 3lbs 12oz, 3lbs 10oz, 2lbs 13oz and 2lbs 8ozs.



Ray Blackburne caught this well marked Brownie on a bibio and intermediate line on Frongoch during April. The fish was just under three pounds and was returned safely to water



Neil Beck seemed to have cracked the fly selection for Rhosrhydd as he landed this quality brown trout



weighing 3lbs 1oz on a Black Buzzer during September. Neil has had some cracking

fish over the last few years from Rhosrhydd.

### ABER FISHING TACKLE

3 Terrace Road, Aberystwyth,  
(Opposite Railway Station)  
Phone: 01970 611200

Permits, tackle, baits and lures all available.

### GB FISHING

5, Corporation Street, Aberystwyth  
(Behind the Belle Vue Hotel)  
Phone: 01970 630974

Permits, tackle, baits and lures all available.



## R.J. Bowne Competition

The Competition was held on Wednesday evening 13th June on Frongoch, with nine anglers taking part. A number of fish, both browns and Rainbows were caught. The results were as follows:



Heaviest Bag: Kerry Parker with 3 Rainbow + 1 Brown trout Total weight 4lbs 7oz  
2nd Brian Davies 1 Rainbow + 1 Brown trout Total weight 3lbs 31/2 oz  
3rd and heaviest fish: Alan Mathews 1 Rainbow trout 2Lbs 3.5oz

## Night Owl Competition 2012

There was a good turnout for the Night Owl Competition this years despite the river being at a very low level. The early evening proved a little fruitless, but things were to change and a number of fish were caught. The result was as follows:

Top Rod: Chris Truckle with two fish weighing 4lbs 6oz  
2nd: Dave Lloyd with two fish weighing 4lbs 2oz  
3rd: Rob Evans with one fish weighing 1lbs 2oz.



Fred Ralphs weighing in Dave Lloyds fish

## Rivers Day Competition 2012

Around twenty anglers turned out for the Rivers Day Competition this year, and unlike last year there was actually some water in the river!!

Half a dozen fish were caught but the only fish weighed in was a salmon caught by Bleddyn Adams (photo below) which tipped the scales at 3lbs 6oz. Both Andy Selly and Dave Lloyd apparently caught

double figure fish (Salmon & Sewin respectively) which were returned to water.



Fred Weighs in Bleddyns salmon



A good turnout on Rivers Day

## Fur and Feather 20112

This years competition was held on Sunday 28th October. Twenty three anglers were assembled ready for a ten o'clock start despite the appalling weather conditions. In total, 49 fish were caught, 34 on the fly and 15 on the worm. The weather being so bad, the majority agreed to finish early and so the competition was terminated at 2pm. The chairman Chas Webb thanked all the participants and those who helped in running the competition. Particular thanks go to our sponsors on whom the competition relies for its success.



Soaked but still smiling!



### Results were as Follows:

Top Rod: Wyn Gwalchmai 4 Fish 10lbs 4oz  
Heaviest Fish: Ceri Parker 3lbs 9.5oz  
Heaviest bag on worm: Dan Bliss 4 Fish 9lbs 8oz  
Heaviest Fish on Worm: Neil Johnson 3lbs 1oz  
Junior Champion: Richard Ricketts 4 Fish 8lbs.  
Our thanks go to our sponsors who were: Spar (Terrace Road), Morrison's, The Co-Op, Aber Tackle, GB Fishing.



A wet but very pleased Richard Ricketts

### The Big River Brown Trout Debate

A number of large brown trout weighing three pounds and over were caught on the Rheidol last season which has sparked some debate as to whether they should be culled or returned to water. Large trout are known to be ferocious, carnivorous predators, consuming a large number of smaller fish which ultimately may be to the detriment of the rivers ecosystem, by drastically reducing the number of small trout and fry.



Brown Trout 23.5" long and weighing over 4lbs from the Rheidol

It is thought that the sudden appearance of these bigger than normal brownies was due to them being washed down from Cwm Rheidol dam during the flooding earlier in the year, particularly during June. Anthony Daniel caught a superb brown trout in Ash Pool just after the floods which he estimated weighed 3-4lbs and Mike Leggett caught another brownie in August (see photo above) on the lower reaches of the Rheidol. Both fish were returned to water.

### Beavers on the Rheidol?

The Welsh Beaver Project has identified six sites on five Welsh rivers, the Dee, Glaslyn, Rheidol, Tyfi and the East and West Cleddau as having potential for the reintroduction of the European Beaver (*Castor fiber*). Members of the Association have met with officials of the project and the concerns of the Association put robustly. We await further developments.

