



Stonehaven & District Angling Association



Spring Newsletter 2020

Membership dues increase on April 1st and May 1st so renew early for your full discount!

AGM 2019

Our regular hosts at the Unionist Club made us very welcome with a comfortable room, bar and sandwiches at the interval. There were several motions proposed and passed:

1. Changes to fees: Existing renewing membership up to 31st March £80.00 (up £10.00); Existing renewing membership up to 30th April £110.00 (up £5.00); New Applications £110.00 (up £5.00). All other fees remain unchanged.
2. Change to constitution: Green permit book Section 16 - Annual Subscription Para 2, First Sentence. Delete words "sliding scale".
3. The current honoraria of £100 to the President, Secretary and Treasurer be reduced to £50 each.
4. That the Association commits itself to easing the Hobseat Weir in the headwaters of the River Cowie, to allow the free movement of fish past that unnecessary man-made obstruction.

President	Scott Rutherford	07971 815821
Vice President/Middle Cowie	Stuart Wright	07502 123364
Secretary	Martin Webster	07836 342313
Treasurer	Martin Gardner	07534188900
River Watcher/ Competitions	Chris Wink	07780 878676
River Upper Cowie/Tributaries	Sean Cahill	07534 628538
River Lower Cowie	John Rench	07989 594074
Web/Facebook	Christopher Horridge	07763 286288
Stillwaters	Jim Michie	07766 946852
Juniors/ Stillwater Maintenance	Ian Laird	07596 741291
Stillwater Maintenance	Jim Kane	01224 782204
Stillwater Maintenance	Richard Morrison	07778 137561

Two new committee members were welcomed aboard and some movement within the committee to accommodate the loss of Secretary Gary Scott and competitions organiser Greg Leslie (who will be concentrating on national level competitions!). See table of 2020 committee left.

87% of members catch cards were returned last year so there is definitely

room for improvement with this. Repeat offenders will be asked to re-apply to join the club, as per the rules. Well done to our 37 life members from whom there was a 100% return. Three lucky members had their cards drawn from the hat and will receive free membership for 2020.

The 10year average charts presented (pages 2 and 3) showed that there has been a slow decline in salmon catches but that 2019 was an excellent year for seatrout – 41 fish being the best catch since 2015 and 2012 before that. Crossley experienced a fairly sharp decline on 2018 which is very surprising considering the excellent sport had there – looking at catch cards this is possibly due to a decrease in rod hours by a few prolific regular anglers.

Trophies were presented to the various competition winners, shown here is junior Elin McDowell receiving her keepsake trophy and voucher for the Bob Massie Shield competition which was held at Crossley Quarry. At the time of the competition, Elin was only 6 years old and possibly the youngest ever SDAA competition winner. Other winners were: Junior Alex Aamer – Presidents trophy; John Rench – John MacDonald Shield; Colin Craik, John Rench – Somers Blind Pairs; Chris Wink – Andy Gordon Shield; Greg Leslie – Davids Trophy; Doshy Keith Cup and Syd Horne Trophy – Dave MacDonald for best fish on the river Cowie.



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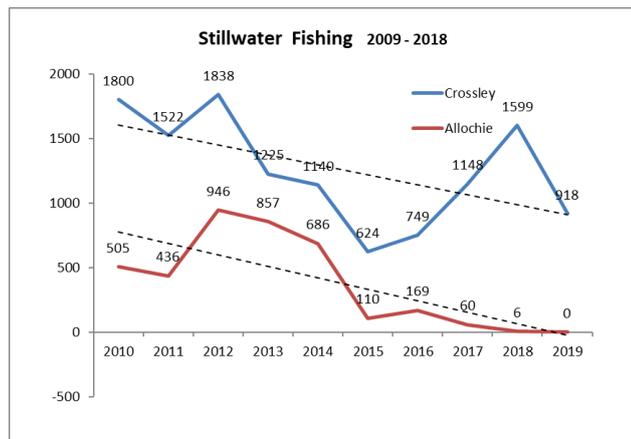
Competitions for 2020

Chris Wink has been busy organising this year's competitions, final times and costs TBA:

ADULT COMPETITIONS	VENUE	DATE
John McDonald Shield (2 leg competition)	1 st leg Raemoir 2 nd leg Forbes of Kingennie	May 30 th June 13 th
Somers Blind Pairs	Lochter Fishery	August 16 th
Andy Gordon Shield	Crossley Quarry	September 5 th
David's Trophy	Loch Insch	July 26 th
JUNIOR COMPETITIONS		
Bob Massie Shield	Crossley Quarry	May 24 th
President's Trophy	Loch Insch	July 26 th
RIVER COMPETITIONS		
Bob Dickie Cup	River Cowie	Largest seatrout all season
Syd Horne Cup	River Cowie	Largest fish all season
Doshie Keith Cup	Manse Pool River Cowie	Largest fish all season
Jim Donald Cup	Estuary Pool River Cowie	Largest fish all season

Loch Insch, just off the A96 between Inverurie and Huntly, has been chosen due to promising reports from anglers since it was reopened by new owners. Depending on a show of popularity we would also like to arrange the odd evening trip out to local fisheries, or further afield, purely as club social occasions. Prior numbers of interested parties will be required hence e-mails and Facebook communications will be made accordingly.

