



Current Affairs

Gwanwyn / Spring 2026

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Letter from the Secretary

The new fishing season is approaching, bringing fresh challenges and opportunities for the Club to respond to any issues that arise. The 2025 season was difficult, with prolonged dry, warm weather followed by heavy rainfall later in the autumn, resulting in less-than-ideal fishing conditions. Despite this, some anglers enjoyed notable success. Personally, I had hoped to spend more time trout fishing on the river but struggled to find the opportunity. This year I plan to have a more 'fallow' year in the garden, which should allow more time on the water.

There are also important developments affecting freshwater anglers. The Welsh Government has proposed a new independent regulatory body for the water industry, aimed at strengthening devolved powers and delivering tighter environmental legislation. 'Afonydd Cymru' outlined its vision in January 2026, with member Rivers Trusts — including West Wales Rivers Trust — expected to support habitat and environmental improvements. In addition, from 1 April 2026, water companies in England and Wales will be legally required to publish Pollution Incident Reduction Plans, reviewed annually by regulators. If adequately resourced, these measures should lead to improved water quality and wider environmental benefits.

Another current issue is the Welsh Government's intention to revisit proposals on public access to inland waters, including the possibility of increased access to unregulated areas. This topic was recently featured on BBC One's Countryfile (11 January 2026). Any changes must balance the interests of anglers, other river users, and landowners. Llandysul Angling Association has a positive history of cooperation with the local paddlers' group, while activity from wild swimmers and paddleboarders has traditionally been limited. Angling clubs and stakeholders will continue to monitor developments closely.

Finally, the Association remains grateful for the dedication of its committee members and volunteers, whose efforts keep the club running smoothly. Please contact the club if you feel any matters require attention. Dymuniadau gorau am y tymor pysgota newydd,

Dewi Roberts

Letter from the Chairman

From a fishing perspective, it was nice to close the door on the 2025 season. The early season saw good hatches and strong trout sport, with fantastic fishing continuing into mid to late June. Then, almost as soon as the sea trout began to appear, a heatwave took hold. This not only dropped the river to near-record lows but also pushed water temperatures towards dangerously high levels. Sadly, this effectively brought most of the summer sea trout fishing to a halt.

We then enjoyed fantastic water levels and conditions in the autumn; however, the salmon were nowhere to be seen — a really depressing end to the season.

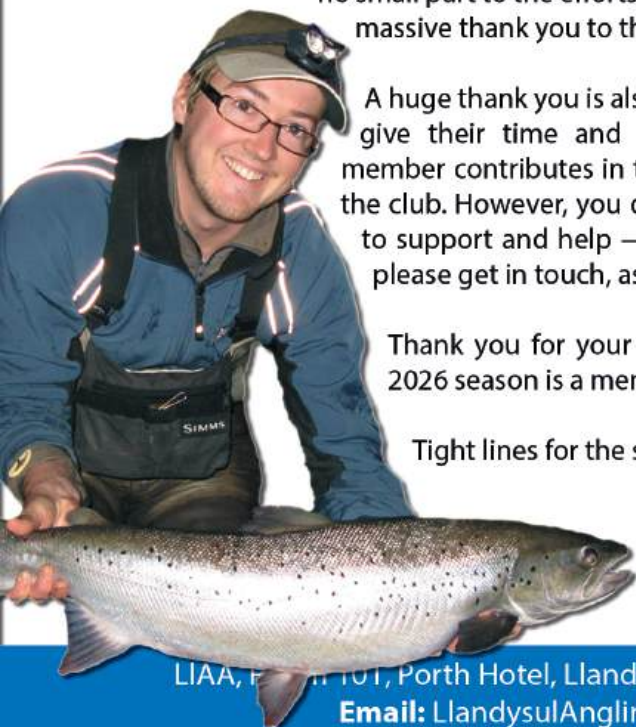
Even with such challenging conditions, it was encouraging to see the club's bank balance remain healthy at the end of the season. We thank everyone who joined or purchased day or week tickets for making that possible. Adult and Pensionable Age membership numbers have remained fairly steady, whereas our junior membership is truly something to celebrate. In 2025 we once again achieved a record-breaking year, with 68 junior members — an amazing achievement nowadays, given the overall decline in young anglers entering the sport. This success is, of course, due in no small part to the efforts of the team led by Eric and Dion — a massive thank you to them, as always.

