

BOB DEY ADAA PRESIDENT 2008 TO 2020

Bob was a lifelong member of the Association, and he gave a tremendous amount of personal time and effort, in addition to his business knowledge and experience, in helping to maintain our position as the largest Angling Association in Scotland. He was involved in the running of our club over many, many years, enjoying being part of the main management team, his roles including, over the years, Secretary, Treasurer, Vice President and latterly, for 12 years, President.

An Association of our size does require very active management and Bob was in position during many difficult and trying times, leading the Management Committee very effectively. At various times he was

our representative on the fishery boards of the rivers Dee, Don and Ythan, always ensuring our voice was heard and gaining great respect for his knowledge of these rivers in doing so.

Bob was, of course, a very keen angler himself. At the opening of every season in February he would usually be first on the river at our Methlick beat of the Ythan, trotting a worm downstream, very often being rewarded with good sport. A skilled all-round fly fisher, Bob was also a very active member of the Pots and Fords club, often employing his own pattern "raffia fly" to good effect among the finnock.

Our Association has benefited from the help of very many office bearers over the years and Bob's input was among the best. Sadly, he did not enjoy the best of health in more recent years but did not allow that to diminish in any way his contribution to our affairs. A very sudden and severe

stroke eventually took him from us and our thoughts were with his wife Lorna and his family at his passing, fully understanding and appreciating the family commitment which had been required to support him in the execution of his Association duties.

To commemorate Bob and to acknowledge the time and important work he afforded the Association, a plaque is to be installed on the gate at the Ardlethen car park, suitably near his favourite beat of the Ythan at Methlick, where, rod in hand, he spent many happy hours.

It is the intention of the Committee that, from this year, our Riverside Bothy will feature a plaque stating the names of all our Presidents since the Association was formed in 1947 and, of course, along with his predecessors, Bob's name will be listed.

**Alastair H Hume MBE,
Honorary President**



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Position of President / Postponed AGM

Following the sudden and untimely death of long time President Bob Dey, the Management Committee, in the absence of an AGM at the time, elected committee member Paul Adderton to the position of Acting President. Paul has brought a wealth of experience to the role and has demonstrated admirable qualities in leading the Association forward at a difficult time.

There are many situations in the running of an organisation of our size which demand communication with other bodies and organisations and the Committee have been well aware of the desirability of having a formally elected head in place. The effect of re-imposed Covid pandemic restrictions, has, unfortunately, once again meant we cannot hold an AGM in January 2022. In the absence of a General Meeting of members, as per the Associations Constitution, the Committee has therefore taken the decision to formally appoint a President and Paul Adderton was unanimously elected to the position.

The Committee are confident Paul's steering of the Association will result in his appointment being ratified the next time members can vote at either an AGM or, should one be necessary, an EGM. We appreciate Paul's hard work and wish him well in the role. **JWS**

President's Address 2022

I was hoping that my address this year would be delivered to you all in person and in the comfort of the Aberdeenshire Cricket Club at Mannofield, a venue which, unlike our previous AGM venues, boasts a warm and brightly lit carpeted function suite with soft chairs and, to top it all, a well-stocked bar where, after the business of the AGM, we could all socialise among friends and catch up on our recent angling experiences, discussing big fish caught or, more likely, the big one that got away. However, that was not to be. Sadly, we are still in the grip of this terrible COVID 19 Pandemic with restrictions that, even after having our booster vaccinations, curtail our day-to-day activities.

Our year 2021 opened very much as the previous one closed, in lockdown. However, the restrictions which were put in place regarding travel distance did allow some leeway, enabling members who wished to brave the elements of the early season's weather to get out to the river or loch and enjoy some fishing. Members will recall that travel restrictions in place at that time allowed limited travel, provided one stayed within the boundaries of your home administrative area. Thus, members residing in the city could, should they so desire, fish the lower River Don beats such as Parkhill and Netherdon whilst those members residing in the Shire could fish Banchory Devenick on the River Dee and the Millpond at Newmachar for example. I was pleased to see, whilst walking along the riverbank at Dyce on the opening day of the Don, one young member taking full advantage of this opportunity even though it was a very cold and frosty morning with grue on the river and ice at the water's edge. A brave angler indeed.

February gave us our first experience of the winter's harsh weather as this hard spell lasted for a few days and regrettably brought us our first disaster. I received an email one frosty morning informing me that water was seen pouring out of the committee room of the Bothy on Riverside Drive and running off into the river. Accustomed as I am to water entering the Bothy on the odd occasion when the river rises, I was a little surprised to hear of water escaping the Bothy. I quickly made my way to Riverside Drive.

I was aghast at what I saw on my arrival, for the central heating boiler fitted above



the committee room ceiling in the roof cavity had burst a mains water pipe resulting in a deluge of escaping water. Consequently, a large part of the ceiling had collapsed onto the floor and on to tables and chairs. Two of the walls were saturated destroying many pictures and photographs depicting the Association's history. Fortunately, I was not the only committee member informed as I met up with Paul Toseland and Davie Knowles at the Bothy to assess the situation. On arrival, as one could imagine, the room was a disaster with six inches of filthy water and soaking plasterboard floating on the floor along with insulation material from the ceiling and to make matters worse, a cascade of water was still pouring out of the boiler. After stemming the flow of water and isolating both the gas and



electricity supply the next thing to do was get on and arrange repairs. Now remember, we were all in total lockdown. Whereas the insurers were informed and agreed our claim with the loss adjuster, unfortunately, because of lockdown the only work legally allowed to be undertaken at the Bothy was for safety reasons and to prevent further damage. We had to wait a few weeks before restrictions allowed the repairs to get under way. To assist in the replacement of the boiler and all the building work needed when restrictions would allow, we embarked on a great clean up. Clearing the floor of water and sweeping up all the debris into a corner along with the damaged furnishings ready for being taken to the tip when the situation allowed.

