

# **BRISTOL & WEST BRANCH**

***SALMON & TROUT ASSOCIATION***

## **NEWSLETTER 2017**

***President: Nick Mitchell***

***Chairman: Alfred Pope***

***Secretary: Malcolm Bond***

***Treasurer: John West  
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***Planned for 2017:***

***AGM***

***West Country Game Fair***

***Royal Bath & West Show  
Sport for the disabled  
including flycasting at the  
show***

***Members' Day***

***Annual Dinner***

***Please see inside for  
details***



**Blagdon Lake Fishing Lodge  
Grade II Listed c 1900**

**All dates and booking  
form inside. Please  
complete and return to  
John West**

# AGM - February 21st 2016



**The Bristol Avon**

This year the AGM started with an informal get together over a glass of wine and an excellent buffet lunch provided by Alfred and Jane Pope with Brian Kick as usual running the raffle with his very interesting fly playing cards and raising £60 for the Branch funds.

Lunch was followed by a very interesting talk on the Bristol Avon Catchment Partnership and Bristol Avon Catchment Plan by Zoe Hancock from Wessex Water.

The purpose of the partnership is to:

- identify collectively the key water based issues within the catchment (for example, flooding, declining water quality in our rivers and streams, declining number of fish surviving)
- ensure that work to improve the water based issues in the catchment is well informed by sound local evidence and data
- coordinate and integrate both current and future plans to secure better and more effective outcomes
- agree the priority actions that are required to help deliver projects to improve the water based issues in the catchment
- maximise the use of existing resources and seek to attract additional funding where appropriate
- share findings and best practice and communicate widely with surrounding partnerships and local community groups to provide a mandate to improve the water and land environment for all.

The Bristol Avon Catchment Plan can be found on their website at [www.bristolavoncatchment.co.uk](http://www.bristolavoncatchment.co.uk)

After lunch the AGM proper started with the Chairman welcoming everybody to the meeting and thanked all who had taken the trouble to come. He reported that the S & TC were not interested in the branches and therefore the Bristol Branch was becoming more closely allied with the Angling Trust. Alfred then thanked all the committee members for a successful season, particularly Roy Buckland, Malcolm Fisher and Brian Kick for supporting the shows and the Junior Coaching and Brian for his very successful raffles during the year. Alfred vacated the chair and John West proposed him for re-election as chairman. This was seconded by Roy Buckland and carried unanimously. The rest of the committee all stood for re-election and they were proposed en masse by Peter McGuckian. This was seconded by Paul Middle and carried unanimously.

*Jenny West*

## The Royal Bath & West Show – June 1<sup>st</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> 2016



This year was all change as we moved in with the Woodlands and Craft Show. Although this was a little on the edge of the main show we were nevertheless quite busy at times and when we were giving demonstrations we had very good audiences - it made a change from some other years .We suffered the usual problem of lack of support from branch members, one week before the show we

had no one. Malcolm succeeded in getting a few of his contacts to give up some of their time and come along. I got two of my course fishing instructor friends Phil and Pat Smith who came for three days all the way from Greenham Common in Berkshire . If it were not for all the help we had from them we would have had to pull out. At the end of the show David Aitken who runs the show ring made a point of coming over and thanking us for all that we had done. Malcolm and I enjoy doing this show and will continue to do so but we do need more help from branch.



Brian Kick did his usual great job in running the casting part of the disabled games with help from one or two branch members but also had to call on a friend to complete his team.

Brian, Malcolm and I also took part in the West Country Game Fair in March, not quite so busy this year but it did clash

with a very large fishing show at Farnborough in Hampshire. It was also very cold but worth doing.

