



Current Affairs

Gwanwyn / Spring 2025

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Letter from the Secretary

Llandysul Angling Association has a new secretary. I will be following on from Andrew Howell who has been secretary since 2010. The club is grateful and thankful to Andrew for his long-standing service to the club. Andrew will remain on the committee to facilitate the transfer of duties.

I settled in Llandysul in 1988 and got married soon after. My wife and I have two sons and a daughter with careers in electrical and chemical engineering and digital communications.

I became a member of Llandysul AA in the year 1990 I had to wait more than a year to join because the membership was full! I was later asked to join the committee and have helped with some of the practical work for many seasons. I was 'Competitions Secretary' for many years until the level of interest in senior angling competitions waned.

Over the last season or so, I have kept track of correspondence received by e-mail to the Llandysul AA e-mail account and will continue with this work as part of any new duties.

My background is mostly in Local Authority work having worked as manager of Ceredigion County Council's Environmental protection team for many years before retiring in 2017. My previous posts were with the Vale of Glamorgan Borough Council, (Barry) and prior to this, Arfon Borough Council, (Caernarfon). My first post was as a Research Assistant for the Dept. of Agriculture and Fisheries for Scotland (Aberdeen).

I took interest in fly fishing as a youngster on the rivers Glaslyn and Dwyfor, and lakes of north-west Wales. I also enjoyed sea and estuary fishing in the same area. I have a strong interest in nature conservation work and enjoy keeping fit through various open air and indoor activities.

I wish everyone 'tight lines' for the season ahead. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any queries or wish to bring any concerns or issues etc. to the attention of the committee. Dymuniadau gorau am y tymor pysgota newydd,

Dewi Roberts

Letter from the Chairman

Not long to wait now before the start of the 2025 fishing season. We open our doors on the 3rd of March on our Cellan Beat, and there are always a few keen anglers along the riverbank on opening day. However, it's not until the 1st of April that the season gets underway in earnest. By that time, the river has had a chance to warm up somewhat, with the hatches building well (Grannom, Large Dark Olives, and March Browns to begin with). If you have not been trout fishing on the Teifi yet, I would urge you to do so – you can experience some magical sport, and there's no finer place to be than on the banks of the 'Queen of Welsh Rivers' in the springtime.

We have many positives to celebrate as a club; from last season and overall. One that really sticks in my mind is the fact that we had 64 junior members last season, which must be a record for the club – an amazing achievement nowadays, given the lack of young anglers entering the sport overall. This is, of course, in no small part due to the efforts of Eric, Dion, Peter, and the team – a massive thanks to them for their efforts, as always.

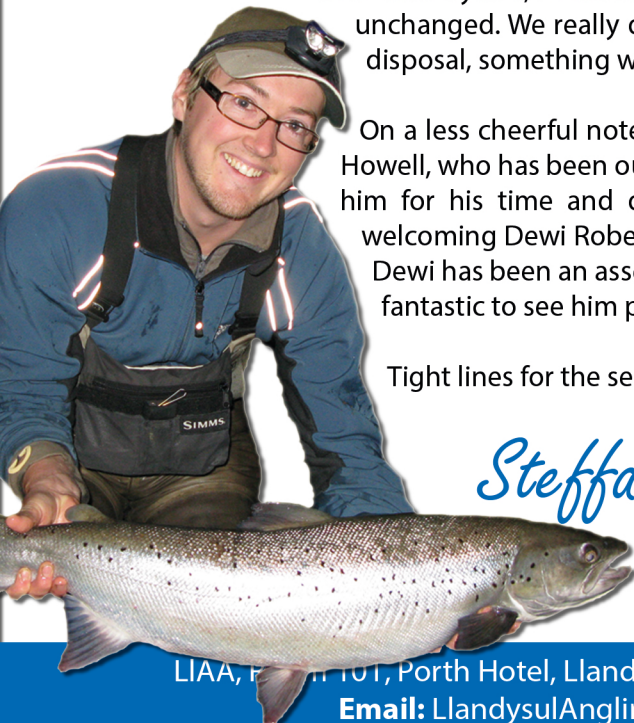
We should also celebrate the water we have access to, and how this has expanded over recent years, whilst our membership prices have remained unchanged. We really do have the cream of the river at our disposal, something we should not take for granted.

On a less cheerful note, it is sad to say goodbye to Andrew Howell, who has been our secretary for many years. We thank him for his time and dedication towards the club, whilst welcoming Dewi Roberts into his shoes on the next breath.

Dewi has been an asset for the club for many years, and it's fantastic to see him progress into the secretarial role.

Tight lines for the season ahead and enjoy the river,

Steffan Jones



West Wales Rivers Trust - Ian Thomas

WWRT has continued to go from strength to strength under the brilliant leadership of Harriet Alvis who has assembled an excellent team of enthusiastic, passionate, and committed young people to make a current staff of nine who are split into two groups. One involved with habitat improvement work and the other with community engagement.

