



Aber Angling News 2011



Rivers Produce Some Real Quality Fish

As last season, the 2011 season was somewhat dry with only 59.5 mm of rainfall between May and October, 20% less than the previous five year average for that period and there were very few days when the river came into natural flood. Despite this, catches were better than last year with over 25 salmon and 258 sea trout caught, the latter being over double the previous season's total. What was evident however, was the quality of the fish caught. More and more anglers are operating a self imposed 'catch and release' policy which bodes well for future fish stocks whilst not detracting from the sport.



The first Sewin of 2011 weighing 3.5lb (which was safely returned to the water) was landed by Mark Sedgewick at the tail of Glan yr Afon pool at 12.15 on a 1" black and silver tube. Mark had seen some bigger fish going upstream too!!



Bleddyn Adams netted a fresh run Sewin on June 8th at dusk on a snake fly. It weighed in at 9lbs 12oz. Andy Selly caught a 5lbs 5oz Sewin a week earlier on a Silver Tube on Tuesday 31st May on the Capel Bangor Stretch.



The first salmon of the season was caught by Tony Clark on 21st June weighing just under 9lbs on a running worm (not the fly rod shown) in Trotters pool at low water. Tony also caught a Sewin about a pound and a half.

Work Party

Work Party Required to get the boats onto the water for the new season. Please meet Frongoch lake 10.30 Saturday 17th March. The more we get the easier it is!

Andy Selly and his pal Dave had a bumper nights fishing on Monday 4th July. They had several fish between them, including the fabulous fresh run 11lbs 7oz fish shown in the photo. Dave was also in the action netting a 4lbs Sewin. (Five fish were returned to water).



Mark Sedgewick caught two double figure fish in one night on a 1.5" blue and silver tube fly. One measured 77 cm and the other 78 cm. Mark estimated both fish around the 10 lb mark. Both fish were safely returned water to continue the genetic line or give someone else the privilege of a lifetime or both! (Photos taken in darkness!!)



Tony Clark sent in this photo of a nice fresh run grilse weighing 7.5lbs caught around 8.30pm 11/08/11 on a Rapala. Tony also sent a photo of the Rapala in question which demonstrates the perils of leverage and perhaps more alarmingly, the poor quality of the hooks!





Gareth Evans caught this slightly coloured Salmon from Troedrihwlas which weighed in the region of 10 - 11 lbs. Being slightly coloured, Gareth returned the fish to water.



Visiting Angler Laurent Simonini from Paris, took this terrific fresh run Salmon on his 4th cast with a black and orange fly in low water at the pool above the bridge in Capel Bangor. Laurent

estimated the fish to be 80cm which must put it close to being a double figure fish! Laurent returned the fish to water unharmed. Laurent said that he always returned salmon and was really trying to catch one of our superb Sewin!



Mike Leggett finally managed to get this 12lbs 12oz fish on the bank after "a bit of a struggle and two encounters with a willow tree!!"



Paul Hughes had this lovely fresh run salmon weighing 11lbs.



The following day, Paul's luck was in again as he landed a sewin weighing 12 lbs!!



Neil Johnson caught this fresh run sewin having previously lost several bigger fish recently.



Alister Dryburgh landed this fresh run fish caught on a blue Rapala in Irmhytage. It weighed in at 12lbs 2oz.

Mike Leggett landed his second ever double figure Salmon in a month, this one weighing 11lbs 12oz!



GB FISHING

A new tackle shop is open at
5, Cropporation Street, Aberystwyth
(Behind the Belle Vue Hotel)

Phone: 01970 630974

Permits, tackle, baits and lures all available

Smolts Trapped in Cwm Rheidol Dam

During May a number of anglers reported catching numerous smolts in Cwm Rheidol, and it became apparent that this future generation of salmon were 'trapped' within the confines of the dam. In a collaborative effort to resolve the problem, the Environment Agency and Statkraft allowed the dam to spill over the top for several days, which did seem to solve the problem as no further catches of smolts were reported after this remedial action. It is hoped that Statkraft will implement this procedure on an annual basis from now on as did their predecessors Eon and Powergen.

Possible Pollution Damage to Fish Stocks

Regrettably, just as the salmon had started to run, there was a problem on the river when Statkraft drained Cwm Rheidol Reservoir in order to repair the fish lift in the main dam. Unfortunately the manner in which this operation was carried out, resulted in many tons of fine sediment being washed through the entire river system from the dam to the sea depositing fine silt along the length of the river. A number of dead fish were recovered from various places on the river during this period, but it remains to be seen what the long term effects of this incident will be on the whole fauna of the river from the dam to the sea.

