



Casting Lines from the Chair

I hope all members have enjoyed the 2025 Season which I would suggest has been an unusual one.

The vastly improved weather in the first 3 months of the season compared to 2024 allowed for some good Spring fishing. The weather became more unsettled in late May, but the rain was by that time most welcome. With a decent rise in mid-June the river settled back to summer level and there was some hot weather during the month. The river fell to its lowest level of the season to that point at 0.203 on 26th June. The typical range is 0.18 to 0.72.

It is difficult to get a true picture of how many people were fishing as not all members who do fish complete Catch Returns. The Brown Trout certainly survived the floods of 2024 and seemed to be in their usual haunts, but I believe some stretches of the river may have a sparse population despite a seemingly good environment for the fish.

The season from July onwards was notable for very warm, sometimes hot, temperatures and very low river levels. After a rise on 21st July to 0.4 the river dropped back to a very low level (lowest 0.149 on 25th August) until a rise again on 17th September to 0.411. In addition to the low levels the river was generally very clear. The combination of the heat and low levels meant very few members were out fishing and this left the river open to predators (Cormorants, Otters, Mink, Mergansers) and some illegal fishers who left evidence of their presence on the riverbank - discarded line, spinners, fireplaces, glass and plastic rubbish. More Club

signage (A4 - green font on white background) will be in place at key locations fairly soon.

Very few Catch Reports were completed during this period of dry weather and even after the lift in level to 0.634 on 21st September fish still appeared to be difficult to catch, and the stock level remains a bit of an unknown.

Once again grayling fishing in October and November was limited by the river and weather conditions. A small group fished on the last day of November and at least 1 decent grayling was brought to the net.

Pollution incidents.

1. On Thursday 24th July there were reports of the river being badly discoloured with a white, milky colour along our stretch. The NRW visited the area and passed on their data to Welsh Water. It is believed that the problem may have originated in the Bradley area and thankfully appears to have been non-toxic. This shows how important it is to be vigilant and to report any possible problems.

2. Two construction companies have agreed to pay a total of £150,000 after repeated pollution incidents into Singrett Brook, a tributary of the River Alyn in Wrexham. Bellway Homes Ltd and Anwyl Construction Ltd, responsible for the Maes y Rhedyn and Fern Meadow/Dol Rhedyn housing developments, caused several silt pollution incidents between 2022 and 2024 due to a lack of effective controls to stop muddy water running off their sites and entering the nearby brook. The companies share responsibility for a surface water



drain connecting the development sites to the brook. Despite a warning letter in 2021, further pollution was confirmed on at least five occasions, impacting around 300 metres of Singrett Brook and causing visible discolouration in the River Alyn.

Discharging silty water without a permit is an offence under environmental permitting regulations, and the material can cause long-lasting damage to fish and aquatic life, especially during spawning season. It is also an offence under the Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries Act 1975 to discharge any substance or effluent that could harm fish, their eggs, spawning grounds, or their food sources. This offence enables Natural Resources Wales (NRW) to apply civil sanctions where appropriate.

The construction firms have now admitted responsibility and offered formal Enforcement Undertakings (EUs) – a civil sanction which allows companies to make a financial contribution to environmental restoration in relation to certain offences. Bellway Homes Ltd offered £100,000, and Anwyl Construction Ltd paid £50,000, with the majority of funds going to the Welsh Dee Trust and Groundwork to deliver river and habitat improvements in the local area. A portion will also support environmental engagement through a local school initiative. The firms also paid an added £5,060 to cover NRW's enforcement cost recovery.

Chiara Caserotti, Senior Environment Officer at Natural Resources Wales, said:

“These repeated pollution incidents should not have happened – especially after earlier warnings were issued. Silt pollution may seem harmless, but it can cause real harm to river habitats and species,

particularly during fish spawning season. By accepting these

Enforcement Undertakings, the companies have acknowledged their failings, committed to improving their practices, and ensured that the money goes directly back into restoring the river and supporting the local environment. This outcome sends a clear message: construction firms must take their environmental responsibilities seriously. Prevention is always better than cure and putting the right measures in place from the outset helps protect our rivers and avoids enforcement action like this.”

NRW thanked the local residents and Alyn Angling Association who reported incidents and helped ensure action was taken. If you need to report an environmental or pollution incident, please contact NRW's 24/7 incident communications centre via the online report it form. You can also contact NRW 24/7 on [0300 065 3000](tel:03000653000).

