

Millan Waters

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Dear Member,

Welcome to the third Newsletter of the 2003 / 2004 season. Well we had the warmest and driest summer on record and it has had an impact on our fishery. We have not been alone with many commercial fisheries suffering lost fish and several having to close due to algae problems.

Unfortunately we saw the impact towards the end of August when a combination of high temperature and lack of oxygen resulted in us losing over 200 fish. As expected lots of stupid rumours starting circulating that the lake have been contaminated, suffering a deadly algae bloom, wheat straw instead of barley straw was the culprit etc etc. All wrong I can assure you. With guidance from the Environment Agency the dead fish were removed, the weather broke, the lake cleared within a week and was fishing superbly the following week. The September figures (see attached) confirm we had the best September returns in at least 4 years!

At this point I would like to thank Roy Seeley for all his work at that time. I was in France on business when first alerted to the problem and Roy kindly removed all the dead fish and dealt with the Environment Agency in my absence. The syndicate owes Roy many thanks for everything he did.

At the time of writing this Newsletter we are still waiting for some rain. Tom Ledger will be pumping water in as soon as he can but until then there is little we can do. The one thing I cannot do is control the weather and we must remember this year was out of the ordinary.

Moving on, our AGM will take place as usual in the **WOOLPACK, IWADE ON MONDAY 15TH DECEMBER** at 8.00 PM. All existing members and potential new members are most welcome. As always if anyone has anything specific they wish included in the Agenda, please give me a ring and

I will ensure it is included. I propose the same format that we invite everyone on the current waiting list to join at that time (Currently the waiting list stands at 16). As we always have some fallout I would expect that membership should remain fairly static.

The combination locks have gone some way in restricting entry to the hut and the lake but the combination is obviously known by individuals outside the membership and locks have been removed or altered. Next season the car park, gate to the lake and container will each have a padlock and one key will fit them all. The padlocks will be replaced each year to ensure only current paid up members have access.

I have already spoken to Tom Ledger regarding next year and no price increase was mentioned. Accordingly it is my intention to freeze subscription charges at last season's level (given we obtain enough members of course!). As in the past I do need a measure of commitment. A post dated cheque for £225.00 (**PLEASE DATE CHEQUES 1ST MARCH 2004**) **ON THE NIGHT OF THE AGM WILL SECURE MEMBERSHIP FOR THE 2004 / 2005** season. If you can't make the AGM, please contact me before hand in order that the £225.00 discounted price can be honoured. No show or no call and the price is £250.00. A husband and wife / father and son joint membership will be £340.00 on the night rising to £365.00 if no show or no call. As in the past closing dates for existing members will be 31/12/03. After that date, I regret to advise I cannot guarantee an automatic place. With our current waiting list I do not expect many places going unfilled.

For new members there will be a "one-off" fee of £35.00 in addition to the above charges. This will help defray the costs of the car park and container borne by last year's membership. The same deadline of 31st December will apply for the discount.

I have attached a copy of the membership appli-

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Inside this
issue:

Brown Trout Role of Honour

Tiger & Blue Trout Role of Honour

Syndicate Returns 2000 to 2002 / 2003 Season

Application Form for Season 2004 / 2005

7lb + Role of Honour

Blank Visits + Monthly Brown, Tigers & Browns

cation for completion. In order to keep costs to a minimum, please give me your e-mail address as this assists me greatly. Details of your motor vehicle, I will expand on later.

I mention this every year but I do need to put a rider on the proposed subscription price as this assumes similar support to last year. If in the unlikely event membership slumped, I may require to revert to you.

Time to turn our attention to the returns and the annual trophies which will be presented at the AGM.

Returns up to the end of October are attached for reference. To date I have stocked 1848 fish; 1788 rainbows, 50 browns, 5 blues & 5 tigers.

Six stockings have taken place so far this year with a final small stocking scheduled for January 2004 to conclude the 2003 / 2004 stocking program. This ensures everyone's subscription is used whilst they are members. To give you some comparison over the past few years, converting the pounds of fish stocked into tonnes the results are

Season 2001/2001	3535lbs	1.44 tonnes
Season 2001/2002	4595lbs	1.8758 tonnes
Season 2002/2003	4805lbs	1.96 tonnes
Season 2003/2004 (to date)	4849lbs	1.98 tonnes

I don't think I need to say any more regarding the quality of fish stocked! As you can see from the total returns the hot summer had an impact on our returns. March / April & May were all up on last year but June, July and the killer month of August returns were down. The killed fish total does not include the fish lost during August and does not include poaching and natural losses. However it is not all doom and gloom. September and October returns were up and were the best recorded for these months ever. November is looking good at this time so I think we can safely surmise, excluding the water level, things are getting back to normal. Our season average is almost identical to the past 2 years overall and in fact is higher at 3.62 at the end of October 2003 than the 3.49 average recorded at the end of October 2002.

I have also produced 2 new returns for your reference. A visits vs. blanks month by month table, showing last season's comparisons and a monthly returns on browns, blues and tigers, again compared to last season. I think we can conclude our resident brown population has suffered as the returns since July clearly show. I intend to restock over the next few seasons again with more browns and this is an issue that can be discussed more fully at the AGM.