Projects currently running in the Teifi Valley include:

- 1.** Adopt a tributary – training for local volunteer groups to protect and improve their local tributary. Currently 25 tributaries adopted in Ceredigion and over 150 in West Wales.
- 2.** Agricultural plastics – research and solutions to problems projects with feedback to the Senedd.
- 3.** Invasive non-native species- working in partnership with NRW to eradicate Himalayan Balsam on 3 Teifi tributaries plus others in our area.
- 4.** Farm infrastructure surveys – prevention of agricultural pollution resulting in environmental gain and financial saving for the farmer.
- 5.** Fish passage – removal of obstructions to fish migration: 2 on the Nant Hust with more planned next year.
- 6.** Riparian fencing – several kilometres delivered with a particularly large scheme covering the majority of the Marchnant.
- 7.** Rain water planters delivered in urban areas.
- 8.** Visual water quality training for any interested parties.
- 9.** Llais yr Afon – working with Save the Teifi and creative partners to engage a greater range of people with their local river.
- 10.** Wider advocacy – regular meetings with Afonydd Cymru and working with the Senedd to improve river health.

As you can see the scope and range of activities has increased enormously and we are very fortunate to have this team working on our behalf. Check us out at www.westwalesrivertrust.org or get in touch via the club if you're interested in getting involved with the trust.

A Passion to Teach - by Eric Davies



When I was Primary School age I was lucky to have a fishing father and neighbour that triggered my interest. Back in the late 1940's and 50's there were seven fishermen out of about 30 adults in the village of Alltwalis where I was born; catching fish for the table with worms was survival during and immediately after the 2nd World War. Today, the most effective way of achieving interest in a child to fishing would be setting up of after school Club in Primary Schools. As a fishing Club we teach children in fly fishing every Friday afternoon between 2pm and 4pm in Llandysul park.

These days, my preferred method of fishing is with a fly, something I did not experience until I was twenty eight, as fly fishing tackle was expensive before the 1970's. Today, Airflo have got a wonderful starter kits that includes 9ft 5/6wt rods that will suffice Junior and adult beginner, and will be a part of their fishing kit for the rest of their lives; my heaviest salmon of 15lb on the fly from the Teifi was caught on a 9ft Hardy rod.

Before embarking in fly casting, it is important to explain to the learner that it is the line that is the weight to take the bait in the form of a fly out into the water. Explain the action of forward cast and back cast, and try and get them to apply the action into increasing distance as soon as possible; when they make a mess of trying to increase distance, reel in line, and get them back to the action of forward and back cast again. For some children, 9ft rod can be too heavy; I encourage those to use two hands like handling a double handed salmon rod; they soon get the just of the action. Some children are strong with left and right arms and I encourage them to practice both. When practicing on the lawn or a field with a bit of wool as a fly, make it fun by putting some targets down at different distances to better accuracy. Never force or get angry with students if they can't cope; just stop for a while and ask them to relax and reflect.

I do find fly fishing exciting, as so much depends on your hands and fingers in feeling nips and tugs and when to strike. Fly fishing has taken me to World, European, Commonwealth, and Loch Style Championships all over The World. It has helped me mentally as well, but any method of fishing can do that.

Coaching at The Royal Welsh Show for The Welsh Salmon and Trout Angling Association is very rewarding when you have children coming back repeatedly during the day wanting to practice more. The brown trout Season will soon be upon us; tight lines everyone.

NRW Hook Byelaws

When the new salmon and sea trout Byelaws were introduced by NRW a few years ago, Llandysul Angling Association went above and beyond what was asked for (as it always has) in order to eliminate loopholes created by NRW. We have always been a conservation minded club, with these changes highlighting this.



NRW left massive loopholes, whereby an angler could state they were e.g. fishing for brown trout and then pretty much fish with whatever they choose. We closed this off with overarching club rules, to offer greater protection to our club and the fish.

It is important to note, however, that NRW rules supersede ours and you should view both in conjunction. Here is a summary of NRW Byelaws regarding hooks on spinners and flies:

1. All hooks for salmon and sea trout must be barbless or de-barbed.
2. No treble hooks on spinners, spoons, or plugs (singles only with a maximum 13mm gape).
3. When fly fishing; singles or doubles only.
4. When fly fishing; tandem and secret weapon type flies are allowed.

To simplify matters, we introduced a blanket ban on trebles across all species and methods. We also banned the use of multiple hooks on spinners. Bait fishing is also not permitted on club water for any species. If in doubt, consult our Byelaws Booklet, and also visit the NRW website for a complete overview of their Byelaws. Some of the key club rules are also printed on the back of your permit, meaning you always have a reference point when on the riverbank.

