

## JUNIORS CORNER

Junior membership was down at the end of last year, compared to the previous season and stood at 15 members. However, the juniors that attend our events are very keen, always willing to learn and enjoy their time at the waterside. Also noted is the excellent return of catch cards from our juniors, well done! Please do remember that your play station is nowhere near as much fun as catching fish on a fly!

We have already started fly tying lessons at the Community Centre and expect to carry on with the popular casting tuition sessions throughout the year – please keep an eye open for regular e-mail updates.



Alex Aamer is becoming a regular competition winner and is shown here receiving his trophy and voucher at the AGM.

Leo Rutherford enjoys a Sunday morning helping with a clearance work squad on the Black Burn,

a major Cowie tributary. These sessions are very important to our rivers and give both juniors and adults a chance to learn about the environment, fish habitat and their life cycle. A responsible adult must always accompany juniors.



Keen anglers and patient coaches are required at Allochie during casting improvement sessions. It's great to see our juniors take part, improve and progress to overhead casting and multiple fly casts, especially when there is a brisk wind! Please note the use of protective glasses which are also polarized to help the angler to "see into the water". Anyone wishing to learn is welcome to these sessions, equipment is provided and patience in abundance.

If any juniors would like to try their hand at salmon fishing please contact club Secretary Gary at [garyfishing2000@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:garyfishing2000@yahoo.co.uk) – again, all fishing equipment can be supplied but you will need wellies or preferably waders.



## CLUB DISCOUNTS

All our discounted fishing remains this year apart from the river Feugh at Heughead, where new management have decided to discontinue all discounts – I wonder if they might regret this if the catch is down at the end of the season!

**Middle Drum on the River Dee** - check the fishpal website for availability then ring the Ghillie, Shane direct on 07768603702 to book, stating you are an SDAA member, for a 25% discount.

**Kildrummy on the River Don** – contact David Littlewood at <http://www.kildrummyinn.co.uk/fishing/> stating SDAA membership for a 20% discount – superb brown trout water also good salmon fishing from June onwards!

**Tillbouries on the River Dee** – ring Ghillie Daniel on 07539425332 for very reasonable rates.

**Somers Tackle and Orvis of Banchory** offer discounts on production of your membership book.

**Diver Dave** for wader repairs and deals on new and used waders <https://sites.google.com/site/wadersrepairs/>.

**Gary Scott** has secured two club days at Canterland on the River North Esk – 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> June at £50 per rod per day. We will have all 5 rods on each day. Please book your rod with Martin Gardner at [weemairt@gmail.com](mailto:weemairt@gmail.com)

Always state SDAA membership at time of booking and take your membership booklet with you.

*Your Committee wishes you a successful and enjoyable season with plenty of tight lines and wet nets! See you at the waterside, MW*

Visit your Club Website [www.stonehavenangling.com](http://www.stonehavenangling.com) and Facebook page for all club news, views and information.



## Stonehaven & District Angling Association



Spring  
2017

## AGM 2016



Greg Leslie receiving the John MacDonald trophy from Honorary President Richard Holman-Baird.

Greg also joins the committee this year with an impressive background in competition fishing and coaching. Other competition winners last year were Ian Laird, William Munro and Junior member Alex Aamer. Jim hay and Ashley McKinnon from Somers Tackle of Aberdeen took the honours in their popular sponsored Blind Pairs Competition held at Lochter Fishery. A full briefing of club activities, financial accounts and catch statistics was given on the overhead screen. Catches at our stillwaters have increased slightly on 2015 but have been on a downhill trend since the heady days of 2012 – recent poaching or less rod effort? Some very interesting photos were shown from excellent redd count river walks by Dave MacDonald and Martin Gardner. After a motion from Treasurer Martin Gardner it was agreed that the committee should reduce in number from 18 to 15. This will retain the spread of workload and ensure the current level of commitment from its members. Another motion, from Secretary Gary Scott - for the committee to evaluate the introduction of Brown Trout to Crossley – was also agreed (details later in this newsletter). As previously, the venue for the AGM was excellently hosted by Bill Gibson who kept the drink flowing and provided ample sandwiches at half time!