Continuing on the theme of returns, time to reflect on the 7lb and over category. Last years best fish of 11½ lb caught by myself (and witnessed!) was beaten on the opening day this year by Mal Pratt. The cracking 13lb rainbow was safely returned after being weighed and witnessed by Roy Seeley. Although we usually wait until the end of the season to award the trophy for the largest rainbow I feel quite sure that Mal's magnificent fish will not be beaten and so he will receive his trophy at the AGM. Well done Mal.

Special mention at this juncture to Lewis Bennett, one of our junior members. His 10lb rainbow caught on 29/03/03 well worth rating. A superb achievement I'm sure you'll all agree.

An amazing 50 fish 7lb and over have been caught to date and are summarised as follows:

7lb and over	50	
8lb and over	29	(including 2 browns)
9lb and over	14	
10lb and over	8	
11lb and over	4	
12lb and over	2	
13lb and over	1	

Heaviest categories are :-

Heaviest Rainbow

Winner	M. Pratt	29/03/2003	13lb
Runner-up	P. Attwood	30/03/2003	12¾lb
3rd	G. Dickson	05/04/2003	11½lb
4th	D. Guy	12/04/2003	11lb
5th	N. Clark	2/04/2003	10½lb

Heaviest Brown

Winner	J. Cordingley	05/04/2003	8¼lb
Runner-up	P. Haynes	12/04/2003	8lb
3rd	G. Dickson	12/04/2003	6lb
4th =	N. Mannering	20/04/2003	5½lb
4th =	P. Haynes	08/04/2003	5½lb

Congratulations to John Cordingley who is the winner of this season's "Jack Smith Memorial Trophy 2003" for the heaviest brown caught at the end of October.

As I mentioned in Newsletter Issue 21 back in March, Mike

Lawrenson came out on top last season for the most brown trout caught in the season, with a return of 17. After Ken Robson holding the trophy for the previous 2 seasons, it was quite a challenge to overcome Ken! Mike will receive his belated trophy at the AGM.

Next up is the prestigious 'Bob McMillan Memorial Trophy 2003' for most brown trout during the normal brown season – April to October. Final placings in this category are:

Winner	P. Haynes	24
Runner-up	R. Phillips	16
3rd	K. Robson	15
4th	S. Emptage	13
5th	J. Black	9
5th =	J. Cordingley	9

Congratulations go to Phil, clearly in line to win the Brown Trout Trophy as well. I can't see anyone catching him given recent brown trout returns. However it will remain open until the season ends in March 2004.

Finally the attention is turned on the Blue and Tiger Trout Trophies again awarded for the period April to October. A number of members advised me they find it difficult recognising blue trout. The blue pigment round the eye and lack of rainbow coloured stripe on the sides usually are the most recognisable signs but it is often difficult to tell. For this reason I have decided the Blue Trout Trophy will be stood down as its accuracy cannot be guaranteed. However there are no difficulties in recognising Tiger Trout although obtaining them from our supplier is the main problem.

The winner this season is Pete Attwood, catching his total of 3 all on opening day! It was a close run thing as five others shared 2nd place with 2 each.

Final standings are:

Tiger Trout

1st	P. Attwood	3
2nd =	G. Dickson	2
2nd =	S. Emptage	2
2nd =	R. Flegg	2
2nd =	N. Mannering	2
2nd =	R. Seeley	2

Blue Trout

1st	K. Belcher	5
2nd	R. Seeley	3
3rd =	J. Black	2
3rd =	G. Dickson	2
3rd =	C. Williams	2

All trophies will be presented at the AGM.

You will notice that I asked for details of your motor vehicle this year for the first time. The reason that this information is useful is to assist in preventing poaching. David Murphy who owns the farm at the front end of the lake has, and will continue to assist us by regularly walking his dogs around the lake in the evenings when most poaching takes place.

As he often takes his shotgun with him, he can be a real deterrent. He has commented he sometimes sees cars parked close to the lake at strange times and although the windscreen badges we now use can assist, knowing members cars will assist further. Unknown cars can and will be reported to the police as potential poachers. I know this is not fool proof and the police may not act, but at least they will become aware of the problem. Obviously should you change your car, please let me know. The same comment applied to postal addresses, e-mail addresses and phone numbers.

The platforms on the shallows side will be repaired before the end of the year. Tony Russell has measured up the decking needed and has purchased the necessary amount. This will ensure all our platforms are secure for next season.

Now for some dates for your diary. This current season finishes on Saturday 13th March 2004. We will re-open on Saturday 27th March 2004 for the new 2004 / 2005 season. No fishing will take place between these dates and the combination locks will be replaced on Sunday 14th March with the key locks. Your key will be mailed to you with your March Newsletter in plenty of time for the new season.

I think I've covered everything I need to at this point. Anything forgotten will be picked up at the AGM.

Before signing off the usual thanks list:

- To you all for your continued support
- To Roy Seeley who has overseen stockings and done a tremendous job during the August problems
- To Tony Russell, Darran Guy & Ken Robson who have assisted with the stockings

· To Mal Pratt and Bill Francis for dispensing the Clarosan.
Assume same again next year?

· To Phil Haynes for additional platforms and grass cutting

I think all we need now is some sustained heavy rain to get the stream flowing and the pump into action.

Hope to see you at the AGM.

Tight Lines to you all

Gordon Dickson

Manager & Secretary