Unfortunately, that was only the first of the disasters that we endured this winter at the Bothy. A sudden thaw a couple of

weeks later saw the river rise and rise it did. It burst its banks enabling three feet of water from the River Dee to flood the Bothy and garage. When the river receded and we gained access to the Bothy we were once again met with a sight of horrendous destruction and even greater mess to be cleaned up. The committee room was now awash with all the ceiling debris that was piled up earlier for collection, the Pots and Fords room was littered with debris and the garage resembled the aftermath of a gas explosion. As you will gather from the attached photographs, you will see that there was considerable work to be done to restore things back to normal to enable the Committee to get back to managing the Association's affairs. Despite all our spirits being dampened by COVID, it is pleasing to report the enthusiasm of some members of the committee and volunteers who willingly came forward to help in the big clean up. And clean up we did and when the plumber and the builders left in April, we were once again back to normal. (Ed:-See the Bothy item following)

I have to say, well to me anyway, the problems we experienced with the Bothy over the winter was a wakeup call. We cannot go on with the building enduring both the elements of the weather, with winter storms and the ever-present threat of river flooding. A recent survey by a building surveyor has identified several improvements both interior and exterior to the building that need to be attended to which would prevent further damage. Furthermore, the arrangement of some sort of water defensive doors or barriers that could be fixed in place anticipating a potential flooding should the river rise, would also be an advantage. There has been very little maintenance to the building over the past number of years and damage caused by successive floods is only adding to the problem. If nothing is done soon to alleviate this, then perhaps we could only be one more flood away from the building being washed away leaving us with an even greater expense. The committee is currently exploring additional funding opportunities to complement funds from our reserves to facilitate these proposed improvements. The Bothy is the headquarters of the Association, arguably the largest angling association in Scotland, but is, at present, sadly, very

much under used. It is my intention, with the support of the Committee, to bring the Bothy up to a standard where it can be utilised much more by the members for a range of social and educational activities, where members can engage with one another and promote the Association and the sport of game angling within the region. Developments on this initiative will be communicated to you when there is more to say via our media outlets.

New Website and Closed Facebook page

In the Spring the Association launched its new and improved Web site; www.adaa.org.uk and initial feedback to us on the launch was most encouraging. The improved website has proved its worth and become an essential tool in managing the Association's business affairs. It is used for member bookings, catch returns, sales, and most important of all, provides an easy method of facilitating the recruitment of new members to the Association. Members will be aware that, before embarking on developing the new website, a survey was carried out to seek their prior opinions and requirements. The findings of the survey, and there were many, were taken into consideration by the design team, made up of members of the committee, and incorporated into the design. Subsequent feedback has informed us that our new site is easy to navigate, acquainting users of the facilities the Association has to offer members and guests. It is seen as the shop window of the Association, and it is hoped that all members will make good use of it.

As well as the introduction of the new website this year, we also launched our new closed Facebook page for members. This too has been well received and it is pleasing to see this social interaction between members communicating with each other on all matters, not just angling. Members' posts include all their news and views, whatever they are, and with over 320 members now registered, interest and help is always at hand. This is most encouraging, after all this is what the Facebook page was set up for.

Finances

Moving on to our finances. Last year our accounts returned an operating surplus despite all the anticipated problems of COVID 19, and I am pleased to report even

with this year's problems, the Association's finances are showing an operating surplus. This reflects the meticulous effort put in by our Treasurer and Financial Controller in overseeing the management of all the Association's financial activities throughout the year. The Association's main source of income comes from members' annual subscriptions with the addition of joining fees when new members join the Association. There is also a small degree of additional income earned from issuing both day and weekly visitor permits throughout the year. Additionally, income is generated from the Association's investments and interest on its capital. Savings on our external contracting services and general maintenance, as well as savings on the day-to-day operational costs, also reflected positively on our accounts. There was also the opportunity this year of increasing our cash reserves from accruals which were no longer required. Our annual profit and loss accounts are available for members to see along with this Newsletter and on our website.

Additional Fishings

The Association is always looking at opportunities to acquire additional fishings for our members when they become available, either to purchase or rent. We were fortunate last year to acquire, at very reasonable costs, four further beats, three on the River Don and one on the River Ythan. We now lease the acclaimed Schivas Beat on the River Ythan, which extends beyond the top section of our Ardlethen beat. We acquired this beat well into the season and although there is much riverbank work still to be completed, many members took advantage of this new section of the river as we can see in our catch returns. At Kemnay, on the River Don, we now lease the Pitcaple beat. This is a small beat on the left (North bank) upstream from the Kemnay road bridge. Another small Don beat now available to members is the Lower Stoneywood beat. This beat extends upstream from our Cruives Beat. This beat has seen very little or no fishing for several years and I am reliably informed from a member who fished there years ago, this beat can be very productive. Staying with the Don the Association has rekindled its relationship with the left (North bank) of Lower Parkhill. Many of us will remember

the Association leased this beat some time ago and trust those familiar with the beat will welcome its return to the Association's fishings.

Although our lease on the Culter Beat on the River Dee was terminated at the end of last season, we are fortunate to have come to an agreement with the owner, for the Association to continue fishing the beat this coming season, although with limited availability. Rod availability to fish the beat will be managed as in previous years by our online booking system. The agent has also made available to us for this coming season only, the right to fish the Ardoe and Murtle Beats of the Dee, also on a limited availability and, like the Culter Beat, rod bookings will be by our online booking system. For the coming season, we have recently come to an arrangement with Kingcausie Estate for the Association to fish four syndicate rods on this beat. More information regarding the beat including access and rules will be posted on the website.

Catches

Although COVID 19 restrictions did have an effect on when members could go fishing, judging by our annual catch returns for the season, they were well rewarded for their efforts. Last season recorded a total catch of over 2600 fish from all the Association's fishings, far greater than previous years. However, salmon and grilse catches continue to show a gradual decline when comparing catches from previous years. Top beat for catches must be the Millpond Fishery at Newmachar. This very popular fishery has returned a season's catch of over 900 trout, mainly Rainbow Trout but with a few Brown Trout to add variety. Our stocking policy here seems to have achieved the right balance. In comparison, catch returns from the Loch of Loirston, although a much bigger fishery, were somewhat disappointing. Therefore, we are reviewing both the number of fish being stocked and the frequency of each stocking for the next season. Fishing for Brown Trout on the River Don is still par excellence and whether be it dry fly or wet fly, members have recorded some very good baskets. It is pleasing to note, when viewing the catch return information for the season, that most of our anglers are now practising catch

and release. This conservation attitude by members holds well for the future of all our fishings

I remind members that it is an Association rule that all catches must be recorded directly on the web site or by our online catch recording system within a set window of time. This information helps the decision-making process by management as to stocking requirements for the lochs and the general health of fish stocks in the Association's fishing beats. Also, it is a legal requirement that we record all our salmon fishing effort. It has been brought to the attention of certain Beat Conveners that, in particular on the the River Ythan, some members are failing to record both their catches and their blank fishing days. I cannot stress how important this requirement is, as this information assists both the scientists in their research and Marine Scotland in managing our salmon fisheries.

