

RIVERS – The Carron Flood protection works are well under but not always to the satisfaction of the SDAA, the River Dee Trust and SEPA. It is beyond doubt that the river will take several years to recover, ecologically, from this project. We have had discussions with the RDT and highlighted our main concerns: the extensive use of plastic sheeting to line the river bed which will take considerable time to recover; long sections of the river bed and banks being buried under rubble and hardcore for extensive periods of time, disrupting natural flora and fauna growth; access for migrating fish through obstacles such as the pipes at the constricted flow just below the Green Bridge;



over pumping of the Glasslaw burn which prevents any fish migration up or down this burn. An electrofishing survey was carried out prior to work starting and we expect similar to be carried out annually for up to five years so that impact comparisons can be made – this survey, however, only covered the area directly affected by the works so we will have to red count further upstream for our own impact assessment.

On the Cowie we had some reports of fish being seen quite early this year including this lovely seatrout caught and safely returned at the start of June by Stuart Wright. Water levels have remained good throughout most of the year and we are hoping for a good catch return - the AGM will reveal full catch details. The fish counter is working but we are still having trouble with the interrogation software that will give more details of the size of fish passing through. It has been reported that fish are still to be seen ascending the weir in high water so we can assume that the fish pass is



allowing many more in low to middle water. A small electrofishing exercise was carried out within the Ury estate by the RDT and their report stated that healthy numbers of juvenile salmon and trout were present. Picture left are salmon fry and parr from the Cowie during the session.

Chris Wink has been leading the river maintenance work with his chainsaw and assistance from members (it is noted that many of the regular helpers are of the older generation and we would hope that some younger, fit and interested volunteers will step forward next year!). We are wishing the River Dee INNS officer a speedy recovery from illness and await contact regarding spraying and control of Japanese Knotweed, Himalayan Balsam and Giant Hogweed which have all been reported along the rivers. Separate to the Carron flood works we are aware of a Stonehaven Bay Coastal Flood Survey carried out for Aberdeenshire Council, details of which can be found at <http://www.stonehavenbaycoastalfloodstudy.com/home/>, and which will probably impact on the river Cowie Estuary Pool. Initial plans seen by club committee member Martin Gardner include raising the current retaining walls on each side of the pool and regrading of the sloping concrete walls down to the casting walkway. This project is obviously at a very early stage of options appraisal but the SDAA will make representations whenever it can to retain our angling access here as well as stating the case for migratory fish, which is so often overlooked during such large projects. It is feasible that both could be improved.....



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING SUNDAY 8TH DECEMBER AT 6:30 PM

Competition prizes and free membership draw.
HELD AT THE UNIONIST CLUB STONEHAVEN

An informative evening of this year's club activities and election of the committee sets the agenda as well as full catch statistics. The bar will be open and free sandwiches at the interval! **Motions to be considered should be sent to Secretary Gary Scott no later than 24/11/2019.**

CATCH RETURN FORMS

Your return form is enclosed so please ensure it is completed and sent in **As Soon As Possible** – it's a legal requirement and a big help to your club to get it returned early!

President's ramblings – Earlier this year we heard the sad news of the passing of long term SDAA member and ex-committee member Lyall Wilson and our thoughts are with his family. Lyall was a regular at our stillwaters and attended every AGM I can remember, often adding valued, in depth knowledge of club matters.

As you will see in this newsletter and at the AGM we have had another busy year with quite a few issues to deal with as well as the everyday running of the club. Your club does rely on all of its members to achieve the considerable amount of work required when tending to both our wild and stocked fisheries. You do not have to be heavily involved but a small amount of time given by many when called upon can achieve amazing results. Very often it is a small core of helpers that regularly turn out to any events or work parties, when we have a total membership of well over 100 anglers, and this can make it hard work.

