

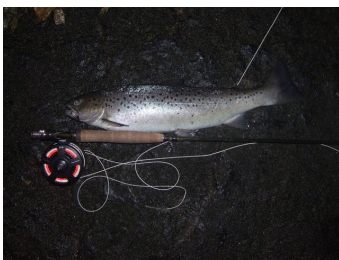


Cramond Angling Club

Cramond
Angling Club
Autumn 2011



Chairman's Report



Neil Chapman's Sea Trout (June 2011)

Special points of interest:

- Chairman's Report
- Spanish Angle
- West Lothian Angling Association

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The River continued to fish well during the summer months. Mid season summer levels and bright clear skies which can make fishing "challenging" did not deter some hardened souls. One member in particular excelled in these conditions. It probably helped that he was of Spanish origin and although he has now departed these shores, he left a big impression on the many members he met. Sergio freely gave advice regarding leader set up, upstream dry fly and "Spanish nymphing" techniques. (See Sergio's article on the next page)

The pleasing factor of the summer months was the amount of anglers fishing the river. In previous seasons it was unusual to meet more than a few souls on the River throughout the weekday evenings. This is no longer the case with members out most nights and, going by verbal reports, bigger fish being caught and released this season. The fly of the summer was undoubtedly the Grey Duster and its variants and as small as you can comfortably follow in the water.

The Sea trout were a tad more difficult this summer

and the bigger fish evaded most with the exception of Neil Chapman's 4lb+ fish from "Peggie's Mill" on an evening session. It gave him a torrid time before it was eventually landed, photographed and carefully returned. Neil says it was the best fighting fish pound for pound he has ever caught and was incidentally his first Sea Trout. Yet another of the many firsts some of our members have achieved this season.

Late July and early August saw the rains and subsequent rises in levels with the expected rise in angler activity. Sea Trout, Finnock and the occasional grilse are being caught and we still have the back end to look forward too.

Outings and other events e.g. fly tying evenings and demonstration nights, have been exceptionally well supported by the members and it looks like the club is in a very good state with applications for new membership having to be closed mid season due to reaching the capped limit of 250 adults. The new members that joined in the past few seasons are participating in club activities and adding "value" to the club and conversely we are benefitting

from their experience.

We have set the date for this years A.G.M which is to be held on Monday 21st of November in the Cramond Boat Club. Proceedings start at 7.45pm. All members are welcome and as a few important decisions will be taken I urge anyone with an interest in the well being of the River and future club policies to attend.

Good luck for the remainder of the season, hopefully we can replicate last years successful back end and please remember "Dead fish don't Spawn".

Millar Haxton Laing.

chairman@fishalmond.co.uk



Cameron Chapman helping with the Electro-fishing (Aug 2011)

“Cramond Angling Club, as featured in Fly Fishing and Fly Tying April 2007, written by John Pass and also featured in Trout & Salmon Magazine February 2011 ”



The Sergio Selection

Vice Chairman's Report

Understanding the catchment has again been high on the priorities this year (something I imagine I'll be saying for the next few years).

We're still awaiting feedback from SEPA regarding the restoration funding project to remove or enhance 10 of the catchment's weirs. The Board have just given permission to carry out sediment sampling, so I'm hoping to see some movement shortly. However, it'll take time.

During 2010 several members of the Sub Management Group and Committee started to survey the burns and upper River. The information that was gathered has been used to define an initiative to start eradicating some invasives species which can be found along the riverbank.

I'm talking about Himalayan Balsam, Japanese Knotweed and Giant Hogweed, all of which

have a couple of negative effects. Firstly, due to the plants nature, they shade out other species, then during winter when the plants die back, they leave the bank exposed and prone to collapse, adding to issues such as siltation.

Treating these should also assist with improving access to the River especially around Beat 3 and Upper Beat 2.

The Sub Management Group and the River Forth Fisheries Trust (RFFT) have secured a grant, so 6 members of the Club and West Lothian Angling Association will be trained later in the year in herbicide safety and application (PA1 and PA6) as well as funding the training, apparatus, safety clothing and herbicides will be provided.

Due to the nature of the plants reproduction, this will be a top down approach regarding treatment.