Youth Section - by Eric Davies



Our 2024 junior tuition attracted 30 pupils managed by Dion Davies, Dr.Ian and Elaine Thomas, Dewi Roberts, David Williams, Andrew James, Mark Turner, Glen Hamilton, Tomos Mitchell, Ron Foulkes, and Steffan Jones. Our veteran Peter Jones attended every Friday, giving out flies to the pupils - the Club is indebted to your valuable contribution. DIOLCH / THANK YOU.

The result of the distance and accuracy competition was; **1st** Will Evans, **2nd** Ryan Newam, and **3rd** Jayden Paynter.

Thank you Tomos Mitchell for offering your knowledge in coaching and you were awarded the Sportsmanship Award for that, and congratulations for gaining a place in The Welsh Youth Fly fishing Team for 2025 - his fourth Cap. Well done Fflur Mitchell (Tomos' sister) on representing Wales in The Ladies Team in 2024, and thanks goes to you both for keeping the good name of Llandysul Angling Association on the International stage.

Tight Lines to you all for the 2025 Season.



LIAA Bailiff News

It was a relatively quiet year on the bailiffing front. Not from the lack of presence, but rather that there was very little to police. This is obviously fantastic news and we, the club, thank you for respecting the club and its rules.

A major positive change has been regarding the use of treble hooks. Finally the message has gotten through. We have zero tolerance on this front, with the 28 day on the spot ban obviously working well as a deterrent.

Want to become a club bailiff and help protect our club and water? Please make contact through the club email at the bottom of this page. However, regardless of whether you want to confront individuals or become a club bailiff, you still have a duty of care over our club and water. If you see something suspicious, please report it to both NRW (**0300 065 3000**) and directly to us (**01559 36 22 02**).

The same can be said for any pollution incidents you witness. Please make sure to report them. Call NRW and make sure you ask for an incident report number - this is crucial. The number to call is **0300 065 3000** (please store it on your phone). They will ask you **1.** Where is / was the incident - ideally, supply them with a 'What3Words' pinpoint for directions. **2.** What is / was happening - be as accurate and descriptive as possible, because if you do not highlight the severity accurately then it will be classed as low priority. **3.** Who is / was responsible for the incident - if it's a landowner, then try and ascertain the house / farm name. If it's a contractor etc. then their name / number will often be present on their vehicle. **4.** When did the incident take place - log the time and whether it's still ongoing. Take as many images and as much video evidence as possible - this is crucial. Try and include identifiable landmarks and topography in what you capture to allow accurate placement and future reference.



Water Quality - by Huw Evans



The Angling Trust Water Quality Monitoring Network was launched in May 2022 as part of the Anglers Against Pollution campaign to engage anglers and angling clubs in better understanding pollution issues on their waters.

From April 2023, LLAA Committee members Andrew Thomas, Huw Evans, and Dudley Ward have been monitoring Teifi water quality using equipment purchased from the Angling Trust. Monthly test results from Kingsmeadow, Rhydygalfe/Tyrdref, and Barley Mow are submitted for collation by the network.

Setup involved gaining riparian owners consent, site-specific risk assessment with mitigation and watching instructional videos that explain and standardise testing methodology. The test kit contains sampling vessels along with electronic analysers for water temperature, electrical conductivity, phosphate and ammonia. Nitrates are tested with a dipstick. The procedure takes 20-30 minutes. Results are sent electronically via a phone App called 'Epicollect5'. Information including sampler ID, site, time and date with observations of weather, river level and flow, recent rainfall and any visible algal blooms and/or pollution.

What are the results so far? Electrical Conductivity: Distilled Water typically measures 0.5-3 [$\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$], Tap Water 50-800. EC may be raised following influx of inorganic, charged chemicals such as chlorides and phosphates eg sewage treatment chemicals, salt run-off from roads. Our readings have been in the range 74-144. **Nitrate:** There are no ecological status standards for Nitrogen in Rivers though for Lakes and Reservoirs it is 0.75-1.5mg/L [ppm] Typically freshwater natural levels are well below 5 ppm. Our readings are typically 1-2 ppm. **Phosphate:** The Environment Agency focuses on Phosphate as the main cause of river eutrophication and the nutrient they are most able to reduce to improve ecology. Standards are site specific and depend on altitude and alkalinity but for good, close to natural ecological status lie broadly in the range 0.077-0.306 ppm. Our readings are typically 0-0.07 with occasional higher readings up to 0.25 ppm. **Ammonia:** Standards are site specific with good, close to natural ecological status range 0.3-0.6 ppm. Our readings are typically 0-0.13 with occasional reading as high as 0.33 ppm.