River Improvements

Association members will be pleased to hear that the 'Wild fishing Wales' grant, (led by the Environment Agency Wales and part-funded by the European Regional Development Fund through the Welsh Assembly Government, which is part of the Countryside Council for Wales' Community and Nature strategic project) which concluded last November, was completed on time and within budget. The total budget (£42,000), included a 10% financial input and a 10% voluntary work input from Association members. It has been calculated that around 2000 voluntary man hours went in to the grant insuring things stayed on budget and also resulted in around 30% more work being completed



than originally planned.

The majority of voluntary work occurred through the closed season

during weekend workparties with regular turnouts of four or five members. A huge amount of voluntary work was undertaken by Association members often working alongside professional contractors. This input not only saved time and money but also

guaranteed a high standard of workmanship. The Association Committee sincerely thanks all those who did their bit to ensure the success of the project with a special thanks to Mark Sedgewick who undertook the application, organising, management and implementation of the project and all that it



entailed and also to David Davies, who contributed over 800 hours and whose (legendry) attention to detail and

design made some tricky projects a major success.

The successful completion of the project has not only improved the fishery for all members, but has demonstrated the Association's ability to carry through such projects providing value for money which bodes well for any future grant applications.



During the project, 32 gates and 23 stiles have been erected at prominent locations improving accessibility. Over 12 Km of double banked stretches of the river have been cleared of trees and restrictive undergrowth allowing greater accessibility to existing pools and providing new opportunities to fish hitherto unfishable stretches of river.

Two information cabinets have been made and erected in addition to 70 direction and parking signs and 45 pool nameplates. Two footbridges, four flights of steps one concrete and three oak have been built together with 7m of handrail walkway and a fishing



platform. Finally, four open trenches have been permanently piped and 5 oak seats have been made and erected at favourite fishing places.

Association Lakes Produce Quality Fish Too!!

It wasn't just the river which was productive last season, all the association's lakes produced good quality fish, a fact which prompted Moc Morgan to suggest that the Association's lakes produce the best quality brownies in the UK!! (see article below P 6).

Chris Reynolds took this lovely 3lb 2oz trout from Rhosrhydd Tuesday 24th May on an Alder in very windy conditions.



Richard Huxley caught this beautiful 2lbs 2oz brownie on a sedge on the last cast of the day after having spent many hours with no hint of a fish on Frongoch.



Fish of the year however must be this incredibly coloured and beautifully marked brownie caught by Tom Davies from Rhosrhydd on 14th June which weighed in at 5lbs 4oz. It took Tom 30 minutes to land and all on 4lbs line!!



Night Owl Competition 2011



The Night Owl competition was held on Saturday 30th July with around a dozen anglers taking part. Unfortunately, though the conditions seemed good, the Sewin were not playing their part and the only fish caught

winning the competition weighed in at 3.25lbs and was caught by Anthony Grew on a worm in Roadside Pool.



Rivers Day Competition 2011

The Rivers Day Competition was a disaster this year with a real summer low river levels and no generating water. A number of anglers stuck at it for many hours but the majority had given up by late afternoon and nothing was brought to the weigh in. Thanks to Fred and helpers for their efforts in organising the competition.

Fur and Feather 2011

Twenty seven anglers including two Juniors took part in this years Fur and Feather competition held at Frongoch on Sunday 30th October. The weather was perfect allowing everyone to have an enjoyable day. All the participants appreciated the free bass bag and packet of flies they received when booking in which were very generously provided by Glasgow Angling Centre and Abe Tackle.

The first fish was caught by Moc Morgan soon after fishing commenced at 10.15am which set the ball rolling and resulted it a total of 56 fish being caught. Chairman Chas Webb was ably assisted with the booking in and prize giving by Neil Beck and Fred Ralphs helped at the weigh in.

Chas thanked everyone for attending and very special thanks to our sponsors Abertackle, Fishtec, Glasgow Angling Centre, Coch-y-Bonddu Books, Moc Morgan Jean Barrett and Neil Beck.