My final note is around Electro-fishing. At the time of writing I have assisted Jo Girvan (RFFT Biologist) with 3 days fishing within the catchment, Jo has kindly offered to provide a fourth day some time in September. I'm slightly concerned at a lack of juvenile trout and salmon, but as it stands we need to pull the survey information together with the historic records and start to map out the fish populations and plan further fishing during 2012.

The feedback this year has been excellent, with new members fully enjoying their fishing, one of our initiatives has been selected for inclusion in the Institute of Fisheries Management Newsletter and the feedback from the Board and Trust is very positive.

Fen Howieson
Vicechaiman@fishalmond.co.uk

The "Spanish" Angle

First of all I have to introduce myself. My name is Sergio. I'm a Spanish angler who has been living in Edinburgh for 16 months. My experience in fly fishing it's no more than 4 years and I always try to fish with the dry fly or nymph.

During the middle of April until the end of July I was fishing the Almond. My situation here in Edinburgh allowed me to go fishing three or four days per week. With this I can say that during this time I could fish the river between 35 or 40 times. A usual day for me fishing is between 6 to 9 hours on the River. So I can speak about the River with experience.

This River has quite different scenarios where you can fish with different techniques to get better results. It has calm water to fish with dry fly, better if you find a riser to know where the trout are

(my best place to fish in this scenario are: the big pool downstream of Cramond Bridge and upstream of the old bridge). It has quick water where you can use nymph with Czech nymphing technique (in my case with Spanish nymphing) obtaining very good results (the best place to practice this technique is in beat 1 and two runs upstream of motorway bridge). Some differences that I could see with other anglers when we were fishing the River:

Dry Fly:

If the conditions allow me I try to fish always upstream with dry fly. With this, you can drop and drag in your fly easier.

I use between leader and tippet more or less 19 or 20 foot. The reason of this is that the line always drags more than the leader or the tippet. I use the last section

of tippet with 0.10 mm. I never try to cast the line upstream of the trout. The flies that I use are very small (maximum 16 size) and I try to use CDC to tie the wings because for me is very good for dry flies.

Nymph (Czech nymphing):

Keep the tension in your line and never leave your rod behind your line. It will do to drag your nymphs.

I use always two nymphs and the distance between them is 20 or 25 cm.

I usually use an orange tippet as indicator. Just to know where my flies are.

In shallow water I put the heavier in the top and in deep water opposite.

The idea is your flies swim very close the bottom because this is where the trout are feeding the 90% of the time.

By Sergio Munoz Curto

Outings Secretary's Report

The outings this year have been a great success, four outings so far, the River Tummel, River Isla and the river and stillwater competitions held on our River and on North Third, our 2012 winner was Euan Martin on both occasions. All events were fully booked and unusually fish taken on all trips! We also held our annual Junior Competition at [Selmuir Fishery](#) hosted this year by [Gordon Graham](#), which was a great success with dona-

tions from [Fishers](#), [Orvis](#), [Flies 24-7](#), [Country Life](#) and our members who tied and donated their own creations. Our winner this year was Aidan Cross.

We have one outing remaining this year on the River Tweed in October which is also fully booked, so I'm looking for a clean sheet for the Year. I would like to say thank you to all our members who participated, friends and family (Laura Cross)

that helped out on the days, it is greatly appreciated by me and our membership. Now, where do you want to go in 2012 ...

I'm thinking Loch Leven a trip on the "wild" side!

Adam 07752 084959 or

outings@fishalmond.co.uk



Junior Outing 2011 at Selmuir Trout Fishery

Secretary's Report

As many will be aware we reached our membership limit for the first time this year, at about June time. This information has been put on the main website and since then on I have had many enquiries as to how to get day tickets and how to join next year. This is good news for the future of the club. The increased membership is a fantastic indication on how well the River has improved over the last

few years due to the work undertaken by the club and on-going vigilance from the members with incidents of pollution or problems being reported promptly to SEPA before they can escalate. From those who do not have it - the number for reporting any incidents is 0800 80 70 60 see the last page.

There has also been good coverage in the press including Trout & Salmon and the

River has been filmed for television. All of which has improved the status of the River for fishing of all species, but particularly for Salmon. I am sure you will also want to thank those members who have taken the time to write articles and attend meetings throughout the season so far to promote the club.