Maintenance

Despite the Association gaining additional fishing there was no let-up in the summer grass cutting programme. Last year we employed a local contractor to undertake grass cutting requirements on some of the Association's beats, mainly on the River Don. A member recommended this contractor to us as he had previous experience in looking after a small beat on the River Dee. To date we are pleased with the work done last season and, given the additional fishings we now have, he will also be contracted this year.

We are of course ably assisted in this operation by Nicky (pictured over), who has been an asset to us over the years strimming our riverbanks. (JWS:- Is that the Upper Amazon jungle he was cutting through?) I also want to express the Association's thanks to those members who help by giving up their spare time to assist in riverbank maintenance. Non-native invasive species, in particular Giant Hogweed, continue to be a problem, not only on the Association's waters, but on other beats too, especially on the River Don. Lewis Baxter, a co-opted member of the committee, has taken on the Association's lead here by overseeing its eradication on all Association waters. However, this is no mean task and on behalf of Lewis, I call out

for additional support from the Association's members to assist us in this project.



Stillwaters

Moving on to our stillwater fisheries, members are aware that we will not be continuing with the lease at the Parkhill Fishery. Sadly, this fishery has been gradually silting up over time and as there are no improvement procedures planned to address this, such as dredging, the committee thought it wise to let it go. Silting has also become a problem at the Millpond. However, we have come to an arrangement with the owner to have the pond dredged when conditions allow. Initially it was planned to have this work completed sometime last summer when ground conditions would have enabled the use of heavy plant. However, the contractor was unable to carry out the work required when conditions allowed, so that is now scheduled for this year. The weed cutting machines employed at the Loch of Loirston in the early summer certainly improved fishing conditions. This method of control is proving highly successful in other fisheries, and we plan to continue with this method of control next year. The weed has become a serious problem for the loch, and it will take some time to bring it under control. It

is fortunate that we have funding in place to assist in this.

Fishery Boards

The Association continues its relationship with the local Salmon Fishery Boards which protect the interests of both proprietors and anglers. We are fortunate in having two members representing the Association on both the River Don and the River Ythan Salmon Fishery Boards, who meet regularly. The Boards are made up of fishery owners, but also include, on the Don board, representatives from both SEPA and the Cairngorm National Park. Although we have no direct representation on the River Dee Salmon Fishery Board I, along with Honorary President Alastair Hume, have met with the Dee Chairman to discuss our concerns affecting the River Dee. As one would expect there is much in common between the three river boards and as such there is significant cross dialogue too. A subject that always appears on the agenda at these meetings is predators and their control. The boards have been granted licences enabling the control, by limited culling, of both cormorants and goosanders. Unfortunately, seals have become a significant problem for us in the lower stretches of the rivers Dee and Don and, sadly, there are only a very few non-lethal methods of control made available to us. However, there are several research projects utilising some forms of sonar devices currently undergoing trials, one of which, run by St. Andrews University, is on trial now on the lower Dee, sited adjacent to our Bothy at Riverside Drive with another further upstream at the Waterside Farm at Banchory Devenick. We wish them every success in this trial and expect their findings will be shared with the scientists in due course. To assist in monitoring the problem not only on the River Dee but also the Don and Ythan, all members are asked to report any seals seen in these rivers to the relevant river board, Tel 01339 880411 or Mobile: 07786176152.

General

The success of any Association must be measured in its membership, and I am pleased to report that, given these unprecedented times, of the pandemic and all the misery and hardship it has inflicted upon us, our membership, at over 700 members, remains strong and healthy

Convener's Report 2021 Season

with new members joining every year. The smooth running of the Association and all that is entailed in the management and administration of 700 members and over 40km of riverbank fishing, the convenorship of all our beats on four rivers and two stocked fisheries and, most important of all, the good governance and prudence needed in overseeing our finances, is quite an undertaking and the dedication of the Management Committee in this cannot be overstated. This is what makes the Association an excellent angling association to be a member of. There is though, one area that we must improve upon, something that I am personally passionate about, and that is to engage more with our junior members. It was unfortunate, because of the pandemic and social distancing rules, that the Association could not involve our juniors more over the year as I had hoped, and to develop this in 2022 we need a committed member to join the committee as Junior Convener. I am confident we have such a person in our membership who is more than willing to take this on board. I look forward to hearing from you.

To conclude, 2021 was yet another challenging year with the continuation of the COVID pandemic, burst water mains and a river flood enough to test the resilience of any angling association. However, we have overcome them, and I am sure we will meet other challenges in the future with the same resolve. Rest assured though, as an Association we are financially secure, and with a diversity of challenging angling experiences available to our members, all game fishing tastes are catered for. And above all in our 75th year, as arguably the largest angling association in Scotland, we look forward to many more years of successful fishing.

Stay safe, and with the new season about to commence may there be a light wind behind you and a rising fish before you.

Tight Lines for 2022

Paul Adderton.

Ardlethen Beat. The early part of the season rewarded those hardy members among us with some excellent Finnock catches mainly on the worm, but some came to the fly. The early summer proved disappointing owing to low water conditions but come September catches began to pick up for both sea trout and salmon with a 10lb salmon to one lucky angler fishing the worm. As expected, come the rise in water, October became a bonanza month returning some excellent daily catches of sea trout salmon and Finnock. Members will be pleased to learn that a memorial sign to Bob Dey will be fixed to the gate at Ardlethen. Many of you will know that Ardlethen was one of Bob's favourite beats on the Associations waters and what better place to recognise all his work as a past Secretary and President than to show it here, one of his favourite spots.