Stillwaters



At time of writing the casting platform renewal is underway. Jim and Ian have amassed the materials and could do with some reasonable weather to carry out the work which will involve being in the water with waders so extra care is required. Stocking licenses have been obtained and we will investigate the availability of a few more brownies for this year. It is noted that some brown trout were killed in 2019 – please refer to the green booklet which states that **ALL STILLWATER BROWN TROUT MUST BE RELEASED**. If any fish has signs of disease or serious damage, please retain for viewing by a committee member a.s.a.p. The recurrent problem with the padlock at Crossley has been investigated by a commercial locksmith and has

been found to be pocket fluff! On stripping apart the lock was found to have lint and small debris jamming the mechanism so can we ask all members to take care with their keys and give them a quick check and wipe before using them. The bin will be replenished with fresh net dip and if you see anyone forgetting to dip their net please politely remind them. Please also take away all litter including nylon tippet material. Allochie appears to have responded to the dosage of Aquaplancton that was administered in 2019. Dissolved Oxygen levels and PH readings will continue to be monitored on a regular basis by our very own water quality expert and a top up of Aquaplancton administered, with the possibility of a trial stocking later this year. Some general maintenance of the paths and platforms will be undertaken (wait for the volunteer request email!). Pictured here are Martin Webster and Stuart Wright setting out from the bank in the dingy fully laden with sacks of Aquaplancton for dispersal.

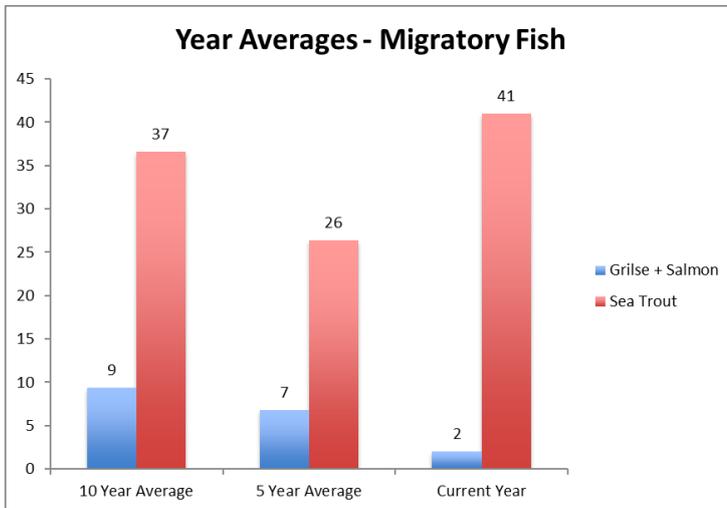


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Rivers

As previously mentioned 2019 was a very good year for sea trout but disappointing for salmon. The following chart shows the ten and five year averages, along with 2019 for comparison.



Pictured here is the heaviest fish from the Cowie in 2019, a 7lb grilse caught on the penultimate day of the season by Dave MacDonald.



Our river Cowie was officially opened by committee members Martin Gardner and Chris Horridge on February 11th 2020. This was not as grand an occasion as some other major rivers in the area but, nevertheless, just as important for our expectant local anglers.

It remains a fact that more rod effort = more fish caught so please do consider taking a stroll up and down the rivers with your rod, especially after a spate or whenever there is good water, particularly from May onwards. The RDT are currently analysing the data from the fish counter at the Intake Pool weir which we hope will show that



plenty of fish are ascending the river. Several pollution incidents have been reported since the last newsletter including the recurring dirty water and silt entering the Cowie at the Kirkwood Homes housing development on the south side of the river Cowie in Ury Estate – pictured left at the old quarry bridge. We are waiting for feedback from both SEPA and the RDT who have visited the site.

The Carron has been heavily compromised by the lower river Flood Protection works which was covered in the last newsletter and at the AGM. However, a redd count by the River Dee Trust during December did show evidence of some salmon activity the along the stretch from Tewel ford to just above the Toucks burn confluence, downstream of the A90 road bridge. In total four salmon redds, a couple of live grilse and one dead salmon were spotted. These fish would have most likely slipped through the turmoil of the construction works during night-time when all was quiet. Some finnock have been spotted during the day below the works near the beach bridge but these fish did not appear keen on ascending through the construction area at the time! During our renewal of the five year lease of the Carron and Bervie fishing our treasurer, Martin Gardner recently spent some time showing the Crown Estate acting solicitor around the work site as it appeared that they were not fully aware of its extent and impact on the river. We will continue to request meetings with the council and contractors to raise our concerns.

