

President

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Hon. Secretary

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Dear Member,

Well, here we are rapidly approaching the end of the trout season. The years seem to fly by these days which tend to suggest I'm getting old pretty fast.

However, on the plus side it does give everyone the chance to enjoy a bit of grayling fishing over the winter months and there are, of course, the grayling matches. So if you enjoy trotting a maggot or worm down the beck, now is the time, at least from the 1st of November through till the 14th March 2019.

I hope you find the following interesting.

Poaching at Pexton.

This is continuing to be a problem with Mike Mycroft finding evidence almost every time he goes up there. Some of the items found would suggest that this appears to take place on an evening/night.

After making several reports to the North Yorkshire Police regarding instances of poaching at Pexton, the Police Officer allocated to look into our situation has sent the following note advising a course of action should poachers be encountered anywhere on our waters.

'I have had a chat with a fellow officer who is our lead on wildlife crime and asked his advice re the issues raised by yourself. He has advised me that the removal of cultivated or purchased fish is classed as a theft rather than a poaching offence. For us to proceed with any type of prosecution we would require evidence. This could come in the form of witness statements or photographic evidence. 1 of the most effective methods of evidence gathering for these type of crimes comes through footage from trail cameras. These are inexpensive portable cameras that do not require permission to be placed and run off AA batteries. They come in camouflage colours and a range of high definition options which capture good quality footage. From what you have said to me previously about identifying sites where blood etc has been found this would make placement of these quite easy. If you look at these options and do have evidence of a crime taking place please phone it in on 101 and it will be investigated by officers. If yourself or any members locate persons in the act of taking fish please use 999 to contact us. I hope this is of help to you and I will continue to pay attention to the lake when I am running and cycling through the forest.'

Unfortunately, in spite of the advice about the siting of the cameras not requiring permission, the Forestry Commission will not at present allow us site cameras on their property.

Please do not get into a confrontational situation should you encounter anyone fishing illegally.

Note, investigations are underway with a view to siting a couple of these cameras at Little Crooks where there have been incidents of fly tipping, plus we need to do what we can to secure the lock up once everything is relocated.

Work Parties.

The current policy of holding a Work Party on the last Sunday of every month at Pexton/Paper Mill would appear to be working well and to date four work parties have taken place on Pickering Beck. Two of these have been on weekdays to accommodate members that have difficulty attending on Sundays.

I would like to take this opportunity to extend the committee's grateful thanks to everyone who has contributed their time and hard work on these occasions without which we would not enjoy the fishing we do. However there is always more to be done and any time you can spend helping in the future will be very much appreciated.

This is especially relevant as we still have to finalise the movement of tools and materials to the new lock up sited in Little Crooks and there will also be the platforms to construct and site up at Pexton .

I will send out more information as details are finalised.

On the point of work parties, visitors to Little Crooks will have noted that aside from the path, the remaining area of the field is completely overgrown making access virtually impossible.

It is thanks to the single handed efforts of Paul Ridley that the access to our fishing is a lot easier than it would otherwise be, so, on behalf of the PFA members I would like to offer sincere thanks to Paul for all of his hard work in keeping the path open and the fishing accessible.

Big Crooks.

I am pleased to be able to report that mainly thanks to Allan Haighton's hard work and meticulous attention to detail in preparing the relevant planning documentation we now have Planning Approval from Ryedale District Council to proceed with the installation of the meanders in Big Crooks.

He has been helped to a considerable extent by members of the East Yorkshire Rivers trust and other organisations and individuals others who have provided him with the help and advice he has needed to progress the application.

Our sincere thanks are due to everyone who has been involved.

The cost of the planning application was originally thought to be £460 based on the area of land involved in the construction of the meanders, however, further enquiries revealed that the cost would be calculated on the whole of the Big Crooks at a cost of £2028.

In a demonstration of their support for the project, the EYRT have funded the whole cost of the application for which we are very grateful and look forward to working with them on the creation of the meanders when funding becomes available.

The next step is to arrange for the necessary finance and this is being followed up by Tony Walsh who has an enviable track record when it comes to obtaining grants on behalf of the PFA through his many contacts.

At this late stage it is unlikely work on the meanders will start this year.

Oxfolds/Costa.

On the 22nd of May a meeting was held at the Forest and Vale hotel involving the PFA, Angling Trust and Environment Agency to discuss pollution and abstraction issues that are having a detrimental effect on Oxfolds and Costa becks and on our fishing.

It was hoped that by having Peter Fox, the EA Director of Water, Land and Bio diversity and Mark Lloyd the CEO of the Angling Trust present we would be able to raise the issues we face to a much higher level of authority.

Paul Wood gave a very professional and detailed presentation of our problems and offered well researched practical suggestions as to how things may be progressed to rectify the situation.

All of this was backed up by both documentary evidence and photographs in support of our case leaving the EA very little wriggle room.

Peter Fox recognised and appreciated the situation and the frustration on our part that very little had happened over the past 12 years and promised that he would review the issues and report back in early June with a way forward and proposals to resolve the problems.

Unfortunately, this letter when it came did very little to raise our expectations and subsequent correspondence between the EA, Fish Legal and the PFA have not delivered the results we were hoping for both in terms of documentation from the EA's dealings with YW and Willowdene as well as the opportunity of working in close co-operation with the EA to achieve our objectives.