The knowledge that the River upstream is now being

managed by the West Lothian Anglers Association gives further confidence in the future of the River as a whole. See Colins's article for more information. As Millar has mentioned the date of the AGM will be Monday 21st November – make sure it is in your diary.

Alison Baker

secretary@fishalmond.co.uk

Treasurer's Report

Season ticket sales continued at a steady pace over the summer to such an extent that we had to unfortunately stop taking applications for this year. In case you have any direct enquiries from anglers wishing to fish the Club's water then please remember to mention that day tickets are available from the following outlets:

Barnton Post Office, 199 Whitehouse Road, Edinburgh, EH4 6BU

Craftye, 13 Montagu Terrace, Edinburgh, EH3 5QX

Country Life, 229 Balgreen Road, Edinburgh, EH11 2RZ

Please note that all season ticket holders are required to complete and return a valid catch return (including a nil catch) to the Club Treasurer

by the **14th November 2011**. Failure to do so will forfeit the right to apply for a season ticket next year. This is an important document as it is the only way the Club receives feedback regarding the state of the river's fish stocks. All returns received will be entered into a prize draw for a free 2012 season ticket.

Every season ticket member should be in possession of a

copy of the following documents: 2011 Rules & Regulations, Beat maps, Scale sample, Catch return and Cramond Boat Club Terms & Conditions. If you require any additional copies then please contact **Jim Madden** treasurer@fishalmond.co.uk, **Club Treasurer**, 35 North Gyle Road, Edinburgh, EH12 8EX.

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We aim to promote fishing on the River Almond at a very affordable price.

It is also the club's interest to maintain the river's general health and well being. The club also runs some riverbank maintenance to keep it clean and accessible, in partnership with the Edinburgh Ranger Service and Dalmeny Estate.

Please report pollution to SEPA on 0800 807060

Club Rules and membership details can be found at www.fishalmond.co.uk

Forth District Salmon Fishery's Board (Superintendent 07887 835549)

The well being of the River Almond, first and foremost.

**We're on the Web ! www.fishalmond.co.uk (Official Website)
& www.fishalmond.co.uk/cac (Official Forum)**

West Lothian Angling Association

By Colin McKay

Often it is good to try fishing new waters for a change, and where better than the upper reaches of our own River Almond. This season I have been venturing further upstream of CAC waters to fish the WLAA stretch of the River Almond around Livingston Village and Mid Calder.

Starting at Livingston Village I would usually work my way downstream, fishing the small riffles and runs that flow down under the bridge and along by the tennis courts. If there are no fish rising, this stretch can still produce good fish with upstream nymphing; Hares ears, PTN's and various forms of Crunchers have proved to be very successful, as well as traditional wets such as Invictas, and my own fall back favourite a Silver March Brown. Further downstream from the tennis courts, the water slows a bit in sections with some very deep pools, and if a hatch is on then these sec-

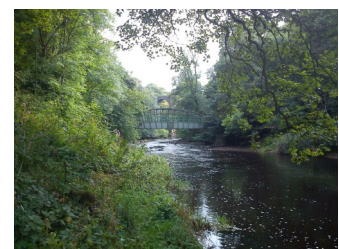
tions can produce excellent dry fly sport. Olive Klinkhammers and Grey Dusters have worked for me especially at dusk on my favorite stretch of the water just upstream from the village, which seems to come alive at night with rising fish. Needless to say there is no logic to any of this and most flies which work on our own stretch of the Almond will likely also catch fish. Regular WLAA anglers swear by wooly buggers and similar lures when the water is higher and a bit coloured, and members catch reports would indicate that they are worth a try.

The River then winds its way down through Livingston on to Almondell Country Park. Although this is a relatively public place, you would never imagine it when you are fishing, as most of the river is hidden by trees and bushes. Access can be difficult in parts but most stretches of the water can be fished reasonably easily with the use of waders: Be-

ware of rocks and deep holes though!

As a relative newcomer to fly fishing I have been most impressed by the size and quality of the fish. It is not unusual to catch brownies around the pound mark and like all things from the West they are hard fighting till the last and the battle is never over till it's in the net!

So if you're looking for somewhere different to fish within easy access of Edinburgh then why not give it a go. <http://www.wlaa.uifix.co.uk>



River Almond—Almondell Country Park