Roy Buckland

## Members' Day, October 2nd 2016, Blagdon Lake

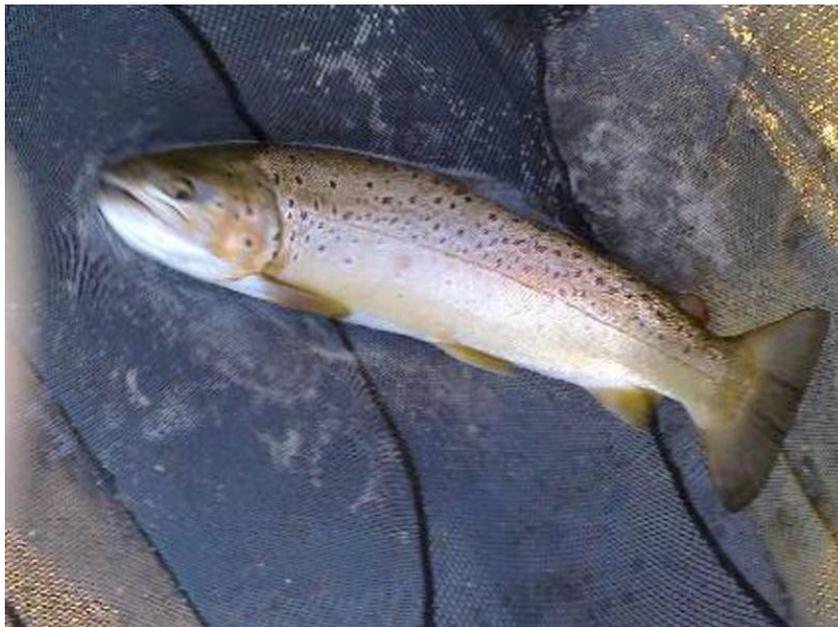
The Lord Darling Trophy was fished for at Blagdon by 11 members and their guests on Sunday October 2<sup>nd</sup>. A total of 28 fish were caught at an average of 2lb 5oz with Mike Hobbs reaching his bag limit and



only one guest was unfortunate to blank. Brian Kick did his usual marvellous job in weighing the fish and producing the results – where would we be without him! The winner of the trophy was John West with a brown trout of about 5lb with his last cast of the day - his only fish! As etiquette dictates these days the lovely trout was returned to the lake to be caught another day!

As usual, Elaine and her team provided an excellent supper which was appreciated by some tired fishermen. We are very grateful to Brian Kick for running his usual raffle and to the staff at Woodford Lodge for arranging the room and lighting the very welcoming fire.

**Alfred Pope presenting John West with the Lord Darling Trophy**



**John West's winning brown trout at 5lbs.**

## Annual Dinner, September 23rd 2016, Cameley Lodge



**Alfred Pope presenting the Chairman's Trophy to John West**

The Annual Dinner was held at Cameley Lodge again in September after it's successful date change last year. The chef produced a superb dinner and it would be very hard to find better food in the South West.

Our guest speaker this year was Paul Knight, the CEO of the Salmon and Trout Conservation UK, who spoke about some of the work his organisation were undertaking.

John West was presented with the Chairman's Trophy by our Chairman Alfred Pope for his services to the Branch which was well deserved as John has ably managed the branch finances for many years. Brian Kick put an extra smile on John's face when he gave him the takings from his raffle - well done and thank you Brian. An excellent evening enjoyed by all those present.



**Paul Knight, the guest speaker from S & TC UK, (sitting left) with Chairman Alfred Pope and recently retired Secretary Roy Buckland.**

# Events Calendar for 2017

## *AGM, Sunday March 12<sup>th</sup> 2017 at Blagdon Lodge*

Meet at 1.15pm for a buffet lunch and a glass of wine and meet up with old friends. The AGM will start at 2.15pm and is your chance to hear what is planned for this year, to question committee members about the running of the branch and to elect or re-elect your branch officers. If you are intending to come to lunch - cost £14.00 - will you please forward your cheque payable to Salmon & Trout Association with your booking form.

## *Royal Bath & West Sport for the Disabled, Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> May 2017 at The Royal Bath & West Showground, Shepton Mallet*

'Have a Go Day' to be held from 10:30am until 3:00pm.

## *Royal Bath & West Show Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> May - Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2017 at Shepton Mallet Showground together with the Royal Bath & West Sport for the Disabled*

This is a very important show for us, and it is vital that we get some volunteers to help with the running of the show. We really do need to make an impression this year to ensure our presence there for future years. All helpers will have a free pass to the show and of course the opportunity to have a look round the whole show at some time during the day. If you can, please help us. Brian Kick has for years run the casting part of the disabled games which are run at the Bath & West on the Thursday and Friday during the main show. Again, if you can spare a few hours to assist Brian he will be very grateful. The same free entry pass applies. If available to come and help, please tick the appropriate boxes on the booking form.