The results were as follows:

Fly

Fly Heaviest bag: K Llewellyn 10lbs 3oz

Fly Heaviest fish: D Ricketts 3lbs 13oz

Worm Adult

Fly Heaviest bag: M Barrett 2lbs 12oz

Fly Heaviest fish: F Ralphs 2lbs

Worm Junior

Fly Heaviest bag: R Ricketts 10lbs 1oz

Fly Heaviest fish: J Clements 2lbs 11oz



Some of the participants



Junior Champion Richard Ricketts



The winners with Chairman Chas Webb

Chairman's Report & Commentary 2011 Season

I had always thought that retirement was supposed to be more relaxed and less hectic than one's working life, but how wrong can one be! Being involved with Aber Angling has meant that I am as busy as ever. Together with the AAA Management Committee we have managed to keep the Association going for another successful year, and I wish to thank all those on the management committee for the 'backroom' work they do which goes largely unnoticed by the majority of anglers .

A special thanks must go to our secretary Mike Barrett who undertook this daunting task just over a year ago and has achieved so much during that time. I also wish to thank our treasurer Meurig Lewis for his financial expertise, which is what keeps the Association's finances in such good order.

Thanks must also go to Mark Sedgewick, for planning and implementing the work schedules and organising workparties to fulfil the conditions of the Wild Fishing Wales grant which has made so many improvements on the river by making better, easier, safer parking and access points and opening up previously inaccessible areas of riverbank to provide new fishing opportunities for all. (See full report on Page 3). Let's hope the associated publicity brings in new anglers and helps the Association attain further grants as and when they become available.

So please remember that it is a small but dedicated band of workparty helpers who do huge amounts of work to keep the rivers and lakes in good condition so that others can fish. Most of these helpers too would like to just buy a permit and fish as most members do.

Tight Lines for 2012.

Chas Webb
(Chairman)

Secretary's Report For The 2011 Season.

Having been "in post" for a full season, there are a number of successes to report.

Firstly, the Wild Fishing Wales project has been finished, with the fishing platform at Trotters being the jewel in the crown. Sincere thanks yet again go to Mark Sedgewick who was ably supported by David Davies, Alistair Dryburgh and Mike Leggett plus their dedicated team of helpers. This has been one of the most successful projects in Wales, delivered on-time and within budget, and will be officially recognised at an opening ceremony on Saturday the 10th of March on the trotters platform with our local AM and MP in attendance. Mike Leggett is also doing a sterling job of managing the web site.

Secondly, the caravans at Trisant have yet again produced well for the visiting anglers, and thankfully equally well for the club's finances. A big thank you must go to the chairman Chas for looking after the

vans and boats, and to Meurig for co-ordinating the bookings/permits and payments. Meurig was also responsible for updating our permit books, they seem to have been well received by most of our selling agents. We have also gained Full planning permission for the two caravans, so their future is secure.

Thirdly, the fishing this year has been as good as ever on the lakes, and there has been an improvement on the main river, the Rheidol, with more than double the number of Sea trout reported to our bailiff, Fred Ralphs. The Salmon numbers remain in the 20s in spite of the fact that the autumn run was interrupted by a pollution incident. This occurred over a 2 week period in September, and had a serious effect on the river, rendering it unfishable, some fish kills were reported. The worry is that there could be a long term effect on migrating fish populations. Fish Legal have taken up the case on our behalf, and are to put our case through the EA to Statkraft, the hydro-electric company who allowed the sediment and debris out of the dam and into the river. The repaired fish lift, the reason for emptying the dam, is now working efficiently which has not been the case for a number of years.

It is with great sadness that I have to report the passing away of Graham (Salty) Edwards, an ex committee member and stalwart of the association. The association continues to be run efficiently by the management committee, and I thank them for their support.

And finally, could I ask that all association members remember that the maintenance of the fishery is down to voluntary work parties, the majority of which are run in the close season. The lakes team has seen only 1 new volunteer this last season, and now that the Wild Fishing Wales project is complete, the routine river maintenance will also require regular work parties. If you can spare a few hours to help then please contact me.

Mike Barrett (Hon Sec) January 2011.

Llyn Rhosrhydd

Being somewhat off the beaten track the potential of Rhosrhydd appears largely untapped even though it produces some of the biggest and best quality fish I have ever seen. The lake is stocked annually with takeable sized fish and with 400 fingerlings which grow on in a healthy, natural environment, and they really do grow on!