### Promoting Aber Anglers

The Association was involved with the Sea to Shore event and the official opening of the Coastal Path on the promenade during 2012 to promote angling and particularly our fabulous lakes and rivers. There was quite a lot of interest but it remains to be seen if we get an increase in membership next season.



### 2nd Aberystwyth Brownies Get Hooked!!

Aberystwyth Angling Association was host to twelve 2nd Aberystwyth Brownies aged 7 - 10 on Tuesday 3rd July. The Association granted a special dispensation allowing the brownies to fish worm on Rhosgoch lake which is usually confined to fly fishing only. Brown Owl Jennifer Willott said "We're really grateful to Aberystwyth Anglers for organising the evening for us. It was great for breaking stereotypes - Aberystwyth Anglers are keen to get more young people fishing and it was lovely to see the girls eager and interested in something which is traditionally seen as a male thing. I'm certain we'll be arranging a further trip in the future"



### Do you get e-mail News Updates?

If you do not get e-mail updates and notifications or if your e-mail address has changed please let us know and we will add / alter your details to the mailing list.

Contact: [mike.leggett@btinternet.com](mailto:mike.leggett@btinternet.com)

## Rheidol Reared Salmon

The Association in conjunction with the Environment Agency and Statkraft, made three attempts to catch salmon for stripping and subsequent rearing in the newly provided facilities at Statkraft, Cwm Rheidol. The first attempt was a complete failure and whilst a couple of fish were netted on the second attempt they were not in breeding condition. Finally however, a couple of suitable fish were netted and the eggs harvested have now hatched and are being reared on. The Association intends to repeat this again next year when hopefully there will be a few more fish caught.



## Chairman's Report & Commentary 2012 Season

On behalf of the AAA permit holders, I'd like to thank the Management Committee for their time and effort in keeping the Association running. Not many realise the amount of work that goes on in the background each and every season by a faithful few, so that you, the permit holder can enjoy the fishing facilities. So, next time you see a committee member, don't forget to shake him by the hand and say thanks. (Better still, offer to come and help)!! Thanks also of course go to those other members who gave freely of their time on workparties.

Despite the generally bad weather throughout the season, two major jobs on Llyn Syfydryn and Llyn Pendam were successfully completed to the satisfaction of the Environment Agencies dam inspectorate. The major works on Syfydryn had dragged on over a couple of years and I thank all those who helped to monitor the water levels in the lake on a weekly basis to ensure that the problem was not getting worse.

I hope the weather this coming season will be better, not just for fishing, but so that the outstanding maintenance work on the lakes and rivers can be undertaken. If you can help out on workparties please

phone the secretary Mike Barrett on (01970 623682) or e-mail at (mbarrettuk05@yahoo.co.uk).

One negative observation I and other anglers I have spoken to would raise, is the volume of leader and nylon line discarded on the bankside and in car parking areas, some still with flies attached! I have caught several rainbows on Frongoch with flies and short lengths of nylon (presumably dropper flies) still firmly attached to their mouths. One of our caravan tenants apparently caught four rainbows in a day with flies attached and had also caught one with two flies attached during his two week stay. He got his monies worth of flies if nothing else! I would urge all anglers to take more care when playing these larger fish on light line or to use heavy nylon, and not to discard line at any of our fishing venues. Hope to see you during the 2013 season.

Tight lines,

Chas Webb (Chairman)

## Secretary's Report For The 2012 Season.

If 2012 is to be remembered for anything it will be for the incessant rain and of course the 'Big Flood' The river reached an all-time high of 3.38 metres, recorded at Cwm Rheidol Power Station on Saturday 9th June at 13.45, causing flooding right down the valley which in turn damaged much of the infrastructure provided by the Wild Fishing Wales funding. The platform at Trotters was damaged, and the commemorative bench was swept away down the river. The bench (with its plaque) was later found downstream, and was repaired and re-sited near the fence line away from the main river flow. The platform was also repaired. Thanks must go to the members who carried out this work very speedily.

Gates that had been installed by the river side were also damaged as far down as Imrytage and they too have now been rehung, so the field boundaries and gates are now repaired and we can use them again. Our planned opening ceremony for the Wild Fishing Wales Project in March was postponed at the request of the WFW team, and a joint event along with Llanilar Angling Association and others was held at the Llety Park Hotel in August with a buffet and fishing/casting competition held on the lawn for junior/youth anglers. (See separate report front page).