## *Members Day Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2017 at Blagdon Lake*

This is boat or bank fishing. The biggest fish caught during the day wins the Lord Darling Trophy followed by a hot supper in the Lodge.

## *Annual Dinner Friday 15<sup>th</sup> September 2017 at Cameley Lodge*

The Annual Dinner will again be held at Cameley Lodge 7.15 pm. for 8.00pm. (Black tie preferred). The guest speaker will be Mark Lloyd from the Angling Trust. This is always a lovely evening and all who went last year said it was one of the best ever. The food at Cameley Lodge is memorable for all the right reasons. Try not to miss it.

## When is a Member not a Member!

That is the question (with apologies to Hamlet). The answer is somewhat surprising! There are only 25 Members of Salmon & Trout Conservation UK (formerly the Salmon & Trout Association) and that includes 2 employees. Those of us who pay our £50 annually are called “Informal Members” but we are really only donors with no voting rights.

How can this be? Under the current governance of the S & TC UK, which in addition to being a limited company with a liability of £1 per Member, is also a registered charity with a Board of Trustees. Currently, there are 19 Trustees who are responsible, in law, for the affairs of the charity. Who elects these Trustees? None other than the 25 Members of whom 19 are Trustees! The “Informal Members” – those who provide funds, have no say in who are elected Trustees or the right to attend the Annual General Meeting to approve Accounts and vote on Resolutions etc.

The Committee of this Branch considers this situation to be highly unsatisfactory and potentially worrying. We are certainly not saying that the current Board of Trustees are not performing well – they most certainly are - representing the interests of game anglers and especially the aquatic environment well within their resources. But what if the situation changes and the Trustees take a different direction, say to pursue a particular hobby horse or vested interest of an individual or small group – it has happened in other organisations! Under these circumstances the “Informal Members” i.e. you and us could do nothing about it. It is no longer “our” association. The only concession to democracy is that the Chief Executive has stated that S & TC UK would be prepared to consider a nomination for Trustee from either a Branch or individual who, of course, could be rejected by the 25 Members. A “Members’ Meeting” is held in London once a year that has no legal standing and is merely an update to the “Informal Members” on what the S & TC UK are doing – there are no votes! The organisation has also lost interest in the Annual Branch Officers Meeting so the Branches that still exist have no forum to get together with the officers, It is the experience of this Branch that S & T C UK have even lost interest in the branches altogether as we receive minimal support for our operation at the Royal Bath & West Show and West Country Game Fair so we have been looking towards the Angling Trust for support.

What of other similar national field sports organisations? The Angling Trust, British Association for Shooting and Conservation and the Countryside Alliance are all membership organisations that anybody can join. Any member of these organisations who has paid their subscription can vote for Board Members, stand for election, vote to accept the Accounts and vote on any Resolution at the AGM. This is clearly democratic and makes the respective Boards accountable to their Membership as a whole. Why cannot S & T C UK be the same? Why does it have to be so incestuous?

Our Committee contacted S & T C UK with our concerns in this respect and were informed that they were not going to reform and said that with the Trustees having full responsibility for the running of the charity, they are not prepared to allow even the potential for an element of “members” to vote in someone who could completely disrupt the workings of the charity. We, the undersigned, are appalled and disappointed by this attitude towards the “Informal Members” and have decided not to renew our subscriptions to S & T C UK. We are both individual Members of the Angling Trust as are most (all?) of our Branch Committee. Furthermore, the Branch is a Corporate Member of the Angling Trust. The AT is recognised by Government as the representative body for all disciplines of angling. Perhaps now is the time for the undemocratic S & T C UK with its dwindling support (few new people join these days) to join with the Angling Trust to make angling’s voice heard as loud as possible. At least we will have our own voice heard again within our own association.

**Alfred Pope**  
Chairman & Riparian Owner

**John West**  
Treasurer

# Contacts

*Bristol & West Branch  
Salmon & Trout  
Association*

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*Do we have your latest  
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Please notify the  
Secretary of any  
changes.*

*Email: [malbond1@btinternet.com](mailto:malbond1@btinternet.com)*

*The Bristol & West Branch of the Salmon & Trout Association  
gratefully acknowledge the help and assistance given to  
them by Bristol Water PLC.*

*Visit our web site at*

**[www.bristolsta.co.uk](http://www.bristolsta.co.uk)**