Howard Stevens

Howard Stevens, or should I say, “Mister Rossett & Gresford”, has decided to end his role as part of the Club's committee. I first met Howard while standing in Dave Gibson's Fishing Tackle Shop in Chester. I had only just started talking to Dave about local fly fishing possibilities when Howard walked in with his usual purposeful manner and joined the conversation. To this day I am sure Dave had a button under the counter alerting Howard to a potential new member. I was hooked, played and returned to the water before I even knew what had happened. A quality that Howard has effectively used all his life. position and influence in this club cannot be exaggerated, keeping us all in line and supporting the chairmen. For a long spell he picked up the trailer from its parking place in Trevalyn every Sunday morning and had it waiting on site for



the work party to arrive. Howard deserves a huge 'thank you' for the continual improvements to the quality of the fishing that he has led over the last twenty plus years. A main ingredient is this has been his wonderful generosity. His time, knowledge, enthusiasm and the sheer hard work he has put into the Club can only be judged as 'priceless'. His combined efforts to increase our shared understanding of elements such as the balance of light and shade on the water, our understanding of in stream habitat and invertebrates, our interpretation of how the river changes on an annual basis are all equally important. The opportunity for constant discussion and debate has become an everyday part of the Club mainly due to Howard's constant prompting, drive and determination to tackle important issues in order to gain the best possible outcomes for everyone. To help ensure the best possible fishing experience for all members our ability to share, involve and inspire are all qualities we need to hold dear to the heart of the Club.

Great UK Water Blitz.

Back in July we were alerted on the forum by Michael Rhodes to the Great UK Water Blitz (<https://earthwatch.org.uk/greatukwaterblitz/>) - a citizen science project aimed at testing the quality of freshwater bodies every April and September. The autumn testing took place between the 17th and 22nd September, with four members ordering test kits and a plan to test four points along the river was agreed on the Open board on the forum with Michael testing at Rossett Weir, Sean testing at Gresford Weir, Tom testing at Singret Brook and Martin testing at Pont y Capel. Michael managed an additional sample at the Bridge Inn Pontblyddyn.

The test kit contained two specially prepared test tubes, one containing a reagent for testing the nitrate level and one containing a reagent for testing the phosphate level. A sample of river water was introduced to the tube and after a few minutes the colour of the solution was matched against a colour chart to determine the level of the component present.

The test results, location and river condition, along with an optional photograph were uploaded into the survey either online or via the app. Once registered with the system, a location pin appeared on the results map. Clicking on the pin showed the uploaded data along with some feedback. The feedback from the Pont y Capel testing reads "Your dataset indicates that this waterbody has a moderate ecological status. Moderately elevated nitrate concentrations. These values are expected to vary throughout the year as a result of weather patterns and changes in land use. Please help us to better understand this ecosystem by continuing to make measurements."

The results can be seen on www.freshwaterwatch.org/pages/great-ukwaterblitz-results#RESULTS. It's worth filtering using the ceremonial county of Clywd to see the results for the River Alyn.

The table below shows a summary of the testing along the river Alyn. The testing map shows two samples that were collected between Pont y Capel and Pontblyddyn by another party, these samples have been included in the table.

Data was collected from over 3400 points in the UK and a report of the Autumn 2025 testing is available at

<https://earthwatch.org.uk/greatukwaterblitz/>



If anyone is interested in participating in next years' Water Blitz then look out for information on the club forum or on the Great UK Water Blitz website.

New Committee Members

The Club's success is largely down to the work of the committee, the group of people who manage the club's affairs. The committee exists to serve the club and to ensure that its members receive the best possible service and experience. The committee has four meetings a year and is also involved in the Club's Annual General Meeting.

We are still seeking to add new members to the Committee to help further develop the club's overall success.

Membership of the committee would be an opportunity to:

- work with other members for a common purpose
- to contribute to the club's success by providing expertise, sharing ideas and helping to shape the future of the club
- contribute to improving the overall club member experience
- take up leadership roles in managing club affairs
- make decisions, plan events and promote fishing on the River Alyn

If you are interested in joining the committee please contact the Club Secretary, Graham Cope by email at

secretary.rgffc@gmail.com.

I hope that all members enjoy the second half of the season. As Izaak Walton wrote, *"God did never make a more calm, quiet, innocent recreation than angling [and] no life is so happy as the well-governed angler."*

Tight lines.

David Meadows (Chairman)

A Fly-tying invitation from the Treasurer.

If there's one thing I look forward to as much as the the start of the Alyn fishing season, it's the end of the Alyn fishing season. For me the end of the fishing season usually starts with me cleaning my waders and putting them away in the shed with my rod and my reel to hibernate until March.

My mind is then set on securing a good supply of seasoned logs to keep the cottage warm over the winter whilst I set about the other thing that keeps me out of trouble. I end up in trouble anyway, but my wife is partly understanding and only has herself to blame. She did say "I do" and at least I'm just "clogging up the bloody dining table again" and not down the pub or the bookies.



