



Pontarddulais and District
Angling Association (PAA)

sewin

NEWSLETTER

1/17 > No.38

*The finest gift you can
give to any fisherman is
to put a good fish back,
and who knows, if the
fish that you caught isn't
someone else's gift to you?*



Lee Wulff



> **Lyn Davies**, General Secretary

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Happy New Year!

Well, that's another fishing season over... I've many fond memories – every fishing trip is an experience and the more you fish, the more you learn!

Unfortunately, night fishing took a back seat for me – I concentrated my efforts on my trout and grayling fishing. I love fishing new waters and last year I visited many new rivers including the Western Cleddau, Aeron, Teifi, Cothi, Tawe, Rhymney and some new beats on the River Wye and its tributaries.

Tactically, I've turned a corner too, and 'seen the light' as regards to river fishing. With the help of committee man Rob Evans, I now have a lot more confidence fishing 'European style', by nymphing using a 'French leader' – a devastatingly effective method that has been favoured by many top competition anglers for the last few years. My 'go to' tactic for wild browns would always be the dry fly – but last season I put the time in with the nymphs and I'm beginning to reap the rewards. If you've not tried it, I'd recommend you do.

2016 was particularly busy for me, so I've not had much time to produce these newsletters (apologies), but I promise to make more of an effort this year! Please get in touch if you have any fishy stories – I'm always looking for content.

I wait in anticipation for the beginning of the trout season and will continue to enjoy my winter fly tying and my grayling fishing trips.

Hope to see you at our AGM on Wednesday 15th February!



We're on Facebook!

It's been a long time coming, but Pontarddulais Angling Association now have a Facebook account.

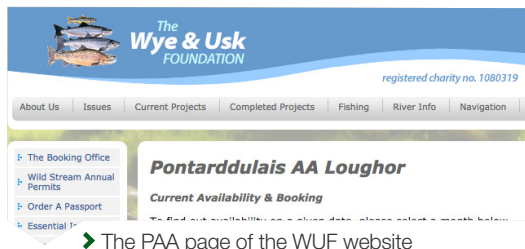
We all know the power of social media, so hopefully members (and any potential new members) can keep up to date with all club activities online. Feel free to post any news or interesting information:

@pontarddualisangling





Wye and Usk Foundation (WUF)



➤ The PAA page of the WUF website

We'll be continuing to advertise our fishing on the WUF website during 2017.

Our little gem of a river is proving quite popular amongst visiting anglers – check out our page on the website: wyeuskfoundation.org/fishing

Carmarthenshire Fishermen's Federation (CFF)



We are soon to re-join the reformed CFF – the 'voice' of game angling here in South-west Wales.

The CFF works closely with various official bodies, especially the Natural Resources Wales (NRW), which has now assumed the powers and responsibilities in Wales of the Environment Agency, the Forestry Commission and the Countryside Council. We look forward to working with the CFF. For further information, visit: carmarthenshirefishermensfederation.org

Car wash in 'the Bont'

Plans for a new car wash at the old Gwyn Hotel at Pontarddulais are on hold.

The City and County of Swansea are now involved thanks to our Chairman, Eifion Williams – who must take credit for his persistence to ensure correct procedures took place!

Joint meetings

The committee have continued to hold meetings with our neighbouring associations Ammanford, GCG and Clwb Godre'r Mynydd Du.

We had a very productive meeting on Monday 9th January – it's always good to share information and 'join forces' to ensure our river is the best it can be for our members.

Pollution worries...



➤ A very sad sight – the recent fish kill on the River Teifi (photo courtesy of Steffan Jones)

No doubt, you've seen the recent news of the slurry pollution incident on the River Teifi, Tregaron – shocking.

Only last summer, I achieved a lifetimes ambition by fishing in the footsteps of the late Moc 'John' Morgan and experienced the most wonderful evening's fishing on the upper Teifi catching wild brown trout amongst the pretty ranunculus weed. Of course, this stretch of river has now been completely wiped out – absolutely devastating for all.

We are yet to know extent of the damage done to our own stretch just a few miles downstream, but it doesn't look good. It's certainly worrying times and when you see it happen on your doorstep, it really hits home. I only hope the NRW sets an example and come down hard on the culprits – who it seems is a local farmer.

Whatever happens, this jewel of a Welsh river will take decades to recover.



Grayling (and salmon) on the River Irfon

Every now and again you stumble across a special river, and this time for me it was the River Irfon – a relatively small tributary of the Wye, at Llangammarch Wells, near Builth Wells. This pretty little river holds some cracking grayling and doesn't seem to receive the pressure of many other rivers.



➤ One of the better one's from the Cammarch Hotel waters

It was a cold, misty morning in mid-October when I arrived at the infamous Cammarch Hotel at Llangammarch Wells to purchase a day ticket (which by the way is just £15). I headed to one of the higher beats, carrying two rods – a 9ft 5wt and a 10ft 3wt – both setup with French leaders and teams of nymphs (most of which were tied using heavy tungsten beads). From recent trips, I knew roughly where the fish were but they can move around – particularly earlier in the season. Grayling are a lot less spooky than trout, and at times you catch them literally under your feet – often spotting individual fish using polaroid sunglasses. Today was no exception and after an hour or so I'd found a willing shoal that provided some great sport – as ever, a bright pink shrimp pattern did well on the dropper. I also spotted a few salmon turn in the aptly named 'salmon pool' towards the bottom of the beat.