Our results so far would be consistent with a river of good ecological status. However algal blooms persist and fish numbers are down. Moving forward we may need to reassess sampling sites and focus on tributaries. I have also learnt to avoid rainfall during testing unless you can do it from the boot of your car!

2023 Season Catch Returns

Llandysul Angling Association catch returns for the 2023 season are as follows. From what was reported, we achieved a total of 21 salmon and 96 sea trout across all our beats. This is compared to 23 and 209 in 2022, then 12 and 327 in 2021. I'm sure most will recall the appalling conditions we faced in 2023; starting off with a drought until the end of June, then the rain arrived in July and did not stop until the winter! Hardly conducive to a good fishing season.

On the plus side, as we continue to catch less, we still release more. Beyond the salmon, which are compulsory catch and release, 95% of the sea trout caught were returned. This compares with 94% in 2022, 92% in 2021, and 87% in 2020.

Teifi Fish Counter Insight

Many don't realise that there is a fish counter on the Teifi. Not only that, but it has been constantly updated over the years to keep it current and relevant. To obtain the level of accuracy needed, it is a laborious process. As such, data from the counter can be slow in reaching us for consumption. Historically, it was just utilised from a salmon perspective, but over the last few years it has also monitored sea trout levels - fish of 45cm and over. We are fortunate to have this on the river and we thank Richard Davies at NRW for his work on the counter.

As we know, 2010 was an exceptional season for salmon. The estimated run for the Teifi that season was 6,056 salmon. Decent, but when you appreciate that the Teifi is around 75 miles long with countless tributaries probably adding that length again (if not more), then six thousand salmon is certainly not seeing the system at capacity. Skip forward to 2014 and we are at less than a third of the 2010 run, with an estimate of 1,901. The Estimate nowadays? As you have probably guessed and witnessed, there has been a collapse. 2021 saw an estimate of just 853 fish, with 2023 showing 808! Even if you just consider the main river, that's just over ten salmon a mile (compared to eighty salmon per mile in 2010). Depressing stuff indeed. We will obtain data for sea trout for the next Current Affairs, and keep you updated on the salmon stats.

Bridge & Gate Code

As it stands, there are three keycode locks on our beats. From the top down, we have a keycode lock on the gate at the County Gate carpark (Beat 8B) – this was due to fly-tipping issues. We have a keycode lock on the bridge at Abercerdin (Bottom of Beat 11), just above the village in Llandysul. We then have a third keycode lock on the gateway leading into the field and parking at Henllan on the left bank of Kingsmeadow (Beat 14B) (not always used – at the landowner's discretion). The last two are in situ due to trespassing issues on these sites. To simplify matters, the same code is used for all three locks, with that being clearly displayed on the front of your permit.

ClubMate - Join / Renew Online!



We have day and week tickets at your disposal through www.FishPal.com. However, we have now signed up to www.ClubMate.Fish too, so that you can join and renew your season permits online. This process cuts down the time and cost it takes to join, as there's no longer a need to pay for stamps and rely on Royal Mail to deliver your permit. It's an easy platform to use and we hope you find benefit in its introduction.

Kingsmeadow - Fly Only Height

Our Kingsmeadow Beat (14B) in Henllan is strictly fly only (both banks) when the river is below a certain level. This level has been assigned as 75cm (0.75m) on the Llanfair Gauge, so that you may refer to it electronically. You may obtain the current level by heading to 'River Levels' under the 'Information' tab on our website - www.TeifiFishing.com. If you're looking for a good mobile app, then 'RiverApp' is worth downloading and offers all the gauges along the Teifi, and for a myriad of other rivers across the UK.

AGM 2025

The 2025 AGM is scheduled for Friday 5th December, starting at 1930 in the Porth Hotel, Llandysul. We look forward to seeing you there. If you would like to present any questions or motions, then please do so no later than the 21st of November - this can be done in writing or via email - details for both at the bottom of the page.

2025 Season Prices

We are pleased to announce that there are no changes in permit costs for the 2025 season. We do not believe that the current climate justifies an increase, but we are confident that our pricing represents some of the best value for money to be found anywhere, especially given the length of the season and the amount of water we have at our disposal.

Bank Maintenance

Whilst some smaller jobs were tackled during the 2024 season, we were very much left on the back foot after our vehicle was broken into and tools stolen. The repair and MOT then took a lot longer than envisaged, leaving us without a vehicle for most of the summer. There are plenty of smaller jobs such as stile installation and repair that need attention - more will become evident as we start to walk the beats. If you notice something that needs addressing during your time on the river, please do report it to us - you are our eyes on the river. Help us help you. If we don't know about it, we cannot fix it.

Free Junior Permit

Please remember that any Full or OAP member can have one junior member permit free of charge. Please make sure to request this at point of purchase and please make sure to obtain the permit - **DO NOT** take junior member onto the water without a permit. Additional permits can be purchased for just £2!