Our treasurer Martin Gardner has completed the set-up of online banking where we have a system of obligatory secondary authorisation for payments – the application and setup process for business accounts was predictably time consuming and tortuous but Martin's persistence and occasional banging of head against a wall has paid off! Please attend the AGM for a full presentation of the club's accounts.

Vice President Scott Rutherford has been nominated to remain on the Dee District Salmon Fishery Board and we fully expect him to be a lower proprietor representative for a further three years.

River convener Stuart Wright manned a table at a local fishing club day held by Orvis of Banchory. On behalf of the SDAA Stuart presented a rolling power point display of our activities which drew compliments from other clubs and resulted in at least one new applicant to join the SDAA.

River maintenance by Chris Wink has been assisted by some members, notably Dave MacDonald who has also been walking and clearing the tributaries in readiness for spawning salmon and seatrout.

Local planning and development issues have been overshadowed by the Carron Flood Protection Scheme (see later) but several other areas are being watched: further development applications within Ury Estate – the RDT are attempting to get Kirkwood Homes involved with INNS eradication in the proximity of new housing near the river; there is no further news of the Durriss Outdoor Centre or the Carronside cycle paths.

Our hopes of improving the Dam Dykes for fish passage have been stalled for now due to the extensive permissions required which will need considerable funding. There are some ideas in the pipe-line which might take time to realise. The SDAA has again donated single year complimentary tickets for auction by good causes this year including Cancer Research and the Royal Deeside Railway Society.

Visit your Club Website at www.stonehavenangling.com for all club information.
Or Facebook for news, views and chat at <https://www.facebook.com/Stonehaven-and-District-Angling-Association>

On the Cowie and Carron, it is illegal to kill a salmon or grilse throughout the entire season. This is due to them being category 3 under the Scottish Government's classification of all salmon rivers.



**Stonehaven & District
Angling Association**



Autumn 2019

Competitions - Winners of this year's competitions:

ADULT COMPETITIONS	VENUE	Winner
John McDonald Shield (2 leg competition)	1 st leg Rescobie, boats 2 nd leg Kingennie,	Overall winner John Rench
Somers Blind Pairs	Lochter Fishery	Colin Craik/John Rench
Andy Gordon Shield	Crossley Quarry	Chris Wink
David's Trophy	Raemoir Fishery	Greg Leslie
JUNIOR COMPETITIONS		
Bob Massie Shield	Allochie Lochan	Erin McDowell
President's Trophy	Raemoir Fishery	Alex Aamer
RIVER COMPETITIONS		
Bob Dickie Cup - Heaviest Sea Trout	River Cowie	TBA - AGM
Syd Horne Cup - Heaviest Salmon	River Cowie	TBA - AGM
Doshie Keith Cup - Largest Fish	Manse Pool River Cowie	TBA - AGM
Jim Donald Cup - Largest Fish	Estuary Pool River Cowie	TBA - AGM

Secretary Gary Scott is getting the trophies and shields engraved ready for presentation at the AGM, along with tackle vouchers. Disappointingly, there seems to be a trend towards apathy by members when it comes to joining in with the competitions and I wonder how we can reverse this as those that do come along find the social interaction and relaxed, friendly atmosphere very enjoyable. Most partakers treat these sessions as simply enjoyable days out angling and a chance to see alternative tactics and flies to their usual fair. The top fishers always have time to chat and pass on advice to newcomers and it's always great to see a new face or two. The river trophies require to be claimed by sending a photo and/or description to Gary – embellished stories of epic battles are always welcome!