Your committee are out, up and down the rivers as much as possible, but we do also rely on anglers informing us of any issues such as wind-blown trees causing blockages or pollution incidents. For serious ongoing pollution incidents SEPA will respond to an immediate report via the following link:

<https://apps.sepa.org.uk/EnvironmentalEvents> or you can phone **0800 80 70 60**. We would ask that you also contact a committee member. We have had no reports of poaching on the rivers recently, however, please do contact a committee member immediately if you see any suspicious activity or experience a problem when asking to see an angler's permit.

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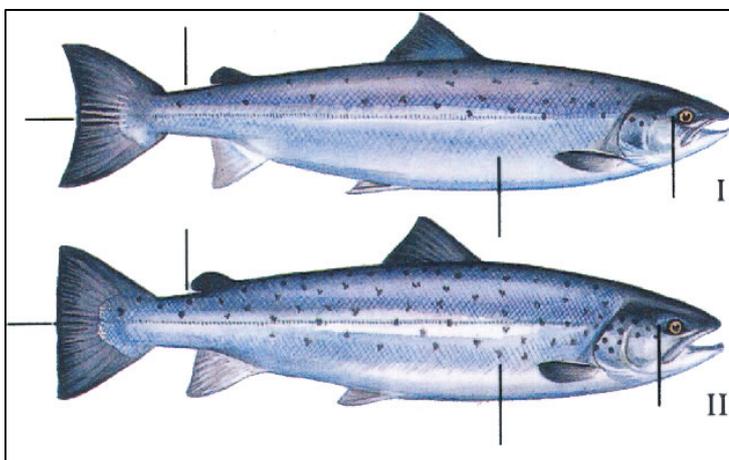
Juniors



Junior membership totalled 15 towards the end of 2019. Alex Aamer remains one of our top junior anglers and is seen here receiving the Presidents Trophy which he won at local fishery Raemoir. Alex competed in the national Trout Masters competition again in 2019 and will be moving into the youth category for 2020 – good luck Alex!

At time of writing Ian Laird has arranged the first fly-tying evening of 2020 on February 11th and will be holding two more on March 10th and April 7th. We will also continue with the popular fly fishing days later in the year. All these events are open to the full membership and guests so if you know anyone interested please notify them as we firm up dates throughout the year. We note that the fly-tying evenings are becoming predominantly popular amongst adult members – juniors, put those computers down!

For those who are showing an interest in fishing the rivers (and those that already do!) here's a quick quiz – can you spot the difference between a salmon and a sea trout? Before you look at the table, see how many differences you can see and then decide which picture is which fish



	Salmon	Sea Trout
General appearance	Slender and streamlined	More round and thickset
Head	Pointed	More Round
Position of the Eye	Maxilla (bony plate alongside mouth) does not extend beyond rear of eye	Maxilla extends beyond eye
Colour	Relatively few spots	Often heavily spotted
Fork of tail	Usually forked	Usually square or convex
Wrist of tail	Slender	Broader
Scales (from adipose fin to lateral line)	10-13	13-16
Handling	Easy to grip in front of tail	Tail slips through hand

General News

Robert Dey - President ADAA/ Dee DSFB. Sadly, Bob passed away in January following a stroke.

Bob was President of the Aberdeen and District Angling association and also a member of the Dee District Salmon Fishery Board. He was a passionate angler dedicated to fishing in Aberdeenshire, the ADAA, its fishings and membership.

This year we will be introducing new catch return cards to reflect the requirement for us to include a monthly catch of wild fish in our return to Marine Scotland, the regulatory body. An electronic copy will be sent out so that it can be filled in as the year progresses, almost like a diary, and which must be sent in by the end of November. It will look more complicated than it actually is and I'm afraid absolutely necessary. Although the requirement for a monthly record is only for wild fish, the Stillwaters will be included so we can build a complete picture of all our fisheries. We are working on a card version for members without e-mail.

As with the catch returns, this newsletter is being sent mostly electronically which will save considerable cost to the club. We would like to see all members to supply an e-mail address where possible and keep us informed of changes!

We have had several enquiries from members about maps of the rivers, mainly the Cowie. At the moment we have no more available but will be looking into getting more printed and setting an appropriate cost.

Scott Rutherford remains on the Dee District Salmon Fishery Board as a lower proprietor representative.

Don't forget your discount at local tackle shops, Orvis at Banchory and Somers in Aberdeen, on production of your up to date membership permit.

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