A huge thank you is also due to the committee, all of whom give their time and effort voluntarily. Each committee member contributes in their own way and forms the core of the club. However, you do not need to be on the committee to support and help — if you can give some of your time, please get in touch, as many hands make light work.

Thank you for your continued support, and I hope the 2026 season is a memorable one for us all.

Tight lines for the season ahead — and enjoy the river.

Steffan Jones



Angling Club & RiverTrust - Ian Thomas

Having celebrated our 75th anniversary last year, I am very pleased to see that we continue to thrive despite the environmental challenges we now face. Looking back over the years, I remember thinking that the havoc humans were wreaking on the planet was bound to have disastrous consequences, yet hoping that a) I wouldn't witness the worst in my lifetime, and b) some solutions could be found.

Sadly, we are now witnessing alarming declines in biodiversity, as reflected in our own catch return statistics over the past 40+ years. Yet, we are far from passive observers. Through the work of the Rivers Trust and Afonydd Cymru, we are actively striving to reverse the decline in our river ecosystems. Both organizations continue to grow and develop under outstanding leadership, making a real difference in our local environment.

It is vital that we continue to support our angling clubs and Trusts, as there is little other restorative work being undertaken, and NRW remains overstretched, underfunded, and constrained by political pressures that limit their ability to manage local fisheries effectively. I would like to thank all our club members for their ongoing support during these lean times and encourage you to continue the good work and keep the faith in the future of angling.

The scope and range of activities undertaken by the West Wales Rivers Trust have grown enormously, and we are very fortunate to have this dedicated team working on our behalf. To learn more about who they are and what they do, visit www.westwalesriverstrust.org or get in touch via the club if you are interested in getting involved. Many hands make light work, and participating in these events is a wonderful way to meet other like-minded people in your community.

Youth Section - by Eric Davies



Parents have praised the Club for giving children the opportunity to participate in outdoor learning experiences such as fly casting, fly tying, fly fishing, and exploring the surrounding nature. These experiences would not be possible without our dedicated coaches: Dion Davies, Dr. Ian and Elaine Thomas, Dewi Roberts, Andrew James, Mark Turner (Our condolences go out to Mark Turner on the sudden and tragic loss of his wonderful wife, Jill), Dr. Huw Evans, Glen Hamilton, Peter Jones, Dudley Ward, Andrew Thomas, Tomos Mitchell, Trystan Davies, and Steffan Jones. A huge thank you to you all!

The results of the Distance and Accuracy competition were as follows:

1st Jayden Paynter **2nd** Osian Williams **3rd** Cy Paynter

Sara Evans was awarded the Sportsmanship Shield for her outstanding performance competing alongside the boys. This award is presented by Judith Roberts in memory of her late husband, Dr. David Roberts, President of the Club from 1988–2011.

Congratulations to Lloyd Thomas for securing a place in the Welsh Youth Team for 2026, and to Emrys Evans as 1st reserve. L.I.A.A. will be represented on the international stage again in 2026. C'mon Cymru and the bois of Llandysul!

The Opening Day is fast approaching—tight lines to all for the new season!



Youth Day at Nine Oaks Fishery

We invest heavily in our youth membership because we firmly believe that the future of our river, club, and sport depends on them. This includes providing fishing equipment and creating opportunities for young people to get involved—whether they live nearby or further afield. With 68 junior members now part of our community, it's clear that our efforts are paying off.