Schivas Beat. The Association was fortunate to be offered to take on this beat of the river even though the season was well established. No riverbank maintenance had been undertaken along the beat for some time however, work was immediately put in place to both improve access along the riverbank and for fishing identified pools. A works programme is being planned for the whole before the next season so that members will be able to access all of the beat with ease. Even though many members were unfamiliar with the beat a few were successful with their outings and especially so at the ending of October with one lucky angler who was rewarded with a 15lb salmon.

Methlick Beat. February and March were productive for those anglers that braved the winter elements with a fair number of Finnock brought to the net. Sadly, because of low water and perhaps the lack of fishing effort there was very little to report for the summer months as expected, it was October and the rise in water levels that induced not only fish into the river but also anglers along the riverbank where both Finnock and sea trout were caught mainly to the worm.

Machar Pool. The first fish, a sea trout was caught in early July on a spinner but then it was a wait until the end of August before the next sea trout was caught. However, there were many Finnock which gave anglers some

excellent sport both to the fly and spinner as the summer progressed. Sea trout numbers conspicuous by their absence did appear in the Autumn and to be noted in fewer numbers and size. However, the Finnock maintained their abundance until the seasons end giving members excellent sport. Next season members will be able to fish this pool from the Bridge down to the worming limit in Kayaks.

Nicky Taylor, Ythan Convener / Paul Adderton

River Don

Crives and Nether Don Beat

As expected, both these lower Don beats started off the season with some excellent early season trout fishing with fish up to 3lb. The first Salmon was caught in the Benzies pool in early March, a 5lb fish caught on the fly. It was then a long wait until late summer before the next salmon were caught in either of these beats. However, there were sea trout running these lower beats of the river enabling members to catch over 30 this season. That aside and as the water gradually warmed up there were plenty of free rising trout up to 5lb to entertain members with some members recording excellent baskets for their outings. For the season these two beats produced some challenging trout fishing accounting for nearly 200 brown trout.

Nicky Taylor, Convener / Paul Adderton

Convener report for LOWER FINTRAY and LOWER PARKHILL, LEFT (north) BANK.

LOWER FINTRAY:

Catch Reports -

7 Grilse, average weight - 3.7 lbs.

20 Salmon, average weight - 8.7 lbs

7 Seatrout, average weight - 2.8 lbs

49 Brown Trout, average weight - 1.8 lbs

Poor salmon spring returns with first salmon being caught in April. Biggest brown trout reported at 6 lbs with a 4 lb trout also recorded.

Biggest reported sea trout was 4 lbs.

After initial bank strimming by Nicky in July it was observed volunteers strimmed the beat throughout the rest of the season.

Beat was well fished throughout the season and continues to be a big favourite with our dedicated salmon fly anglers.

LOWER PARKHILL, LEFT BANK, NORTH BANK

CATCH REPORTS -

2 Grilse, average weight - 2.5 lbs

7 Salmon, average weight - 7.6 lbs

0 Sea trout reported

15 Brown Trout, average weight - 1.26 lbs

After discussions with the beat owner in May / June it was agreed that the Association would take on the lease of the beat and access to fish commenced on the month of July. Due to the banks / paths being heavily overgrown and not maintained for the previous three years proper access to the beats various pools were not completed till the beginning of the third week in July.

General feedback from our anglers who had fished the beat previously was they were very happy to be able to fish it again.

My own personal observations throughout ALL of our beats is some of our members do not report their catch returns as being NO RETURNS when salmon fishing. This seems to be a combination of ignorance of the rules and also members can't be bothered reporting.

Regards, Lewis Baxter, Convener

Season Report 2021 Upper Fintray and Upper Stoneywood

With the extensive waters at our disposal, these two beats are often overlooked by salmon anglers, with the result that returns of Salmo Salar are low, especially in the early weeks. Given the open nature of our winters now though, there is always the chance of a springer, and the top pool on Upper Stoneywood for instance, is always worth a cast. Numerous kelts, along with a few springers, used to hold up in the long pool above the road bridge at Upper Fintray and in the extensive slow pool above the weir

at Upper Stoneywood, though with numbers of returning fish in previous seasons less prolific than in some past years, not so many kelts are now encountered by the few salmon anglers who fish these beats in the early weeks.

The 2021 season started in fairly typical fashion with elevated water levels due to a combination of both early rain and a degree of snow melt. As the season progressed into late spring and early summer, river levels again fell well back and, apart from a few lifts over the summer, it was well into September before any consistent flow rates gave us sustained hope, certainly on the salmon front.

The main run of sea trout made its customary appearance from around early June, although an early runner of 3 lbs was accounted for in March from Upper Fintray.

Once again brown trout proved the mainstay of these beats with both dry and wet fly tactics paying dividends. While the period from April to July gave us the cream of the sport, well-conditioned brownies were still being encountered up to the season's end.

As always, let us hope that conditions favour us in 2022. Tight Lines!

John Stephen, Convener

River Don – Upper Parkhill North and South Bank

The yo-yo water levels this season have made angling tricky and technical. Significant effort was put in from members to catch an elusive Salmon, with 298 blanks counted (thanks to members for recording these). There was success with 29 wild salmon (21 South, 8 North Bank) at an average of 8lbs and 10 grilse (8 South, 2 North Bank) at an average of 4.4lbs. Fish were recorded throughout the season apart from February and June, and most success in March and August. The sea trout season also proved tricky with 12 recorded (8 South, 4 North bank) together with 3 finnock. Interestingly the seatrout season was most successful in October with a total of 5 landed. It is also worth noting that 1 pacific pink salmon was also recorded.

The brown trout season also proved tricky, with a total of 126 fish recorded (124 South, 2 North Bank). The majority of the fish (83% or 104 of 126 fish) were recorded at 1lbs, the

larger fish were generally showing themselves early in the season, the largest caught on the fly was 4lbs in April.

The end of season survey identifies that the Upper Parkhill North and South Bank beat is in good condition and ready for a successful 2022.

Matt Mulcahy, Parkhill Convener.