The new (to us) caravan at Geryllyn, Trisant proved to be very popular with our visitors and the decision was taken to replace the Fronyllyn caravan for next season (2013). The replacement caravan has been purchased and will be ready for the first visitors in March 2013. Chas Webb is going to continue to look after the caravans for now, but maintenance work will in future, be contracted out. Meurig Lewis will continue with the bookings/permits and payments. A big thank you must go to both, for ensuring the continued income from the caravans.

To lighten Chas's workload further, Rob Miles has agreed to oversee the boats on the three Trisant lakes,



and the routine dam inspections that Chas used to do, and the admin/certification that Meurig used to co-ordinate for the Dam Inspectors as part of the Reservoirs Act, has now been taken on by Brian Davies, many thanks to both for their support. Meurig was also able to pass on to Brian the long awaited Safety Certificate for Lyn Syfydrin, bringing to an end the many years of frustration surrounding the repairs required to the outflow!

Fish Legal (through Andrew Kelton) eventually got the Environment Agency Wales (EAW) to admit that during September 2011, 1) Pollution had been caused by the draining down of Cwm Rheidol dam, releasing silt and debris into the river system; and 2) That Statkraft did this without the necessary permissions. However it was decided that "too much water had passed under the bridge" to attempt to pursue this matter further. Our hope is that EAW/Statkraft will now be more inclined to help the Association when possible. Two positive instances of this are: Firstly, EAW came and netted the upper river on three separate occasions at the end of November and in early December, finally catching, 1 cock and 2 hen salmon for stripping. And secondly, Statkraft built a temporary shed with holding pool for the fish and a tray system to rear the eggs. The collected eggs are now being reared in the Cwm Rheidol Fish Farm.

It is with great sadness that I have to report the passing away of Ron Millichamp in May of this year, Ron was an ex director/shareholder and an ex committee member of many years standing. The association continues to be run very effectively by the management committee, and I thank them for their continued support. Finally, the continual battle with nature will require working parties on both rivers and lakes, please get in touch if you can spare the odd hour or three!

Mike Barrett (Hon sec) January 2013.

## Annual Dinner & Presentation Of Trophy Winners for 2012 Season

The Association held its annual dinner at Brynamlwg Social Club, Waunfawr, on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> February. As usual it was an august occasion when trophies were presented to winners of the 2012 club competitions by the guest speaker Professor Lynda Warren.



Professor Warren has recently been appointed to the Board of Natural Resources Wales (NRW) – the new body set up by WAG to oversee the work currently

being carried out by the Countryside Council for Wales (CCW), Environment Agency Wales (EAW) and Forestry Commission Wales (FCW). Professor Warren explained that from 1<sup>st</sup> April the CCW, EAW, and FCW would be no more and the NRW would start on its work.



This NRW Board will have a mammoth task as it sets out to manage the work of the trio of dissolved organisations. It was illuminating to learn of the Board's activities to date. Anglers in Wales are pleased with Prof Warren's appointment and undoubtedly the Board will benefit from her experience as she is someone who knows the Welsh Angling scene better than most, having chaired the Review Group set up by Government in 1998 to look into Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries. The AAA members present were truly grateful for her input to the evening and wished her well in her new role.

Mike Barrett, secretary of the Association who had made all the arrangements for the evening drew proceedings to a close by thanking all for their contributions not only to the evening but also to the running of the club in general.

## AAA Trophy winners 2012

**The EJ Morgan Shield** for the heaviest fish from the rivers goes to Huw Bryant for his 13lb 3oz salmon from the Rheidol.

**The John Lewis & Sons Trophy**, for the heaviest sea trout on fly goes to Meurig Lewis for his 12lb 2oz fish from the Rheidol.

**The Elfed Jones Trophy** for the heaviest sea trout (worm or spin) goes to David Lloyd for his 10lb 11oz fish.

**The LW Lloyd Trophy** for the first sea trout of the season goes to David Lloyd for his 3lb 8oz fish.

**The Night Owl Trophy** goes to Chris Truckle for his brace of sea trout weighing 4lb 6.5oz.

**The Rivers Cup** for the heaviest fish caught in the rivers day competition goes to Bleddyn Adams for his 3lb 6oz sea trout, caught on the Rheidol.