We are always looking for ways to take this further and help our young anglers develop their skills. With that in mind, we partnered with Nine Oaks Trout Fishery near Aberaeron to host a youth open day. Young members were invited to fish, receive some lessons, and enjoy a fun day out with like-minded peers.

But enough talking—let the following images speak for themselves!





Wear a Lifejacket & Service it!

How many of us actually wear a lifejacket when we're out on the riverbank? I honestly can't remember the last time I saw someone wearing one. Yet, one slip or a clumsy wade could turn a simple mistake into a life-threatening situation—and wearing something so simple could make all the difference.

www.AnglingSafety.com not only sells angling lifejackets, but they also service them—something you should definitely consider, as the cartridges don't last forever. We'd also like to thank Angling Safety for generously providing us with two lifejackets, free of charge, for use during our youth lesson days.



Club Competitions?

A club member recently reminded us of the reservoir fly fishing competitions that used to be held each Spring and Autumn, typically at Brennig, Clywedog, Llys y Fran, or Llandegfedd. If enough members were interested, block bookings were arranged, and anglers—including guests—would make their own way to the venue. Boat fishing started at 10am, with weigh-ins at 6pm, followed by refreshments and friendly banter on the way home.

The top six anglers were encouraged to represent the club at the Welsh National fly-fishing trials, with some support, such as trial entry fees, covered by the club. Small awards were presented to winners at the end-of-season dinner at the Porth Hotel.

If any members are interested in reviving these events—or a similar “day out” with less focus on competition—and have ideas, please contact Dewi via the Llandysul Angling e-mail: llandysulangling@gmail.com Interest will determine whether the event can be arranged.

End of Season Dinner?

Historically, the club held an end-of-season dinner each year, celebrating the season, the club, and providing everyone with a chance to socialize away from the riverbank. There was strong interest when a dinner was held to mark the club's 75th anniversary, which raises the question: should we consider returning to an annual dinner? Perhaps it could take place on the first weekend after the fishing season ends. If you would be interested, please contact Dewi via the Llandysul Angling email: llandysulangling@gmail.com Interest will determine whether the event can be arranged.

Trout Day Tickets - Changes

Due to some anglers misusing the Day Trout Fishing Ticket—fishing beats not covered by the ticket or using methods and equipment beyond those permitted—the ticket will only be available for purchase and use until 30th June. Season Trout Fishing Permits will continue to be valid for use until 30th September.

Security Cameras

During the 2025 season, we trialed motion-activated security cameras on some of our beats. Given that we oversee approximately thirty miles of the river, it is impossible to police the entire area, particularly with the distances involved. These cameras provide an additional layer of protection for our waterways. The cameras are mobile, allowing us to deploy them where issues have been identified. They are largely unobtrusive, operate on 4G, are solar-powered, and automatically back up to the cloud. We have instant access to the units and can monitor them remotely. The cameras have already demonstrated their value to the club, and we plan to expand the use of this technology moving forward.



Bash Some Balsam!

If you enjoy fishing by the river, you can make a big difference for local wildlife—and it only takes a few minutes!

A recent study by the University of Stirling and Newcastle University has revealed just how damaging Himalayan balsam can be to river ecosystems:

In summer, Himalayan balsam outcompetes native plants.

In winter, it dies back completely, leaving riverbanks weak and vulnerable. This makes riverbanks more prone to erosion, which washes sediment into the water, harming habitats, wildlife, and the shape of the river itself. By simply pulling Himalayan balsam plants when you see them along the riverbank, you can help reduce erosion, protect wildlife, and give native plants a chance to thrive. It's easy, rewarding, and a real way to give back to the river you love. So next time you cast a line, look around—your hands can help the river stay strong!



2024 Season Catch Returns

Llandysul Angling Association catch returns for the 2024 season are as follows: based on reported data, we recorded a total of 11 salmon and 96 sea trout across all our beats. This compares with 21 salmon and 96 sea trout in 2023.