## 2017 COMMITTEE:

President	Martin Webster	07836 342313
Vice President	Allan Annat	01569 764140
Secretary	Gary Scott	0777 4321705
Treasurer	Martin Gardner	07534188900
Allochie	George Burr	01569 730550
Crossley	Jim Michie	07766946852
Re-Stocking	Hugh Mitchell	01224 783579
Upper Cowie	Stuart Smith	01569 731635
Middle Cowie	Stuart Wright	01569 766473
Lower Cowie	John Rench	01569 763438
River Watcher	Scott Rutherford	01330810237
Webmaster	Chris Horridge	077632 86288
Planning	Ian Jerrit	01569 766855
Tributaries/ Bervie	Fred Welsh	01569 764756
Competitions	Greg Leslie	07860563922

## COMPETITIONS AND OUTINGS

ADULT COMPETITIONS	VENUE	DATE
<b>John McDonald Shield</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> leg Rescobie, boat fishing	Saturday 20 <sup>th</sup> May
<b>(2 leg competition)</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> leg Forbes of Kingennie	Saturday 17 <sup>th</sup> June
<b>Somers Blind Pairs</b>	Lochter Fishery	Sunday 30 <sup>th</sup> July
<b>Andy Gordon Shield</b>	Crossley Quarry	Saturday 26 <sup>th</sup> August
<b>David's Trophy</b>	Raemoir Fishery	Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup> September
JUNIOR COMPETITIONS		
<b>Bob Massie Shield</b>	Allochie Lochan	Sunday 20 <sup>th</sup> August
<b>President's Trophy</b>	Raemoir Fishery	Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup> September
RIVER COMPETITIONS		
<b>Bob Dickie Cup</b>	River Cowie	Heaviest Sea Trout- all season
<b>Syd Horne Cup</b>	River Cowie	Heaviest Salmon – all season
<b>Doshie Keith Cup</b>	Manse Pool River Cowie	Largest Fish – all season
<b>Jim Donald Cup</b>	Estuary Pool River Cowie	Largest Fish – all season

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**DON'T FORGET TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP AT THE PET SHOP BEFORE 1<sup>ST</sup> APRIL TO ENJOY YOUR FULL DISCOUNTED PRICE!**

## The Year Ahead (and so far)

Anti-poaching measures are ongoing at Crossley Quarry in the shape of new fencing and over 200 extremely spiky blackthorn bushes which will become impassable when grown on around the perimeter. A pedestrian access gate will be installed which will be kept locked with the same key as currently used at Allochie and the Inkbottle car parks. These keys will be available at £14 from Gary Scott and **will be required after April this year** – further details of when



to request a key will be communicated to all members.

The old board walk just inside the entrance is shown here being replaced with a hardcore base path, prior to the new fence being erected – sterling work by Jim Michie, Hugh Mitchell and Geordie Burr + machinery. Jim will continue his excellent maintenance work this year. As always, we will be requesting volunteers for work squads so please step forward when the call is made!

**Brown Trout will be introduced at Crossley Quarry this year.** 50 brownies of up to 1lb will be stocked at the beginning of the season **and will be strictly limited to catch and release only.** This will add a pleasant variation to our catches and will most likely inspire some new and interesting flies

- or perhaps old traditional favourites like the Bibio, Coachman and Alexandria – I still have a few Brora Rangers from a previous trip North! Already some excellent overwintered rainbows have been caught at Crossley. Scott Rutherford, who has been casting in all weathers and sometimes amongst ice patches on the water, sent this photo of a superbly conditioned fish, returned safely, during a successful session with small bead head GRHE's.



We will continue to monitor the water acidity, temperature and oxygen levels at Allochie at stocking times to avoid last year's incidence of some freshly stocked fish found dead. Tests of the water last year showed an increase in acidity levels which is most likely a natural occurrence. However, the good news is fish have been showing at Allochie this year, feeding on plentiful insect life, so there are some excellent overwintered rainbows to be had! Very importantly the disinfectant bins have been replenished at the Stillwaters for dipping nets before angling begins.

After prolonged and time consuming fund raising negotiations with various developers in our local area we expect to see progress with several projects this year (full details in the Autumn newsletter) and we are glad to see the fruits of extended correspondence gain positive results with some ongoing local issues.

Some of the Tennis Club and the All-Weather Pitch floodlights have been fitted with louvre baffles to help reduce backlight spillage onto the water surface and glare in the face of anglers (there are ongoing efforts to achieve baffling of all the new STC lights as per the planning conditions, and side baffles at the All-Weather Pitch). This is additional to the ban on the "new" STC lights from end of March to 1<sup>st</sup> November (the fishing season!) which was achieved through hard work, numerous correspondence and attendance at meetings. The long standing legally enforceable night sharing agreement on the "old" lights nearest to the river, as laid out in the membership handbook, still exists. The Carron Flood Protection Scheme continues to listen to our concerns and ideas around retention of habitat and fish migration issues – a public hearing is taking place on 28, 29 and 30<sup>th</sup> March at the St. James Church hall and I urge all interested parties to attend and learn about how this £multimillion proposal will affect our river.

Our long-term plan for improvements to the Dam Dykes Weir on the river Cowie at Mineralwell will require a full flood risk and mitigating works analysis to gain SEPA and Planning permissions - a recent quote shows this is going to be an expensive report to commission hence funding sources are being actively pursued.