Kemnay

The salmon season opened with the river at a high level with snow melt coming off the hills. The river then dropped away steadily through March & April but, unusually for Kemnay, it was a slow start with no salmon returned in that period. Due to low angling effort the potential of the beat wasn't realised in what are traditionally productive months for Kemnay as, Fetternear, on the opposite bank reported 16 fish for April alone. It wasn't until early May that the first fish was caught & this was followed by a couple more for the month including the first grilse of the season. The river then fell away again & temperatures rose until a small rise livened things up again & a single fish was reported in July. Another spate in August produced another fish but the river fell away with continued low water hampering fishing effort until the first spates of autumn at the end of September. Salmon started to be caught again with a couple returned at the end of the month. October continued with higher levels, but the river never settled. Some late sea trout put in an appearance & a few were reported along with a few salmon but floods near the end of the month ended the season early for everyone. We had a difficult season though effort was low throughout the season, typically for Kemnay fish were caught on the back of each spate & it was also good to see some larger fish turn up at the end of the season but unfortunately in no great number.

On the brown trout, anglers targeting them with the fly had some good sport in March & April with fish reported to 4lb. May continued in a similar fashion until low water & higher river temperatures slowed things down through the summer months. Sport did pick up again in September but not many anglers were targeting the trout & most were a by-catch of salmon anglers with another 4lb trout being reported. Kemnay produces trophy trout each year & those focusing their efforts on

them can be rewarded with some excellent trout fishing

Stewart Horne, Convener

River Dee

Banchory Devenick and Garthdee: Convener's Report:

They say a picture can convey a thousand words so perhaps this will illustrate the reason for the vexation evident in the brevity of Benny's report! – JWS

Unfortunately, not a very good season. We had more seals than fish I think! Let's hope for an improvement next year. The more anglers we have on the river the better our returns should be, hopefully discouraging the seals at the same time!

Tight lines for 2022.

Benny Smart



Culter Report 2021

The Salmon season started with the beat being fully booked but sadly no spring fish were caught this year, in fact no fish were reported until August which saw 3 up to 7lbs being returned. Another single fish was reported in October of similar size. Another poor year on the lower Dee which seems to sadly be a trend the last few years.

There were more Grilse caught this year with 1 in June and July. August was again the best month seeing 8 being returned. With lower

numbers of 3 in September and 2 in October. Six Seatrout and 6 Finnock were caught throughout the year and again August was the best month.

I'm sure you will all agree the beat was maintained to a very high level and Nicky did a great job with keeping the banks and paths accessible. We also tackled a schedule of weed spraying (Giant hogweed and Japanese knotweed). This was not only beneficial to our members but we were contacted by the local community council who expressed their gratitude for the hard work the association did combating the hogweed along Lovers Walk.

Sadly, we have to inform members this is the last year of our lease at Culter, and the owner want to take the fishings back. However, the committee has managed to come to an agreement to continue a reduced access in the upcoming 2022 season so look out in the president's address for info on this. As such since we are no longer in charge of the fishings our maintenance will stop so we cannot guarantee the upkeep of the beat next year. Our signage will remain to ensure current and new members are still fishing within the beat and know where each pool is located.

Let's hope even though our fishing efforts will be largely reduced in the upcoming season it proves to be a more rewarding one in numbers of fish caught.

Cameron Deboth, Convener

Loirston Loch Annual Report Season 2021

This season the first rainbow trout was caught on the 18th January 2021, a nice over wintered fish about 2lbs, from then on as the weather improved so did the catches.

The first stocking of Westmill rainbow trout went ahead as planned on the 12th April once the cormorants went back to sea for the breeding season, we stocked 300 fish all about the 2-3 lbs mark with a few slightly heavier fish.

The second stocking took place on the 4th May with another 331 rainbow trout from Westmill Fish Farm, again most of the fish around the 2-3lbs mark, with some 4lb

The annual weeds started making an

appearance slightly earlier in late May early June, which caught us out a little as we have arranged for the Aquatic weed contractor to be on site to carry out the weed control on the 5th, 6th & 7th July

The Aquatic weed contractor carried out the weed control, which once again gave us some clear areas to fish.

The committee have again committed to the contractor being on-site at Loirston Loch to again tackle the weeds in 2022.

Once the weeds had been cut, we again stocked the loch on 13th July, but this time we mixed thing up a little with 230 rainbow trout & 220 brown trout, which gave our members some great sport during the coming months.

The loch continues to be a very popular place and the committee continues to fund the improvement programme for the next 5 years.

A total of 1081 fish were stocked during 2021.

Tight Lines for 2022

Kenny Riddell

Millpond report season 2021

Right from the start of the year a few hardy anglers ventured out & caught some good quality over wintered fish. Fishing was steady & the pond was stocked at the end of January & again in early February although an increase in returns wasn't really noted until the water started to warm in early March. The fish then started to come on the take & were being reported in good numbers with fish being caught almost every day. April continued in the same manner & a further stocking towards the end of the month saw an upsurge in numbers into May as the fish settled in. The fishing then got much harder as the water temperature started to rise through June & the fish started to go off the take, getting wise to the standard angling methods. Those fishing stealthily with natural flies & single lures stood the best chance. Fortunately, there were no reports of diseased fish this year. Fishing remained steady & once the water temperature dropped again allowing a stocking in October returns increased again. This was sustained through November when another stocking in helped to keep the returns up.

In June the pond depth was mapped & a contractor with a long reach excavator was engaged to dredge out the pond. The pond was surveyed & the extent & costing of the project agreed with the contractor & fishery owner. All was set to go but unfortunately the excavator was on a long-term project in the city that continued to extend. The weather finally broke in September meaning the opportunity was lost this year. Thankfully the overall pond depth is not as shallow as initially thought & this will be re-visited in 2022.

A total of around 250 fish were stocked in 2021 & approximately 60 of our members fished the pond accounting for a total of nearly 900 fish. Along with the stocked fish, the pond also holds a precious stock of brown trout with a few larger fish resident in the pond.

The owner maintains the fishery to a high standard & Millpond is a real asset to the club, it's an easy place to fish with a healthy stock of fish but the fishing can be by no means easy, at times being both challenging & rewarding to try work out what works on the day.