JUNIORS CORNER — Junior events were much better attended this year especially the casting sessions which were held over two weekends in the summer. I must thank all those that helped out, especially Ian Laird



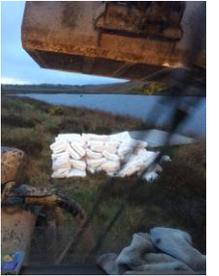
who gives up a good deal of his time to organise these days. Many new faces were met, along with parents who were welcomed with coffee and biscuits and who witnessed fish being caught by the juniors. Some complete beginners were helped with their first fly casting attempts and we look forward to seeing them again, hopefully as club members. At least one new junior member and a family permit has been applied for following these events. This is very encouraging for the future of our sport and



the club. Pictured are left young Erin McDowell catching her first(?) trout and right a complete novice being shown how to play a fish off the new pier, both being watched by fellow anglers and filmed by attentive parents. Errin also won the Bob Massie shield at Crossley when, although catch numbers were equal, she caught the first and biggest fish on a difficult windy day. Alex Aamer won the President's Trophy which was well attended at Raemoir Trout Fishery. We hope to have Allochie back in some action next year which is always the preferred venue for juniors, but until then can I remind juniors not to fish off the high cliffs at Crossley and always to be accompanied by an adult. To follow on with this year's encouraging junior fishing days Ian will arranging the first of our winter fly tying evenings at the community centre Stonehaven on a Tuesday evening 7 and 9pm. – date to be confirmed by email and Facebook. We have some very good fly tiers within the club who will be very happy to pass on their skills to juniors, their friends and adults alike. Of course, you will take away any flies that you tie up.



STILLWATERS — This year at Allochie members of the committee, together with Richard Morrison of RUM consultancy have been busy administering around 2.5 tonnes of the fine white mineral powder named Aquaplancton. This was a particularly messy job requiring PPE gloves and masks to be used by those seated in the boat, cutting open the bags and spreading the powder whilst rowing in a methodical criss-cross fashion across the water. As you can imagine, dry and windless conditions were required and that means midges! Pictured left is Martin and Richard out in a pleasant breeze whilst others on the bank prepared the sacks for loading at one of the platforms. The clear up work of brushing and scraping the boat, as well as waders and jackets afterwards was a major contributor to the time it took, as this powder turns to a ready-mix flour like consistency when added to water! Chris Wink had taken delivery of the order, stored the pallets and delivered them to Allochie when the weather was suitable for even spreading. Richard has kindly given the very useful pump up dingy to the club for future use at our stillwaters and has also been monitoring the dissolved oxygen levels in the water. Results so far appear to be positive with readings of dissolved oxygen between 8 and 9 mg/litre (when levels in excess of 7 are required for rainbow trout and levels as low as 3 were recorded last year). Interestingly, after a period of calm warm days the readings were slightly lower than those at time of choppy water, but insect life appears to remain abundant. If this trend continues and PH levels remain appropriate, we are hoping for a trial stock next year and to eventually re-open the fishery for SDAA members.



Crossley has benefitted from the hard work of Ian Laird and Jim Kane again this year, with their general maintenance and the introduction of the new casting pier. This was built to a commendable standard at minimal cost to the club and is proving a very popular hot spot. Judicious stocking levels have kept the fishing active and you will have noticed the introduction of some hard fighting lovely blue trout



this year. Very recently the small platform at the foot of the steps has come away from the bank and Ian is assessing whether to rebuild or completely replace this casting aid which was originally built by Bob Souter many years ago. In the mean-time there will be a couple of cones at the top of the steps warning anglers not to descend onto the platform. Please be patient as I know that Ian and Jim's final solution will be worth the wait. The black shed has been painted, a rod holder and table built as well as repairs/improvements carried out to the perimeter fencing. Some signs of entry via other routes than the gate have been noticed which could well be poachers - members are encouraged to report unusual sightings to a committee member and in particular take a note of car registration numbers if poaching is suspected. We are all within our rights to politely ask to see a valid SDAA membership permit from anglers but please be cautious if you are on your own. The best deterrent for poaching is to have club members regularly fishing the water. Most members are carefully returning fish and we have no reports of diseased or badly handled fish so far this year, which is very encouraging. If you do catch a fish that is in very poor condition please kill it and keep it for early inspection, ideally take a photo when fresh.



Please remember to dip your nets in the disinfectant bins as a precaution against disease being introduced