We are always searching for funding sources to improve and enhance all our fisheries and your committee welcomes any suggestions to this end.

The Estuary Pool has been dredged of shingle for the 2<sup>nd</sup> year running. One tends to wonder if the so-called natural movement of shingle around the bay actually warrants this work, which tends to leave the pool "washed out" and devoid of good holding water for migrating smolts, seatrout and salmon. Members of the club approached the council officer during the works, who took note of our concerns and kindly carried out some mitigating boulder and shingle movement. The SDAA have previously been consulted on this matter and we would hope to be kept in this loop in the future, despite constant changes of staff at Viewmount.



Later in the year all club members will be welcomed to an evening of demonstration and practice with the fly and maggots at this productive pool. Seatrout during the witching hour can be one of the most exciting forms of angling! The Wild Fisheries Reform has completely slowed down in its far reaching and regulatory approach to changes in the management of wild fish stocks. There will be no rod license in Scotland and no reform of the structure of fishery boards. The categorisation of rivers remains and therefore we are still fully catch and release for salmon on our SDAA rivers. For some informative reading go to <http://news.gov.scot/news/wild-fisheries> or

<http://www.gov.scot/Topics/marine/Salmon-Trout-Coarse>

The Freshwater Laboratory of Marine Scotland Science plan to hold an open day to showcase their scientific work, on Saturday the 13<sup>th</sup> of May, 10 am until 4 pm. at the Atholl Palace hotel in Pitlochry and all anglers are welcome.

Part of our river management plan includes a predator count. Goosanders were introduced to this country hence are not a native species and can gobble up many juvenile fish and much of the smolt run in spring. Sightings of mink (another INNS) and numbers of seals as well as the resident herons are also noted. The River Dee Trust will be notified of our count and will advise whether we have a problem and if there is a solution. Pictured are a male and female pair of goosanders happily cruising the river Cowie near the Maxi Burn, regularly ducking for small fish.



## Buzzer Fishing

Possibly the most underestimated flies in the fly angler's armoury are the humble trout buzzer flies. The buzzer imitates a midge in its nymph stage, starting life in muddy water beds as a bloodworm or chironomid, which is blood red in colour and preparing to emerge as the adult midge. When ready to emerge it ascends to the surface of the water. This is when we use a buzzer fly to imitate this stage of the midge's life. Using small buzzers is very effective as a natural buzzer pupa can be just a few millimetres long. Believe it or not these little buzzers, maybe just 5 to 8 mm long, can account for huge trout, the reason is simply they think they are eating something natural!

### Fishing Techniques Using Trout Buzzers

Buzzer feeding occurs 365 days per year! A bead head buzzer will drop swiftly through the water, however weight is not always the key, rather getting to the right depth where the fish are feeding. With many buzzers and nymphs having hard exoskeletons these are imitated by an Epoxy coating over the artificial fly and with their ultralow thin profile sink rapidly because of the limited water resistance. Fished in different ways the buzzer is a great fly when trout (or grayling on some rivers) are feeding on buzzers and nymphs, for example team drifting and dry fly drifting or as it is also called using the trout buzzer New Zealand style:

Using a larger buoyant fly in New Zealand they developed a fishing style where a fly like a buzzer is tied to a tippet then attached to the hook bend of the large supporting trout dry fly. This technique is superb when utilizing a highly buoyant fly like a heavy hackled klinkhammer, a buoyant caddis or suspending the buzzer using a foam fly. A favourite is a caddis dry fly on rivers or trout stimulator on lochs. Using a New Zealand rig with buzzers is superb as both the sinking buzzer and the supporting buoyant dry fly act as lures and simultaneously present flies at surface and underwater, catching trout at all stages of feeding. The top dry fly also acts as a bite indicator for when the buzzer has been taken. Buzzers can also be used as part of a mixed team at the depth fish are feeding, especially when searching for Brown Trout:



Epoxy Buzzers cut rapidly through the surface film and get to fishing depth quickly. Artificial flies are designed to imitate as closely as possible the natural buzzers, with hot coloured heads that act as targets for hungry trout and can work wonders on stillwaters. Ideally they are fished very slowly on a floating line and as long a leader as you can use. A very slow figure-of-eight retrieve is normally best; occasionally if there is a lot of buzzer activity fairly fast stripping can work well also. Quite often buzzers will be taken on the drop. A well tied one is the closest to a natural buzzer you can use without trying to thread a real one onto your hook!

Our fly tying evenings at the Community Centre are an ideal time to practice or perfect and share your techniques. Information and drawings supplied by *THE ESSENTIAL FLY* company and available on line.