Stewart Horne, Convener

The Bothy

Most members will be aware of the damage wrought by Storm Frank in the winter of 2015/2016, and while that has now passed into folklore, the damaging effects, on the bothy and garage in particular (as shown on the left just after Storm Frank), have taken a long time to rectify, not helped as flooding continues to affect the Dee on fairly frequent occasions (see above during a more recent spate), meaning constant vigilance is needed by the committee member tasked with looking after the bothy.

"The Bothy", our spiritual home on the tidal stretch of the Dee at Ruthrieston is cared for lovingly by committee member and Bothy Convener Davie Knowles (now often referred to as BBD (Bothy Boss Davie)). There have been periods recently when Davie was spending so much time working at what appeared to be his second home, that concerns were raised in committee that his missus had maybe thrown him out for spending too long there instead of attending to more mundane domestic matters. Davie



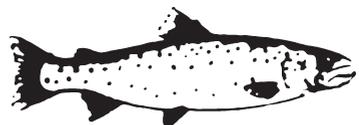
though, assured us all that was not the case and that his good lady was quite happy about the situation. At least I think that was what he intimated!

That assurance from BBD headed off a proposal from the more mercenary accounting "wing" of the committee, that consideration be given to charging Davie rent based on the hours he was spending there, meaning that income stream did not come to fruition!

Seriously, a prodigious amount of work has been put in by Davie, assisted by Richard McHattie and other committee and general members in transforming our headquarters into its present condition. That work continues, and the benefits to the Association

will be evident as time passes.

Davie wishes to remind members that (Covid permitting), "Coffee at the Bothy" on Friday mornings from 10.00 to 13.00 will recommence from 7th January. All members are welcome to come along for light refreshments and a blether. **(JWS)**



In this, our 75th year...

From a founder member of the Association:

Memories.....



I was introduced to angling by my father who, in the 1930's, fished the Pots and Ford waters at Riverside Drive. At that time tickets to fish there were issued by Mr Haggerty the Head Netsman of Powries the netting company who ran the netting station on that stretch of the Dee.

At the early age of 8 or 9 when I started fishing there, the New Bridge of Dee was just being completed and was opened in 1939. At that time there was a bank of shingle in the middle of the river running upstream from the new bridge just opposite the cemetery which was often above water level at low tide although getting to it could be a problem to someone of my size. The fishing there was really great and very exciting, so it was well worth the usual soaking. This was the time when the war began and that made quite an impact on our lives.

After some time the effects of the war became ever more serious and the increasing food shortage was quite problematic. I fished quite a lot at that time because I was at the Grammar School and in the early 40's due to the war we had to share the school property with the Central School (later Aberdeen Academy), which meant that our schooling

time was cut to half days only. While this was not good for my education it was great from the point of view of allowing me more time for fishing the Pots and Fords. Fishing was very good then, the finnock were big, usually around 1.25 lb and the autumn run of seatrout was excellent. Maybe the large runs of finnock and seatrout was because there was less inshore commercial fishing but I don't really know. I do know that there was no such thing as 'catch and release' as everyone was hungry and I supplied many neighbours and friends with an excellent addition to their rations. Worming was allowed and when the river was in spate there was wonderful fishing in the backwater opposite the Bothy.

At this time Aberdeen faced quite a few enemy air raids. Aberdeen had the nickname of 'Siren City' and between 1940 – 1943 was said to have had more air raid warnings than any other UK city although most of the raids were at night. My mother had laid down the law that I had to come home whenever the siren sounded, which you will realise was pretty frequent, but being an ardent angler I'm afraid I paid no heed to her instructions and fished on oblivious to anything.

At this time on occasions when on our weekly school sports session at Rubislaw sports field at Cromwell Road we had sometimes to carefully walk the pitch to pick up the empty cartridge cases jettisoned from the aircraft during the previous night's air raid before being able to play rugby.

When I was 12 or 13 years of age I became a Naval Messenger at weekends. This entailed cycling down to the Station Hotel, which had been taken over by the Royal Navy as their headquarters at the outbreak of the war and being given messages to take to either naval ships in the harbour, or having to cycle up to the Torry Battery, which was the most interesting for me as I had to pass the Torry sandy beach which was very often full of finnock and seatrout splashing about. At this time the whole harbour was closed off by a very high double barbed wire fence from Fittie to Torry with only a few entrances heavily guarded by armed soldiers. For a youngster of my age it was all very exciting, and being able to board naval ships carrying messages and having to wear a steel helmet when on duty added to the excitement. At this time all ships were armed including trawlers. I

don't think that I would ever have been given important messages, but who knows!

The Pots and Ford were pretty heavily fished as eventually 120 people had tickets by the end of the war. This was certainly a lot of anglers for a short space of river, especially as, when the nets were working, fishing was forbidden above the New Bridge. Mr Haggerty got fed up with people asking for a fishing ticket so he asked the group with tickets to organise themselves into a club. This was done and worked well with the cost of an annual permit being £1 while my (junior) one cost 10/- . The club formed was called the Pots and Ford Club. At that time there was no other place around Aberdeen where the citizens could fish, as the mouth of the Don was closed off from access for military security reasons.

At this time fishing tackle was not what it is like today, there was no such thing as nylon, it was a case of using a gut cast which had to be kept damp or else it was too brittle to attach a fly to. While there were many patterns of flies even at that time, we would use terrors most often when the water was at normal height, and Malloch's, Stoats Tail and Teal and Silver when the water was low and clear. Worming was allowed and was very successful at times as was spinning with braided thread lines. I was lucky enough to have two rods – a 10ft Greenheart for fly fishing and an old ariel from a tank converted into a spinning rod with a fixed spool spinning reel. You had to be pretty hardy to fish in those days as waders were very few and far between, and youngsters like me just had welly boots for the winter (which invariably filled up every time I went fishing), and gymshoes for the summer. It could be very cold at times, especially in February.

When the war ended in 1945 over the next year or so our servicemen started to return and this caused even more demand for fishing tickets. It was at this time that the Committee of the Pots and Fords Club – my father was treasurer – decided to take steps to call a meeting of any interested Aberdeen anglers for the purpose of forming an angling association. This meeting was the start of the ADAA.

