

FISHERY REPORTS

Award Winning Academy WINS Again



Sophie Warner,
(centre) Graham Cridland
Tim Durrans



BBC Sussex & BBC Surrey held their inaugural 'Community Heroes Awards' at the K2 Leisure Centre in Crawley on the 15 December 2011. 9 awards and 2 special achievement awards were available to nominees from across Sussex, Surrey and North Hampshire. All the nominees were winners for being recognised in their respective categories. The judges had an almost impossible task to decide who the eventual winners were to be.

The 'Community Heroes Award for Sport' was announced by BBC Sussex & Surrey Sports presenter Tim Durrans and awarded to Graham Cridland by Para Olympian Sophie Warner. Graham Cridland who lives in Pound Hill, Crawley, is Managing Director and Chairman of West Sussex Angling Academy, FSB member, and is also President Elect of Gatwick Diamond Rotary Club.

Graham said 'There were so many fantastic and deserving people at the awards; I was convinced I had not won, I am completely overwhelmed. I have to thank SR Technics, the owners and staff at Henfold Fishery, all my staff and volunteers, our clients for making a difference to their lives, and to my long suffering wife and family, who have had to put up with the last 31 years of me coaching with rugby and now fishing. Thank you everyone'.

Graham has achieved all this while working nightshift for SR Technics, maintaining Easyjet's fleet at Gatwick Airport. The Academy based at Henfold Leisure Lakes, Henfold Lane, Newdigate, uses fishing to help disadvantaged young/adult people, schools, special needs schools, community groups, care homes and respite days for all members of the Armed Forces, to rebuild their confidence, self esteem and family cohesion.

If you would like information on the Academy please contact Graham (MD) 07951 474146 or Alison (secretary) on 07936 201142. Email: cwsaa@aol.com or via web site www.wsangling.com

Riverbed near Marlborough lies empty

A wildlife campaigner has spoken of his despair after the River Kennet dried up this winter. All Party Parliamentary Angling Group chairman Charles Walker is upset over the state of the river upstream of Marlborough College, where it is devoid of water in stretches of what should be a fast-flowing trout stream. It is extremely rare for the river to dry up during winter, although summer droughts such as that in 1975-76 saw the same stretches left waterless and looking like gravel cart tracks.

Recently, river campaign group Action for the River Kennet (ARK) hosted a visit for Devizes MP Claire Perry to inspect the dry river bed at Manton. She was joined by Mr Walker, MP for Broxbourne in Hertfordshire and a lifelong fisherman, and Reading MP Martin Salter, campaigns director for the Angling Trust. ARK was represented by its chairman Dr Geoffrey Findlay, farmer and committee member Martin Gibson, John Lawson and Charlotte Hitchmough. A group of concerned residents also joined in the walk along the dry river. Mr Walker, who as a child used to fish the Kennet with his grandfather, said he was depressed to see the deep swirling mill pool where he caught his first trout reduced to a small puddle. He said: "My grandfather would be turning in his grave."

Mrs Perry said the critical drop in river levels was caused by the short-term low rainfall the area has experienced over the past 18 months, combined with excessive water abstraction. ARK has been campaigning for Thames Water to stop pumping millions of litres of water a day from boreholes in the Kennet basin. Mrs Perry said there needed to be a system to stop water companies abstracting water when rivers were drying up. The MPs said the new Water White Paper would place a value on water that reflected its scarcity and value to the natural environment.

Dr Findlay welcomed the aspirations and ideas in the Water White Paper, but said ARK was calling for clear deadlines for action from the Government.

Mrs Perry said she welcomed Thames Water initiatives Care for the Kennet and Save Water Swindon, both aimed at encouraging people to reduce water use.

STRAWBERRY FIELDS - Tunbridge Wells, Kent

Steve Oz from Westcliffe-on-Sea spent between 4 to 6 hrs daily, between 23rd December 2011 and 1st January 2012 and was rewarded, as the pictures show, with some great catches.



Float fished using 2.5 aa shot fishing to 5' at distances between 8 and 20' from bank using mixtures of red maggot/lobs/dendrobenas. Fished over chopped worm, liquidised bread and red maggots feeding little and often.



The 4lb 2oz perch is the culmination of a 20 year search for a 4 at Strawberry Fields, over the years my PB has slowly climbed from 2lb 11 oz to 3lb 8oz (in April 2011). I was gobsmacked when I saw the fish, which almost filled my match net. The fish came on my last cast of day on Xmas Eve at 4.10pm, earlier in the day I had the 2lb 5oz roach and a 2lb perch. I was at the lake for 10 days during which time I landed 107 fish. Some days you couldn't get a bite. On Wednesday after Xmas I landed several 3lb+ perch in a row, followed up by 4 smaller perch and then they closed up shop. I left on New Years day without seeing another perch, though I did have a brace of 2lb roach at 2lb and 2lb 3oz. I also caught 4 carp during my stay, but alas all small.