Despite this, many anglers complain that they can't catch fish there, and it is true to say that for some reason, they are harder to catch, but when you do catch, the reward is usually worth the time and effort. Several very good sized fish have been caught and I have myself caught a beautifully marked fish in excess of 5lbs which went back. (Wouldn't it be great if all fish over 2.5lbs were put back thus giving other anglers a chance of these very fine fish).

In my experience, all the larger fish seem to be taken on small flies no larger than hook size twelve, not on lures. If you don't appreciate the tranquillity of remote

places and expect to catch lots of stockfish, this is probably not the lake for you.

The beautifully marked fish shown in the photo (See p. 4) was caught by Tom Davies on 14th June 2011 which weighed in at 5lbs 4oz and took 30 minutes to land and all on 4lbs line!! It is well to remember however, that to catch this super fish, Tom has fished around three times a week for the last twenty or more years!! Moc Morgan also thinks Rhosrhydd produces the "most perfect wild brown trout in the U.K" (see article below).

Chas Web
(Chairman AAA)

Moc Morgan sings the praises of Rhosrhydd brownies and with Ray Blackburns help, finds out what makes them such superior fish.

I was fishing Loch Harray in Orkneys recently with two prominent anglers and both were very vociferous praising the beautiful wild brown trout in Loch Harray. Both were quite taken aback when I said that wild brown trout in Llyn Rhosrhydd near Devil's Bridge were far superior.

I believe that Rhosrhydd wild brown trout are the most perfect wild brown trout in the U.K. and the recent wild brown trout of over five pounds taken by Tom Davies proves my point (see photo P.4 above). A week later I was fishing two lakes that are managed by Aberystwyth Angling Association (AAA) namely Blaenmelindwr and Rhosgoch two lakes which are within half a mile of each other. I cannot but wonder that the old miners who worked in the mine were able with pick and shovel to build dams to hold back the tears of God, so that they could keep the mine working in summer drought.



Ray Blackburn and myself were fishing Blaenmelindwr and the fish were in good mood feeding avidly and we were enjoying great sport. After an hour's fishing we went up to

Rhosgoch and not a fish was seen feeding on top of the water. Neither were there any Coch a bonddu to be seen. We were however able to take a brace of small fish by hard work. As we were ending a spell of some two hours of hard fishing, Ray took a nice fish and I asked him to spoon the fish and I took a photo of what was in the stomach and it was revealing.



We spooned the stomach contents and you can see that there were 21 Coch y Bonddu in the stomach.



Ray spooning the trout

Back we went to Blaenmelindwr and got the tail of the fish banquet and we took a couple of brace. All the fish except the one we spooned were returned. There is no doubt that these wild brown trout really feed hard on the fly life and

thank the Good Lord that the fly life seems to be recuperating.

It would be a tragedy if we were not to learn lessons from our experience. Both Ray and I really worked hard and enjoyed ourselves immensely and perhaps you will agree with me that we have quality wild brown trout and that we must appreciate them.

A wild brown trout of 5lbs 12ozs was taken from Rhosrhydd by Tom Davies, Llanrhystyd, which is a perfect specimen of a wild brownie and better than anything that I saw taken in the Orkneys. The Chairman of Aberystwyth Angling Assoc. (AAA) Charles Webb stated that the capture of such quality fish is proof that there are quality fish in the lakes around Aberystwyth but that they require quality fishers to take them out. It is a challenge to the anglers to know that there are heavyweights of over five pounds there for the catching.

Congratulations to Tom Davies for capture and to John Gough for the photography which does justice to the fish.

Yes I enjoyed myself in the Orkneys – I would advise anyone looking for a fishing holiday with a difference to consider the Orkney. Do not tarry –in case.

It is obvious that the wild brownies in the Aberystwyth lakes feed well to grow to such proportions. I know now what food makes them so. Do you agree?

Strange But True

One summer's day about nine years ago I had arranged to meet Jim Gorton (a long standing member of the Association) at Rhosgoch for an afternoon's fishing. When I got to the lake, there was Jim sitting on the right hand bank. We started chatting when Jim suddenly said "have you seen my peak cap" to which I replied "no". As we were always pulling each other's leg, Jim thought I'd hidden it, but I assured him that he wasn't wearing a cap when I arrived.

Sadly, Jim died about 7 years ago. However, one day last summer, I went up to Rhosgoch to fish and there, floating on the edge of the water by the dam was a cap which had paint on it (Jim was a painter and decorator). I picked it up and had a good look at it and sure enough, despite all the time that had passed, here was Jim's cap! Strange isn't it?