The Association was formed by people of many different backgrounds and one of the major driving forces was a local solicitor called Campbell Cannon and with his depth of legal

knowledge he was of great benefit at this time. The first committee was made up of Campbell as Secretary, Alexander Hume, Treasurer, Councillor Pat McGee, Chairman, Adam Callum a joiner was Membership Secretary, and a committee of Harry Wilding who was a bespoke tailor, Arthur Reid the Head Rod maker at Sharpes, Robert Sutherland a Headmaster, Duncan Wilson, Jimmy Munro an electrician, Mr Cruickshank a banker, Jim Kilgour of Torry Fishery Research Station, Cliff Jordan the Bandleader at the Tivoli, who later became Chairman. Cliff later opened a hotel at Rubislaw Terrace calling it after his wife's and his first names – The Marcliffe Hotel. There were a few others that I cannot now recall, but there was a good mixture of manual and professional people who all had the same interest and desire to form an association and to get fishings for Aberdeen anglers.

There was a stipulation that while the Pots and Ford would be involved with setting up the new association, there would be built into its Constitution that it would not have any say on Pots and Ford matters. It was around this time that we got the use of the Loch of Loirston which had some great Loch Leven trout stocked by the owner. Fishing there was always a challenge and the largest Loch Leven I caught was just over 6lb caught on a size 16 double black spider. I remember it well!!!!

Up to that time there had been no local fishing available for Aberdeen anglers, hence the forming of the club and not too long after the Association was formed, we jumped at the chance to purchase Upper Parkhill, we could have bought Lower Parkhill at the same time but we did not have the funds. Funding to purchase Upper Parkhill came from subscription, donations and loans from the membership and we did not need to borrow money. Parkhill was the ideal acquisition at the time, as few people had cars and, as rationing continued for some time after the war finished, petrol was in short supply, even for those who owned a vehicle, so the fact that it could be reached by bus or bicycle was perfect.

This Association has been served over 75 years by hundreds of people who have given their time and effort for the benefit of us all. There were hard times, but also successful times, one of the best being the struggle to

get the River Don clear of the mess caused by the paper mills over many years. Very notable in this effort was Fred Imray, one of the many stalwarts involved in the Association.

The Association was very proud of its fishings on the Don and looked after them very well, and at one time matters became very serious when the Cruives salmon passes became affected by lack of water and also by poachers who had for years used the Cruives as a handy way to catch running salmon at certain water levels – the Cruives had indeed been a problem between upper proprietors and the owners for centuries past – but in the late 40s/50s the problem arose again in spite of the Don Bailiffs doing their best. The matter became so strongly felt that some of our members said that they were going to blow up the Cruives and settle the matter once and for all. This was at a time when quite a number of our membership had just finished years of using explosives to demolish Hitler's defences from Normandy to Berlin and said that they thought nothing of dealing once and for all with the Cruives. It took a great deal of persuasion to put a stop to their antics! I may say that for quite a few weeks I checked the P&J daily just in case matters had been taken out of the committee's hands.

For many years we used the legal firm of Clark and Wallace as our Secretaries and Treasurers and various of their Partners would attend our committee meetings to take the minutes etc and advise on legal matters. The now well-known Aberdeen solicitor, Frank Lefevre, was in position for quite some time and it was during his time that there was an unfortunate fire in his office that lost us our early records. We had quite a few of the firm's partners involved over the years and for many of those we had one of their accountancy office staff, Douglas King, who was a very great supporter of our Association.

After very many years we moved away from employing a legal firm and started to run things ourselves. Once again it was financial pressure that led to the change, as well as Clark and Wallace merging with another legal firm. We still have our connection with the firm regarding our property titles etc.

Our Association has come a long way since 1947 and it is extremely satisfying to see that it is still in the hands of a hard-working

Committee under good leadership that has the interests of anglers in the North East at heart.



**Alastair H Hume MBE,
Honorary President**

ADAA 75TH ANNIVERSARY

It will be 75 years since the ADAA was established come 2022 and many members may recall that the Association on its 50th Anniversary celebrated that occasion with a dinner dance at the Beach Ballroom. Therefore, next year the Association will celebrate its 75th anniversary with a Gala Ball. A Gala Ball committee has been established to organise this memorable occasion for members and their guests. This promises to be a most enjoyable evening with fine dining, music and dancing. The event, which will be held at the Beach Ballroom in the Autumn is in its early planning stages, but rest assured more information will follow in latter Newsletters.

Loirston Loch Improvements 2021

In early 2021 the committee approved the budget for some improvements at Loirston Loch, which were mainly targeting the weed issue which has been around for many years and has increased over the last 4 or 5 years.

In the season 2020 we had the aquatic weed removal contract, consisting of 1 boat and 2 men tackle the weed cutting over two days. These guys did what was requested but fell short of our expectation, this was in the main due to the severity of the weed growth.

We consulted with the contractor and agreed that we really required two boats and two

men over 3 days, both boats would cut the weed for the first day, then one boat cutting and one boat collection the cuttings for the remaining 2 days.

The work was carried out during the Monday 5th, Tuesday 6th & Wednesday 7th July, with the progress and photos posted on the ADAA Facebook page to keep members up to date.

Once the work was completed, it looked like the contractor had indeed carried out a first-class job. We had lots of members helping drag the cut weeds out into the shores and tidy up.

The loch was now fishable, and members could now enjoy weed free angling.

This will be an ongoing project each season until we get on top of the weed growth and the hope is that we exhaust the weed growth and maintain it thereafter.

Look out for further reports on the ADAA Facebook page.

Hook rule changes for Season 2022

Spinning

In the interest of fish welfare, management committee members have made some rule changes on how many hooks member can use on any set-up, whether it be spinning, fly fishing, or bait fishing.

When spinning, members may only use one hook per lure, which means, on a Rapala type lure for instance, only one treble, or double hook can be mounted. It is up to the member where to mount the hook, but we have taken advice from experienced salmon anglers on this and the best way to mount the hook is detailed in the photograph below.



