

CBYC ANGLING SECTION

CHAIRMANS REPORT for 2023

8th February 2024

Even though the section continues to offer an exciting year of events and competitions, we saw our membership numbers reduce by 17 over 2022, to 90 section members of the section including 2 juniors.

At the 2023 membership renewal the committee suspended the renewing 'freebie' to ensure focus was on the competition offerings and support the more engaged and active club anglers within the section. As we focus on encouraging active participation in all the competitions we organise as a section of CBYC.

We propose to increase the renewal fee by £5 to £20. This will enable the section to promote more fishing competitions and maintain the prize money / fishing equipment available in our competitions. This proposal will be presented at the AGM on the 7th March 2024.

Competitions

65% of the membership attended at least one competition or registered a fish in the species hunt during 2023. The breakdown of activity was 54 members participating in the competitions and 42 took part by recording at least one fish in the Species Hunt. We staged 14 out of 24 scheduled competitions from the annual diary. The 10 competitions lost were due to poor weather.

Competitions 23/24					
	Section Members	Visitors	Total Anglers	Boats	
2nd April	26	6	32	12	
16th April	32	7	39	17	
30th April	13	2	15	7	
14th May	28	7	35	11	
21st May	16	2	18	8	
11th June	19	3	22	9	
18th June	11	2	13	5	
13th August	5	1	6	3	
19/20th August	20	2	22	8	2-day comp
3rd September	13	1	14	6	
8th October	23	2	25	11	
22nd October	21	3	24	10	
26th November	32	6	38	13	Chicken Run

7th January	13	2	15	6	
	272	46	318		

At time of writing we still have 3 scheduled competitions before the season closes and have a competitive field of anglers fighting it out for the accolades of the season, with Steve Lane and Steve Critcher separated by only 4 points challenging for 1st & 2nd place, and the runners up for third place have 5 anglers fighting it out; Steve Denning, Tony Walsh, Simon Watts, Ross Gunton, and Harvey Preston with only 5 points splitting this bunch.

Best fish of the year is still up for grabs with the winning fish currently being;

Thornback Ray	Paul Akerman	96cm
Bass	Ceri Lane	66cm
Cod	Peter Lucas / Steve Critcher	63cm
Bull Huss	Harvey Preston	112cm

OPEN Competitions

Sea Angling Classic – We hosted a poorly attended Sea Angling Classic Welsh feeder competition for this prestigious competition hosted in June on the Solent. Only 3 boats entered the competition in March 2023, and through a lot of effort by the Angling Section Committee members we were able to gain continued support by Lowrance, ‘CrewSaver’ and Sea Angling Classic for the promotion of our Open Cod Competition which brings much needed funds to our section.

Open Cod Competition 46th – was run with 321 anglers and 86 boats participating. A lot of work behind the scenes continued throughout the year to build a fantastic offering and some great sponsors helped our section put together a prize table of >£7,500. We attracted anglers from the IoW, Kent, and Liverpool, helped by our social media contacts via the Sea Angling Classic, Rob Cole (SWFA) and Small Boats Sea Fishing on Facebook networks. It was pleasing to see 31 cod to the scales ranging from 2.1kg to 5.1kg. Jason Williams on a ‘Lowrance Ambassador’ boat secured 1st prize. In the thick of the prizes, it was great to see John Pinch and John Gittens on the leader board, and we were also delighted to see a Junior celebrating his win with a prize rod provided by Holton Road Angling – thanks to Dan. Post event we can celebrate some great write-ups from Sea Angler magazine, Rob Cole SWFA and even some video reels on YouTube footage of the competition viewed over 5,800 times. In summary, a successful competition which delivered over £2.5k profit.

Species Hunt Local & Away - 42 active anglers took part in this year's 2 competitions, which were designed to be attractive to as many members as possible, through recognising the achievement of people wanting to fish locally from Cardiff and those who wished to do away trips in other parts of the UK & Ireland. The competition has seen active engagement with several people challenging for each of the competition titles. 542 fish have been logged on the WhatsApp site with 32 species caught **Locally** from Cardiff taking the total species count to 42.

In the **Local** competition we have Simon Watts, Rob Ward, and Steve Critcher in the reckoning, and in the **Away** competition we have Steve Denning, Simon Watts, Ross Gunton, Daniel Pipe and Paul

Akerman in with a chance of taking one of the prizes. In the junior section we have Charlie Pipe and for the Ladies we have Jackie Davies well positioned to take a prize.

We plan to run the Species Hunt competition again this year on the same format, with Ireland excluded from the away competition to provide for a 'fairer playing field'.

Open Summer Competiton 2024

The importance of the Open Cod Competition is essential to ensure we have the funds to continue to run the Angling Section. With cod catch reports worsening of recent in the Bristol Channel, we believe we need to develop an alternative income stream for the section, which may replace the Open Cod Competition in the coming years, if catches continue to decline. Approval was given by the fishing section committee to develop a summer open competition and provided a budget of £2k to develop this competition on a similar format of the Open Cod Competition with the provisional date of 3-4th August 2024

Other activities

The presentation evening in April 2023 had less than 30 people attend, and we had to cancel the Christmas party due to less than 23 tickets being sold. It is evident the appetite for social events has dissipated following Covid/cost of living crisis or other reasons, and to save costs and effort in organising these events we have decided to combine the AGM with prize giving evening this year on the 7th March.

We have also organised a shorter events program for 2024 so that a presentation evening can be combined with a section Christmas party in December. In 2025 we shall run a 12-month program with the presentation evening again being combined with a Christmas party, which we hope to see improved attendances.

The Angling section raised **£610** during the Open Cod Competition for the **RNLI** from a raffle for rod/reel and tackle box full of fishing tackle.

The upgraded bait freezers are proving popular and have already sold out for 2024. A waiting list will be established for anyone still wanting the opportunity to store bait at the club. The charge is £10 p.a. under a self-financing offering for all members of the Angling Section.

Finance

Simon has reported on the financial status for 2023, and we are pleased to report prudent management has seen the account maintained. It is important to remember that it typically costs £8,000 to run the club p.a. and the importance of a good Open Cod Competition and membership engagement is essential to ensure we maintain the Angling Section.

Committee

The Committee continued to meet monthly throughout the year. An EGM was organised to seek agreement to update the Section rules to reflect current practise of 'catch & release' as we move away from weight to length measurements. The AGM in 2024, will be requesting approval for the updated rules.

A big thank you is more than justified to the Angling Section Committee who have volunteered many hours, and dedication to run the club.

We would also like to thank Simon Watts for his diligence and energy over the last few years for his contribution to the section's success, Simon is stepping down from the committee and from the role of treasurer to spend more time fishing!

Finally

We hope to see you at the AGM on the 7th March, which is your opportunity to have input into the Angling Section and help mould our direction. If you have an interest in joining the committee, please put in a nomination form to the section before the AGM. Thank you to those members who have helped behind the scenes such as those who assisted on the weekend of the Open Cod Competiton. This is your section and your support for the events is important to ensure we have a section going forward.

We are hoping for an improvement in fish catches in 2024 and are looking to stage 35 competitions, alongside the newly launched Species Hunt. We hope to continue to see the section thrive and will be looking to increase our offering to attract youngsters to our sport.

Tight Lines

Harvey Preston

Vice-Chairman CBYC Angling Section