Peter Fox has subsequently been made aware by Mark Lloyd that unless there is a positive commitment in reply to the latest correspondence from the PFA to the EA, then the AT Fish Legal will consider taking whatever further action as is deemed necessary.

Although not an ideal solution, this may well include a judicial review with all the resulting adverse publicity that goes with it.

We await the reply with interest.

(It has been noted that the EA have recently fitted a new measuring indicator on the sluice gate so that they can enforce the abstraction consent and we can easily check on both.)

It is interesting also to note that at the same time as our planning application for the meanders in Big Crooks was being considered, another application for the construction of yet more houses in Pickering was turned down partly because of questions raised by a Councillor as to whether the YW Sewerage plant had the capacity to accommodate and treat the increased effluent.

This was based on IDB concerns that there have been several discharges into the drainage system.

We are hoping that by working with the Councillor concerned we can raise the profile of the problems we are experiencing on Oxfold/Costa.

Furthermore, the planning refusal was reported in the local paper and we are hoping that this will start a ground swell of local support with further similar coverage following more meetings of the council.

Pexton. Wheelchair Platforms.

Colin Shanks has drawn up detailed plans for the platforms and costings for the materials required and these have now been agreed with the Forestry Commission who have provided valuable help both on the design and installation.

Happily to say that barring any unforeseen circumstances, costs come well within the budget we have available.

We are still waiting for the F C to inform us when they plan to carry out scheduled work to the banks of the lake. Until this happens we are reluctant to order any materials just in case we are unable to complete the platform installation by the Angling Trust deadline of the 30th November.

Once we get a date from the FC, the intention is to pre-fabricate as much of the framework for the platforms off site and then take them to site for installation at an arranged work party.

We have asked the FC if the contractors they employ to do the bank work will give us a quote for the excavation work to prepare the site to allow us to install the framework for the platforms.

If not, or if the cost is beyond our means, then it may be a question of getting out the spades and shovels but at least the ground may be a little softer than it was during the summer.

I will keep everyone posted.

Fishing Rod.

The fly rod found on the Duchy has yet to be claimed.

If it is not claimed, the current intention is to auction it at the 2019 AGM.

Please contact me with the relevant details if you think it belongs to you.

Grayling matches.

I hope some of you will have been looking forward to the start of the Grayling season and the matches that form an important part of our winter social season. They are a great opportunity for members to renew acquaintances as well as to meet new likeminded anglers whilst having a bit of competitive fun and a few beers.

The first of the matches, The Fly Only John Gore match has been arranged to be held on the 30th September on Pickering Beck.

Meeting at Ing's Bridge at 9.30 am in order to draw the pegs, fishing is from 10 am until 2 pm.

Please note, the John Gore match is limited to 12 members only and places are allocated on a first come basis. Members may bring a guest if they wish. Entries close on September the 23rd.

This will be followed by Steak Pie, chips/mash and peas at the Beansheaf Hotel on the Malton to Pickering road and the presentation of the winner's trophy and raffle.

The Beansheaf is on the right as you go from Pickering towards Malton, just before you get to the Kirby Misperton turn off. There is ample parking to the side and rear of the hotel.

It was generally felt after the February match that holding the meal etc. at the Beansheaf was a positive move and subsequently the hotel has been booked for the October match as well.

I am hoping we will be able to take advantage of their carvery for the Christmas work party.

I am told that members have recently enjoyed good catches of various sized Grayling on fly between Ing's Bridge and Low Mill which bodes well for the match. It would also suggest that our current stocking policy for the beck would appear to be delivering the required results as small native trout have also been recorded in catches reported.

An entry form for both the John Gore Match and the October Bait Match may be found attached to this letter and I am quite happy to accept entries for both if you wish, although I will be sending out further details of the October match at a later date.

I very much look forward to meeting everyone on the 30th and hopefully everyone will enjoy the day.

P.S. Please make Gordons day and bring plenty of money for raffle tickets.

Finally, as you will have gathered, a lot has been going on this year but for now that's about all I can report at present. We do have other lines of enquiry on going regarding stocking the beck with grayling fry and the terms of the Hardy Memorial Fund but as yet nothing is positive.

Hopefully that information will be available for the next newsletter.

I hope you have found the information both informative and interesting.

Very Best wishes to all,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'M. B.' with a stylized flourish underneath.

Please see below for the Grayling match entry forms

John Gore Trophy 'Fly Only' Match 30th September 2018
Fishing 10.00am to 2.00pm

Members Name

Guests Name

Total (£13.00/person includes meal)

Entries close on the 23rd September.

The draw for pegs will take place at Ings Bridge at 9.30am. After the match, we go back to the Beansheaf Hotel on the Pickering/Malton road for a meal and the presentation of the Trophy.

Any prizes for the raffle/prizes would be greatly appreciated.

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Autumn Grayling Match 28th October 2018
Fishing 10.00am to 2.00pm

Members Name

Guests Name

Total (£13.00/person includes meal)

The draw for pegs will take place at Ing's Bridge at 9.30am. After the match, we go back to the Beansheaf Hotel on the Pickering/Malton road for a meal, presentation of the trophies, prizes and raffle.

Any donations for the raffle/prizes would be gratefully appreciated.

NB – please can current holders ensure that all trophies are returned.