Ray Blackburn

Health & Safety Issues

Further Health and Safety (H&S) issues have arisen during the year, not least the potential poisoning hazard from the water hemlock plant which is quite common along river banks. One of our young anglers was hospitalised after accidentally poisoning himself on the river. Having slightly misjudged a cast with a Rapala, his lure embedded itself in bankside vegetation. In an effort to free the Rapala, the young angler tried to bite through the line to free it. Unfortunately, the plant in which the Rapala was stuck was Water Hemlock which can be deadly poisonous. A small amount of sap from the plant had got onto the line, which having come into contact with his mouth, was sufficient to cause nausea, vomiting and necessitate a short stay in hospital. So, be extra vigilant next time you get a hook, spinner or fly stuck in bankside vegetation!!

The Association's H&S policy and Risk Assessments were challenged by a member of the public after she made a formal complaint to the Ceredigion County Council H&S section. Your Association was found to be fully compliant with existing legislation. However, the incident did reaffirm that anglers are responsible for their own and others safety when fishing on all association waters, particularly when fishing from one of the Association's boats, and are reminded that it is strongly recommended that an approved life jacket / buoyancy aid be worn when fishing on any of the Associations waters. 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.

Annual Dinner & Presentation Of Trophy Winners for 2011 Season



L-R Meurig Lewis (Treasurer) Charles Webb (Chairman) Mark Sedgewick, Dr Sonia Consuegra Del Olmo (Guest speaker) Sion Dryburgh and Mike Barrett (Secretary)

The Association's annual dinner and presentation evening took place in Brynamlwg on Friday February 3rd. The guest speaker was Dr Sonia Consuegra Del Olmo who has been studying salmonids in the rivers of south, mid and north Wales. The data collected in Wales is now beginning to show discernible patterns,

and using genetic tracers, Sonia has been able to show that the range of genetic variation in Salmon is directly related to the river system in which they were spawned.

After her very informative talk, Dr Consuegra Del Olmo kindly presented the trophies won during the 2011 fishing season.

Trophies

Heaviest fish from the rivers – The EJ Morgan Shield: Mr J Watkins for his 13lb 8 oz Salmon from the river Rheidol.

Heaviest Sea Trout (worm or spin) – The Elfed Jones Trophy: Mr P Hughes for his 12lb 2 oz fish caught on worm from the river Rheidol.

Heaviest Sea Trout in the night-time competition – The Night Owl Trophy: Mr A Grew for his 3lb 2oz fish from the river Rheidol.

Heaviest fish from the rivers – youth category – The John Sargent Shield: Mr S Dryburgh for his 3lb 4 oz Sea Trout from the river Rheidol. Penrhyncoch Lakes fly fishing competition – The RJ Bowne Trophy: Mr D Hutton for his 4 Brown Trout bag limit weighing 4lb.

Fur and Feather Competition – senior F & F Shield winner with a bag limit of rainbow trout on Fly was Mr K Llewelyn, Junior F&F Trophy winner with a bag limit of rainbow trout on worm was Richard Ricketts. Heaviest Brown trout on Fly – The Eyton Morgan Shield: Mr T Davies for his 5lb 4 oz fish from Trisant lakes.

The Tynllidiart Shield awarded to the association member who has made the greatest contribution during the 2011 season goes to Mark Sedgewick, for his outstanding commitment to the Wild Fishing Wales project.

Diary Dates

R.J Bowne. Frongoch in the evening of Wednesday 13th June 6 -10 pm. Entry £5.00.

Fur And feather 28th October 10 - 4pm.

Night Owl & Rivers day to be arranged.

In Memoriam

It is with great sadness that we report the passing of Graham (Salty) Edwards on the 16 July 2011. Salty was a long standing member and committee member of the Association and will be missed by all who knew him.

Membership Fees 2012

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 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 available to Ceredigion residents	£15
Rivers only(Concessionary)	£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 half the visitor rates. Half price season ticket only available to those staying in one of our caravans for a minimum of one week.

Permits are available from:

GBFishing, 5, Corporation Street, Aberystwyth SY23 2BT
Penparcau Post Office, 01970 612263
Post Office and Stores, Devils Bridge (not open Sundays)
01970 890228

Boat 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
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