Come 3.30pm, the temperature was dropping fast and my thoughts turned towards the trip home. I'd managed to winkle out a dozen or so grayling to a respectable 19-inches before deciding to walk back to the bottom of the beat to try my luck at the salmon pool. I tied on a heavier 4mm tungsten nymph on the point and began searching the pool depths. After a couple of casts I hooked into something 'different' which, following a quick, explosive fight turned out to be a skinny 4-5lb salmon – a first for me on such light tackle. After safely returning the fish, I checked my flies and flicked them back in only to immediately connect with something else 'weighty'. This time though the fish shot off tail walking across the pool! It was another salmon (probably the previous ones mate) and was definitely into double figures. It continued to lead me a merry dance for a couple of minutes (including another impressive tail walk with a near full fly line out) before settling just yards from where I was wading. It then shot up my near-side bank and into a submerged tree where my pink shrimp on the top dropper lodged itself into a branch. 'Ping!' – the fish was gone and proceeded to splash amongst the branches before swimming away back to its lie. As they say, you always lose the big ones but I wasn't too despondent – I'd 'shook hands' with a large salmon. Using such light tackle, you have to be very lucky to tame such fish (and a prolonged fight cannot do them much good), so I was thankful of the experience. It topped off a great day's fishing – I look forward to a return visit to the Irfon.



➤ A typical River Gwili wild brown trout – ever willing to take a dry fly

River Gwili – the small stream on our doorstep...

If you fancy something a little different next season, why not give the River Gwili a try?

It's easily accessible and holds a healthy population of wild brown trout. All you need is a small 7–8ft fly rod, a floating fly line, a short 6ft 2–3lb leader and a selection of dry flies!

I regularly fish from Hendy rugby club up towards Llannon – taking fish to 10–12 inches. It's always an adventure and fishing these small streams takes me back to me childhood. You should try it.

You're kept busy, stumbling over slippery stones and ducking under overhanging branches. Around every corner is a new experience but a word of warning – you'll always run out of time... Never underestimate how long it can take to cover even a few hundred yards of river, so avoid giving 'her indoors' a definite time as to when you'll return!

INCIDENT HOTLINE
Environment Agency (EA)
 0800 807 060



➤ Oscar takes the rod during a rare fishing trip with his daddy

Fly-fishing and children

My own fishing career began at the tender age of four, when I remember catching my first brown trout at the bottom of my parents garden using a running worm.

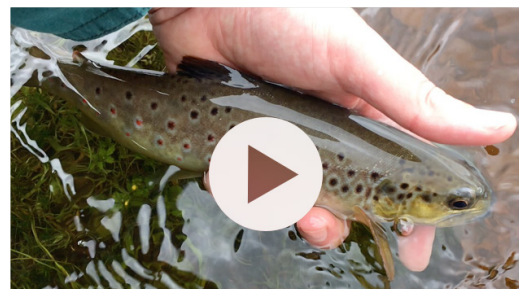
I was hooked from that day on and haven't stopped fishing ever since. Fast forward thirty odd years and my own 8-year old son Oscar couldn't be any different. He shows no interest in fishing – it's all about the football!

Being such a keen angler, it was obviously hard to accept at first but it's getting easier – well, sort of! We all know there's no benefit in pushing them – they'll find they're own way in life...

It seems Oscar has the same passion for 'the beautiful game' as I did for fishing at his age – and I must accept that and support him all I can (sigh..). He has shown 'some' interest in fly tying – but this is probably just his creative side showing through. Fly fishing after all is very technical, and not many youngsters show interest until their teens. We've tried float fishing for roach and rudd together, but Oscar's interest soon waned.

Maybe, just maybe, something might 'click' one day and he'll ask to join me on a fishing trip or his friends may influence him. In the meantime, I'll continue to develop my football skills – I've even started playing 5-a-side with the dads!

If you've any fishing tales involving your children, I'd love to hear them and maybe include a regular spot in this newsletter.



➤ Slo-mo action on the i-Phone – try it!

Slow motion action...

These days, we all carry phones and if you own an Apple i-Phone, then I'd recommend you try the 'slo-mo' video feature. It's great fun!

Next time you catch a fish, try it – you'll be amazed at the results. I've had lots of fun capturing little wild brown trout being released – especially close up at a low angle near to the water surface. Obviously it helps if a mate can do the filming, as it's risky hovering an expensive phone near to the water surface, but I think it's worth it!

Here's a couple from last season:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gm0tEJ8tI70

www.youtube.com/watch?v=04AB-BKLqr8



➤ Fish of the day – and it's sewin!

I thought you might like this picture – I spotted it in a local pub when fishing the Western Cleddau last summer.

Makes you think just how valued our quarry really is – and where they get the sewin from for that matter!

2016 Tiddlers 50/50 winners

May: No. 30: Hana Jones, June: No. 58: Mark Walker, July: No. 35: Joe Parry, August: No. 4: Albie Lewis, September: No. 14: Angela Jones, October: No. 2: Ryan Lewis.
All won £35.



TOP TIP!
FOR THE MONTH OF MAY...

Be prepared!
Use the long winter months to tie flies and check over your tackle in readiness for the season ahead. That way, you'll 'hit the ground running' at the earliest opportunity!

