

the S&TA towards postage and other costs. We have about 120 members on email who receive information that way and it would help us greatly if we could contact you by email. If this is possible please write your email address here;

.....  
Q13 If you do not wish to receive any communication from us, such as notice of the AGM and other activities, please say so here as this will save a lot of unnecessary postage. You can, of course, change this decision at any time by letting us know. The address is always in "Game Fisher"

I do not wish to receive mailings from the Surrey Branch.

Signed .....date.....

**From Name [ please print ]**

**Address**

**Tel No.**

**E mail**

Thank you for taking the time to answer these questions. We hope you find our Newsletter helpful and also hope that it may encourage you to come along and support your local Branch. We need more members to support our evening meetings as otherwise they are a financial drain we cannot sustain.

If you have any further questions or comments please add them on a separate sheet when returning your completed Questionnaire to me at the address below. We always need new talent on the committee and, if you are interested, please contact me.



John Dumbrell  
Chairman, Surrey Branch, Salmon and Trout Association,  
Riverholme, The Towpath, Shepperton, Middx TW17 9LL

# Tight Lines

www.sta-surrey.org



## The Surrey Branch of the Salmon & Trout Association Annual Newsletter January

### Branch Fishery Report

Yet another season has passed all too soon, in common with the majority of all other small water fisheries we have suffered from the vagaries of the unusual weather patterns throughout the year and yet this has not distracted from the enjoyment of the majority of the membership who all enjoy the peace and tranquillity of our location and when they do catch the very high quality of fish that we are now able to stock thanks to our new supplier who has been very understanding to our difficulties.

Administratively it has been a very difficult year due no doubt to the effects of the credit crunch and economy downturn affecting so many people's incomes. In reality in trying to keep the annual fee down to an acceptable level we were still unable to attract sufficient members to run the fishery as we would have liked despite the fact that we were able to effect some reductions in operating cost which may not be sustainable for next year.

It is to be hoped that with a small increase in subscriptions for 2010 that sufficient existing members will confirm their intention to rejoin, that some others who were interested but found it impractical for this year will be better placed for next year and additionally that we can attract some additional members.

Unless there is a very positive indication of definite membership at a viable level for next season before the middle of January 2010 I have major concerns that we will have to give up the fishery - which after 20 years would be a tragedy for the Branch.

I would like to thank Roger Jones from the Estate team and particularly Chas Metcalfe for the time and effort they have provided to the running and bailiff duties of the fishery this year.

Derek Bargh

#### Chairman's Note

I make no apologies for including this in the newsletter. We want to keep the Fishery open but cannot do so without more support from you, the members. Please consider your plans for 2010 and include membership of Flanchford Fishery if you can. Derek's details are on the Branch Programme.



#### The Sussex Ouse

Once again we had a good day out in pleasant weather. Our two pictures capture the tranquil surroundings and our fishing efforts—the first fish of the day.



## Your Chairman's report on 2009

The year 2009 has been another reasonable year for the branch despite the current economic climate and the variable summer. Our numbers continue to shrink on an annual basis and, worryingly, the numbers attending our events and evening get-togethers are also down in most cases. Overall we had last November 458 members plus 21 partners, a total of 479. Today we have 454 members and 21 partners, a total of 475.

This year our evening meetings were changed to Thursdays and this may have had an effect on the numbers attending, however the alternative was to more than double the entrance charge. We had excellent presentations from Michael Evans, who included some underwater video of salmon taking flies, and Barry and Rose Grantham, who gave a very popular demonstration of split cane rod making. As the members evening was very popular last year we repeated the event in March and this was again a great success. Our final evening event in October was a fascinating foray into South America. Jean Howman showed some incredible shots of the countryside and of some specimen fish. From the questions asked, it appears a few of our members will be off to Argentina next year.

On the outdoor side, the April evening at Ashmere lakes was again well attended and, after an exciting evening's fishing, Jean Howman provided an excellent buffet supper. In May we visited Halliford Mere Lakes in Shepperton, it was pleasant fishing in such a beautiful environment and the weather was kind. Everyone who went had at least one fish and Derek again ended up with a pike!

September saw a number of us fishing the Sussex Ouse for seatrout. Another excellent day out in lovely surroundings and one that is a firm fixture in the calendar, despite the lack of fish this year, although we did manage to meet at the pub for lunch. November found 10 members meeting at Wherwell on the Test to fish for grayling. A beautiful day with perhaps too much sun in the morning but the afternoon saw better sport. Everyone had a good day. Two tuition days were to be held, one for the ladies on the 25<sup>th</sup> June at Coltsfoot Mill and one for the Juniors at Albury on the 20<sup>th</sup> September. Unfortunately, we had to cancel the Ladies Day as, with ten days to go, we only had 2 bookings, there was a last minute flurry of applications but much too late to save the day. However all was not lost, as a number of ladies joined the Juniors' Day at Albury. We already have a number of ladies applying for the coming year, so things are looking up. Trevor and Steve Fisher deserve our thanks for putting in so much effort to ensure success. I also need to thank all the other instructors and members who turned up to help.

The Edenbridge and Oxted Show was, once again, supported well by the Branch over the August Bank Holiday. We had several members to help on the stand on both Sunday and Monday. If we can have this amount of help in future years, it makes manning the stand much easier and we should be able to compile a rota so that members know what time they are required. We were supported by Barry Grantham and Trevor King – split cane rods and taxidermy respectively – together with their wives. Chris Reeves and Ian McKenzie tied flies on Sunday and Monday and Trevor Coxon organized his instructors for the casting. Steve Fisher provided 4 casting demonstrations each day.

The casting instruction was well attended with 9 juniors & 12 Adults on the Sunday and 13 Juniors and 11 adults on the Monday. Making a total of 22 Juniors and 23 Adults. In addition a number of people put their names down for the Juniors & Ladies day on 20<sup>th</sup> September. Finally, I need to thank all the members of our committee for their help and support during the year as our programme is the result of the hard work they have put in on your behalf and also to all our members who have supported the branch activities. Without you, the members, we would have no branch. I also need to thank John Nixon, who has retired from editing this Newsletter, for all the past hard work. This newsletter is the work of your Chairman until we can find another Editor **JLD**

## Questionnaire to Members of the Salmon & Trout Association in Surrey

The last two pages of the Newsletter are taken up with this questionnaire. Please fill it up and return it so that we can provide the service you want. If you do not return the questionnaire we will assume you no longer wish to receive information from the Branch and we will stop mailing you. You can, of course, get back on the mailing list at any time by writing to the Branch Chairman.

Q1 a. Have you ever been to a Surrey Branch Meeting or event? Yes/No  
b. If not, why not? .....

Q2 Did you know that the Branch holds events throughout the year? Yes/No

Q3 Where do you fish? Rivers/Stillwaters/Both

Q4 Do you visit County or Game Shows in Surrey? Yes/No/Occasionally

Q5 Do you feel your membership of the Salmon & Trout Association is worthwhile? Yes/No

Q6 What other events would you like us to run.

Q7 Do you feel the S & TA move to become a Charity was a positive move? Yes/No

Q8 If the Branch held a Countywide 'Friendly' Trout Fishing Competition and a barbecue once a year would you be interested? Yes /No/ Possibly

Q9 How often would you say you went fishing? Once a week/Once a month/When I can

Q10 a. Do you have a friend who has shown an interest in fly fishing and would like to take basic lessons? Yes/No  
b. Would you like to see more advanced instruction. Yes/No

Q11 If you don't have access to the Internet would you like to receive your Newsletter etc. by mail? Yes/No

Q12 The branch has some 450 members and we receive no income from