Looking at the wider river perspective, the Teifi produced 126 salmon and 626 sea trout in 2024, compared to the Towy, which produced 147 salmon and 388 sea trout. Another notable sea trout river is the Dovey, which produced 482 sea trout. Another concerning statistic is the Wye, which produced just 153 salmon in 2024, with numbers likely to fall to around half of that in 2025.

As a club, we have historical catch records dating back to 1983. It's always interesting to reflect on these and see how our catches compare today. Of course, there are far fewer anglers fishing nowadays, but the numbers still tell a sobering story. On the salmon front, the club (not the entire river) produced 674 salmon in 1988, with 246 recorded as recently as 2010. For sea trout, the club regularly recorded over 1,000 fish per season, including 1,328 in 2005 and 700 as recently as 2015.

Teifi Fish Counter Insight

Many people don't realise that there is a fish counter on the Teifi—and it has been regularly updated over the years to keep the data current and relevant.

As we know, 2010 was an exceptional season for salmon, with an estimated 6,056 salmon running the Teifi. That may sound like a lot, but when you consider the river's length—around 75 miles, with countless tributaries adding at least as much again—6,000 salmon was far from the system's full capacity.

By 2014, the run had fallen to less than a third of 2010, with an estimated 1,901 salmon. The decline has continued since then. In 2021, the estimate was just 853 fish, followed by 808 in 2023 and 949 in 2024. Even considering only the main river, that's just over ten salmon per mile, compared to around eighty per mile in 2010.

AGM Report - 2025

The AGM was held at the Porth Hotel, Llandysul, on Friday 5 December, chaired by Steffan Jones. Approximately 35 members attended.

Eric and Dion Davies highlighted the achievements of the club's young members in their summer fly-fishing lessons. Judith Roberts presented junior member Jayden Paynter with the 'Distance and Accuracy' award shield, while Sara Evans, unable to attend due to illness, received the Dr David Roberts Memorial shield for sportsmanship. The Trevor Hirons Salmon trophy was awarded in absentia to Stuart Tanner, who caught and released four salmon on fly despite low water conditions.

Dr Ian Thomas, President, reported that there are now seven Rivers Trusts in Wales under Afonydd Cymru. He noted that river health is increasingly on the political agenda and outlined the South West Wales Rivers Trust's (SWWRT) habitat improvement work in the River Teifi catchment. Andrew Thomas, SWWRT committee member, provided an update on current projects. Dr Thomas also explained that the Teifi is one of four main catchments in Natural Resources Wales' 'Rivers for Life' restoration initiative, alongside the Cleddau, Tywi, and Usk. The club continues to monitor phosphate, nitrate, ammonia, and pH at three Teifi sites as part of the Angling Trust initiative.

Steffan Jones reported on efforts to establish a local fisheries action group. Llechryd fish counter data showed declining salmon and sea trout stocks over the past decade, a trend mirrored across Welsh rivers. He also provided updates on ticket sales, bank maintenance, litter clearance, and bailiffing.

Ron Foulkes presented the treasurer's report, with no questions arising.

The Secretary noted that the year had been relatively quiet in terms of communications, which included water quality monitoring, youth fly-fishing lessons, WWSTA matters, ash die-back, National Grid surveys, historical impoundment licences, and a media request for Iolo's Rivers. The Secretary also acknowledged the annual litter clearance and Easter youth fly-fishing event, thanking volunteers.

AGM 2026

The 2026 AGM is scheduled for Friday 4th 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 20th of November. This can be done in writing or via email - details for both at the bottom of the page.

2026 Season Prices

We are pleased to announce that there are **no changes in permit costs for the 2026 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

There are plenty of smaller jobs such as stile installation and repair that need attention and we are working our way through the list. More will become evident as we start to walk the beats this spring. 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. Priority will always be given to the most popular beats and to issues that are deemed dangerous, requiring urgent attention.

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!