If you came into our house during winter, you'd be forgiven for assuming I'd been plucking turkeys from Christmas through to Easter given how many feathers there are on the dining room table, and indeed the floor. The cold nights are the perfect time to start tying your flies for next season.

The club has a few very accomplished fly tiers (Not me personally but we do have some gold star dudes) and it's one of the most active parts of the club forum during the closed season. During this time, we also set about organising the fly pack for next year's new members which is given out on the river walk in May. Last year we had 5 members contribute flies to the pack and we would always be happy to have more contributors.

On the forum there is also information on how you can join the Fly Dressers Guild and how you can sign up to do your Bronze Award which is a great way to meet other fly tiers through our Club former Chairman Eddie Wilkinson and Guild assessor.

Through membership of the forum several members contributed towards the fly collection for new members this year with Eddie Wilkinson, Martin Harrison, Ian Thomas, Graeme Edwards and

Sean Barlow all contributing flies to this year's pack.

If you're interested in tying your own flies and have anxieties about being caught by your better half spending more money on your "bloody fishing hobby" or vexed by the complexity of the supposed ancient art, don't be. The club has plenty of fly-tying kit and materials which we would be happy to send out to anyone who would like to start tying their own flies. The simplest flies catch fish and as a fly-tying simpleton I can assure you that it's easy to start. I'm not saying that you won't end up in trouble with your better half eventually when you're ordering a jungle-cock cape on eBay for £200 but by then it will be your own fault not mine.

If you'd like a vice and some tools to get you started, please drop me an email at thetreasurer.rgffc@gmail.com and the club would be happy to help you get started.

I hope that all members enjoy the 2026 Season.

Sean Barlow - Club Treasurer and avid dining room mess pot.

Club Officers & Committee

President	To be confirmed	
Chairman	David Meadows	
Secretary	Graham Cope	secretary.rgffc@gmail.com
Membership Secretary	Sean Barlow (Temp)	membership.rgfc@gmail.com



Treasurer

Sean Barlow

thetreasurer.rgffc@gmail.com

Invertebrate Sampling

Tom Mohan

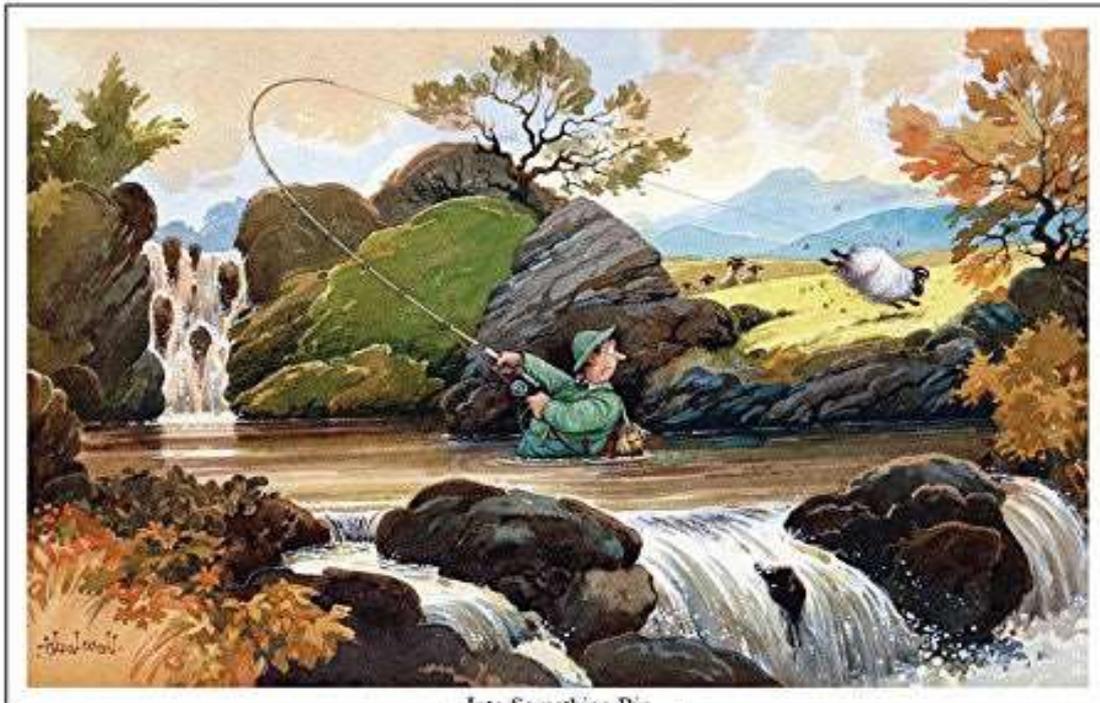
Website & Catch Returns

Martin Harrison

Ian Thomas

Graeme Edwards

Karl Hughes



Into Something Big