**The RJ Bowne Trophy** for the Lakes Trout Fly competition goes to Ceri Parker for his 4 fish for 4lb 7oz

**The Fur and: Senior Shield** goes to Wyn Gwalchmai with 4 fish for 10lb 4oz.

**The Junior Trophy** goes to Richard Ricketts with 4 fish for 8lb

**The Eyton Morgan shield** – for the heaviest brown trout on fly – Not awarded.

**The Tynllidiart Shield** – awarded to the association member who has made the greatest contribution

during the 2012 season – David Davies for his outstanding commitment on both the rivers and lakes.

## Health & Safety Issues

Further Health and Safety (H&S) issues have arisen during the year, not least the new hazards created by the extensive flooding during the summer. Pools have changed and a considerable number of trip hazards have been washed into the river system from trees to abandoned bicycles!

It has been reported that some anglers have been observed standing in boats which is dangerous enough, but standing in boats not wearing a buoyancy aid is inviting catastrophe. Anglers are reminded that in signing for acceptance of a permit and boat key, they also sign to affirm that they have read and accept the rules of the Association which clearly stipulate that "Standing whilst fishing is strictly prohibited" and that anglers "should always wear approved buoyancy jackets as aids to safety".

**Anglers are respectfully reminded that contravention of any of the Associations rules could lead to the withdrawal of an offenders permit.**

The Association has a H&S Policy, and Risk Assessment sheets and information which are available on the web pages and on request from the secretary.

## Diary Dates

R.J Bowne. To be arranged.  
Night Owl & Rivers Day to be arranged.  
Fur And Feather probably 27th October 10 - 4pm.  
**Check website for details**

## In Memoriam

It was with great sadness that we learnt that Ron Millichamp (a long serving member of the Association) died on Thursday 5th May

## Membership Fees 2013

Members are reminded that a valid Environment Agency licences must be shown prior to purchase of any permit. They can be obtained online at [www.environment-agency.gov.uk](http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk) from Telesales on 0870 1662662 or at any main Post Office. AAA permits must be obtained before fishing; they are not available bank side. They are not transferrable and must be produced when asked for by any member of the Association. Anglers without a Permit or Licence will be asked to leave the Fishery.

### Local Rates

Season - Adult	£100
Season - Joint Husband and Wife	£132
Season - Concessionary	£70
Season - Concessionary Husband & Wife	£95
Season - Youth	£22
Season - Students	£72.50

### Visitor Rates

Season - Adult	£150
Season - Joint Husband & Wife	£180
Season - Concessionary	£100
Season - Concessionary Husband & Wife	£130
Season - Youth	£22
Week - Whole Fishery	£85
Week - Whole Fishery (Concessionary)	£70
Week - Whole Fishery (Youth)	£15

### Day Tickets

Whole Fishery	£20
Whole Fishery (Concessionary)	£15
Rivers only (for locals)	£15
Rivers only(Concessionary-locals only)	£12

### Boat Charges

Season	£45
Deposit	£10
Day and week boat usage only available to occupiers of our caravans.	

### Caravan Charges

Available from Treasurer upon request, or from the website at: <http://www.aber-angling.co.uk/>  
Day and week fishing Permits available to Caravan Occupiers at 60% the visitor rates. Discounted season ticket only available to those staying in one of our caravans for a minimum of one week.

### Permits are available from:

Aber Tackle, 3 Terrace Rd, Aberystwyth, SY23 1NY, 01970 611200  
GBFishing, 5, Corporation Street, Aberystwyth SY23 2BT  
Penparcau Post Office, 01970 612263  
The George Borrow B&B Hotel Ponterwyd, Ceredigion, SY23 3AD, 01970 890230  
Post Office and Stores, Devils Bridge (Mon – Sat 9 – 12 noon) 01970 890228  
**Boat & Fishing Permits are available from** Mr Mike Barrett, 6 Lon Llewelyn, Waunfawr, Aberystwyth, SY23 3TP (Please phone first) Phone: (01970) 623 682 E-mail: mbarrettuk05@yahoo.co.uk or: Meurig Lewis Phone (01970) 612683

## Further Information, Up To Date News & Contacts

For more detailed information, news and events see the web page at: <http://www.aber-angling.co.uk/> or Google Aber Angling. **General enquiries: Secretary:** Mr Mike Barrett, 6 Lon Llewelyn, Waunfawr, Aberystwyth, SY23 3TP Phone: (01970) 623 682 E-mail: mbarrettuk05@yahoo.co.uk

**Assistant Secretary:** Neil Beck E-mail: nfb@aber.ac.uk

**Caravans' bookings or queries:-**Meurig Lewis Phone (01970) 612683 E-mail: meurig@glyncemaes.freeserve.co.uk