The best set-up is to attach a split ring to each end of a swivel, then attach one end to the middle ring on the Rapala, then add the hook, treble or double, add a small piece of light 4 - 6lb breaking strain nylon to the split ring on the hook and attach the other end of the nylon to the tail ring on the Rapala. This method keeps the hook under the Rapala which will then break away when the fish takes, thus denying the fish any leverage on the Rapala body.

As we all practise Catch & Release (C&R) these days fish welfare is a priority, and we would all like to think that, once we release our catch, we have caused little or no damage to the fish and the fish can continue its journey. The committee also recommend the use of barbless or debarbed hooks, although this is optional.

Fly Fishing

Fly fishing covers many categories, Salmon, Grilse, Seatrout, Finnock, Brown Trout & Rainbow Trout and we are lucky enough to have them all available on Association waters.



The new rules here are again to promote fish welfare, and the management committee members have made the following changes to the rules when fly fishing for any of the above species.

Only one hook per fly, which may include one treble, one double, or one single hook.

No Flying hooks, this means you cannot have a hook attached to another hook in tandem, normally referred to as a **flying hook**

No Snake Flies, with a flying hook, or in tandem



Worming

Salmon, Grilse, Seatrout, Finnock, Brown Trout & Rainbow Trout, again all available on Association waters, can also be fished for using bait.

Once again, with fish welfare in mind, we have made some small changes to permitted tackle when worming.

Only one single hook to be used. Alternatively, a Stewart Tackle (3 hook set-up), or a Pennel tackle (2 hook set-up) can be employed and these "multi-hook" tackles can be a valuable aid in ensuring fish are not deep hooked as the "strike" can be made as soon as a fish is felt taking the bait. All hooks to be barbless or debarbed, **there is no exception**. 100% barbless or debarbed hooks only when worming.

Summary

Another significant rule change is Brown Trout fishing by fly only (Juniors excepted). Committee members are confident that all our members will see the need for these new rules and will welcome the changes as a way forward for our sport and for fish welfare.

Volunteers

While the Association contracts out a certain degree of bank maintenance, a sizeable proportion of the work involved in maintaining our fisheries is now carried out by member volunteers assisting Nicky and, in many cases, the beat conveners (an outstanding example of this being the work put in on the riverbank by Lewis Baxter, Convener for Lower Fintray and Lower Parkhill (North/Left Bank). The indispensable contribution made by these members, who give up their time to help, cannot be overstated, and the season 2021 in particular, our first without an assigned general contractor, produced a gratifying response.

The beat maintenance situation will be on the same footing in season 2022 and our volunteer members will once again be called upon to help. Our Angling Association, the largest in Scotland, relies, in common with most organisations of its kind, on the skills and knowledge its own members can contribute to the successful running of its affairs. The valued work done by volunteers in beat maintenance, for instance, is highlighted above. There are, of course, other disciplines

in which members can help, such as in the administration field, and one such instance is detailed here:

"A Situation Vacant"

We are looking for someone who would be interested in learning how to process Direct Debit payments from our members and maintain a record of all transactions throughout the season.

Details of payments due from members are maintained on an Excel spreadsheet which is uploaded to the authorised service company, usually once a month, according to a timetable provided by the service company. Around 200 of our members pay by Direct Debit, some in one annual instalment and some in 10 equal monthly instalments.

Ideally, you should have:

Access to a secure computer and printer

Reliable software e.g., Excel, Word, Adobe

A good basic working knowledge of spreadsheets

Good organisational skills

A high degree of accuracy with numbers

The ability to deal with confidential and personal information

If you are interested in helping either in this particular field or any other, or indeed would like to ask any questions, please let us know by emailing the Secretary at secretary@adaasales.co.uk:

Your name, Membership number and Contact details – email address, phone number etc.

George Clark

Members personal email addresses!

Have you received a hard copy of this newsletter? That's because according to our records we do not have a personal email address for you or the email we sent you bounced. By not providing us your personal email address (or a family member or friends) increases our printing costs and leads to you missing out on communications and being able to do things like make online bookings for some beats and so on. We would therefore be grateful if you can send an email to secretary@adaasales.co.uk asap so we can add your personal email address to your record.

Stop Press Late News!

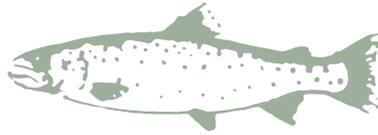
"Twin Peakes" day

TwinPeakes, located on Lower Deeside at Milton of Crathes, is a fly-fishing school and casting club, who also stock flies and who have connections with the Loop tackle organisation. Committee member and Website expert Matt Hart, in consultation with the TwinPeakes people, has arranged for our members to have an exclusive day at their venue, which will include casting demonstrations and present an opportunity to improve one's game fishing skills.

More details on times etc will be intimated in due course and Saturday 12th February is the current scheduled date. With the Covid situation being so fluid of course, postponement is always a possibility, but members will be kept informed

JWS.





ADAA Fly Tying Sessions

Experienced fly tyer, novice or just interested in finding out more.

Why not come along to the Bothy on Riverside Drive to share patterns, tips and advice on everything fly-tying related.

Subject to Easing of Covid-19 Restrictions

Look out for emails & on the ADAA Facebook page for the next planned session.



ADAA Gift Vouchers

Following a request from several members we have made these available via the ADAA shop on the website www.adaa.org.uk.

Vouchers are available in sums of either £25 or £50 and you can buy as much as required. All you need to do is make your purchase and identify the name of the person the voucher is for. You will receive an email after purchase which is the voucher. No separate documents will be issued.

Direct Debit Membership 2022

Please remember that you do not have to do anything if you currently pay by Direct Debit. Payment for season 2022 will be taken at the same intervals as currently i.e. in 1 instalment or in 10 monthly instalments.

Please also make sure we have your current address and date of birth on our records, especially if you have recently moved or you think you may qualify for senior membership rates next season.

Contact us

ADAA Secretary
Paul Toseland
27 Cove Circle,
Aberdeen AB12 3DG
Email: secretary@adaasales.co.uk
www.adaa.org.uk



FACEBOOK
facebook.com/AberdeenAngling



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