



## **Ramsbottom Angling Association newsletter Jan 2012**

Following the AGM held at Woodbank CC on 8<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2011

The following points of interest are duly noted: -

There was a slightly better turn out to the AGM. If you have a point to make and want to influence key decisions in the development of this club then please attend the next AGM.

All committee places were filled. Particular thanks is in order to Allan Warrington, who is actively holding the three offices: Match Secretary; Junior Secretary; and Child Protection Officer. Allan worked tirelessly last year, especially after qualifying, along with myself as an ADB level 2 coach. Our club now has 2 ADB level 2 coaches and 2 level 1 coaches. Anybody interested in qualifying as an angling coach, in particular any lady member, then we will be only too pleased to consider funding them. Please contact either myself or Allan.

The ban on coarse pellets has now been lifted (the ban on trout pellets remains)

The subs across all classes have been increased by £5. This still represents remarkable value at only £35 for a senior. That's just 67.3p per week. Remember this can be reduced next year by £10 by doing just one workparty, see permits for details.

Following our qualification as coaches myself, Allan, Gary, Stuart and with support from Brian Rigby level 2 coach from Bury Anglers have re-started the RAA junior section teach-ins. They began in May and finished with the dark nights closing in mid September. The venue was then switched to classroom sessions, initially at The Burrs café and then at the Royal Pub at Tottington, every fortnight. Our thanks are extended to the landlord of The Royal, Gary Warrington, who allows us and the juniors use of the room for teaching purposes on Monday nights.

The juniors after a very intensive programme fished a county selection match at Bradshaw fisheries in July and managed to fish a very respectable 3<sup>rd</sup>. They have also fished an away match against Radcliffe at Starmount, which everybody enjoyed. We hope to engage in more competitions for the youngsters this year and anticipate some enjoyable days out with good performances from our up and coming stars of the future. Special thanks is extended to Shaun Miller at Radcliffe for his continuing invaluable advice and support when we were setting up the junior section.

We have had a fall in membership at senior level. This was thought to be as a result of the recession and the delay in re-stocking both Crown Pools and The Lido, which has been without fish since Dec 2007. There has been an increase in Junior membership, thought to be as a direct result of the Monday night teach-ins.

The availability of day tickets, membership applications forms with temporary permits, from Fisherman's Way has been deemed a success and therefore will carry on into the future.

With an ageing and declining senior membership, the club is going to focus the club's development on the junior section, to this end we have opened a junior bank account, which will be hopefully self-financing as the junior section becomes more established and more sponsors can be found. The junior section has already benefited from support from the Coaches, members of the committee, The EA, Bury Council, various benefactors who have donated time, money,

donations, trophies and fishing tackle to the cause, including: Radcliffe Anglers; Jimmy Moore (whom we wish a speedy recovery) ; Keith Chadwick; Tom Baldwin; Rob Ashton of the Masonic lodge Cromwell with Papyrean no.5071; Prestwich, Whitefield and Salford Round Table; and anybody else whom I may have forgotten, a very big, big thank you.

An active junior section with qualified coaches is a critical part of The ADB Clubmark criteria. When we first banded the idea of acquiring Clubmark we looked at the 20 or so criteria points and we could only tick about 4-5 of the boxes, with the work done last year, with 2 level 2 coaches qualifying, starting the junior section and minor changes to the clubs constitution, which were agreed at the 2011 AGM we can now tick 17-18 boxes.

An important part of Clubmark is regular correspondence with the membership. We propose to do this electronically and will have a website later this year with e-mails attached to the website for serving club officers. A contact with schools for junior tuition is also another criteria, if anybody has any contacts within a school network, please contact myself or Allan. Once all the Clubmark criteria have been fulfilled we hope to submit our application and hope to qualify either later this year or early next year. As they say watch this space.

Our active work with the juniors, and regular meeting of The County Angling Action Group held every 6 weeks at the Burrs, as borne fruit with The EA, they had agreed to stock The Lido. This they started doing in November with approx. 1000 roach, 900 rudd and 800 tench followed by another delivery in December, from a water which had been cropped of fish of approx 2000 roach with some to 1/2lb. In addition 100-200 barbel 4-5" long were released into the Irwell at the Burrs. Again, a big thank you to Andy Eaves, Ian Heyes and the team at The EA. We are definitely benefiting from EA rod licence monies

Progress on the Lido is coming along slowly, but is gathering pace. We have had meetings with The Boat Club, The EA, Bury Council and others. We are to make a bid for a classroom on The Lido for junior tuition. Improvement for disabled anglers and access will also be necessary. In accordance with criteria from the British Disabled Anglers Association, guide rails will be constructed and set in certain areas at the waters edge to prevent wheelchairs etc. from entering water. The EA will improve the planting on the floating islands and carry out a programme of advising and fish stocking.

In addition The E.A. also funded a water bailiff awareness day at Reaseheath college ,Cheshire attended by Sean Baker and (that man again)Allan warrington. He even found time to win one of the clubs matches on Crown Pools , but one observer declared it a fluke.

The re-stocking of Crown Pools took place in November, with the introduction of £2000 of common and mirror carp in the 6-8" and 8-11" category. A few fish tipped the scales at the 1.5-2lb mark.

As mentioned previously the ban on coarse pellets on all association waters as now been lifted, but the ban on trout pellets still remains, following the decision at the 2011 AGM. Obviously these can be used on Crown Pools, but I would urge restraint in feeding large amounts of pellets.

Floating islands have been constructed and introduced on The Burrs and Crown Pools in an attempt to improve the fishing, by giving fish a refuge from avian predators and to encourage the fish to move into these 'features'. We will be introducing more floating islands into our waters later this year.

The bailiffs have asked all anglers to behave responsibly and ensure that all rubbish is removed from pegs and taken home, particularly on Crown Pools and the Burrs.

All our bailiffs have now been CRB checked in accordance with guidelines set out by the ADB.

Adult matches have been fairly well attended. Particularly the away venues. We won the interclub match against Middleton both legs fished, with kind permission from Jimmy Moore, at Scholes yard, Tottington. Allan has a quite long comprehensive match list for 2012 and I urge everyone to try to attend, they are a very friendly bunch. Further progress is being made in arranging interclub matches. We expect a competition possibly on Bradshaws in the summer against possibly 10 teams plus.. its too early to say yet but possibly 5 or 6 a side, with a possibility of us fielding two teams.

What a great night our Christmas party was, more than 80 people attended, a great buffet with excellent entertainment from 'Frank Sinatra' tribute Stefan.

A special long service award was made to Dave Froggatt for his tireless devotion to the club, I'm sure I detected a tear from the man on receiving his award.

The adult presentation was very poorly attended with only Gary and Allan present to collect their awards.

The highlight of the evening was seeing the faces at the junior awards presentation with the juniors coming to collect their certificates, medals and tackle boxes, presented by Graham Schoon, countryside officer with Bury MBC. Special awards of Spirit of the Association went to Sam Baldwin and the Most Improved Angler to Aarron Wright. Trophies provided by Prestwich round table.

Finally in recognition of all the hard work carried out to improve our club and waters. I would like to give a special thank you, to the lads of the working parties, bailiffs, the coaches and of the committee, without whose constant activity this club would simply not exist.

Tight lines & wet nets for 2012

The Secretary

NEIL WRIGHT