

Portobello Angling Club

AGM 2010

Note from Secretary/Treasurer

For the club, 2009 started off where 2008 finished with plenty of interest from members and lots of momentum. Although membership fell to 16 from 21 members in 2008, we were very active with 12 fishing the Spring League and 10 fishing the Winter League. This was despite competition for anglers' attention from other leagues, Ireland team trials and the teams of 4. Dave Hill and Richie Keegan are both competing for places in the Irish international squad this year and we wish them well.

Highlights of the Spring League was possibly the two matches we fished at Corrstown which were very competitive indeed. In the Winter League the October match at Gaulmoylestown produced some excellent weights, but the floods of November meant that very few anglers made it to matches and this was followed by an iced-over Christmas match at Lakelands.

The committee has continued its efforts to ensure matches are run on time, everyone is well informed of matches in advance via text message and the website, the draws and weigh-ins are done properly and quickly, and the rules are clear and properly enforced. At the moment we are looking to choose venues up to 6 weeks in advance and our next 3 matches will take place at Muckno - we will see how this policy works out.

Our Open was at Oaklands again and we had 30 anglers attending. A few anglers didn't turn up on the day and we sustained a loss on the event of €250. We took a risk in guaranteeing a €500 pay out but without sponsorship it's not a risk we can take again. €300 would be more appropriate next time around. The Open was good publicity but the venue does not respond well to angling pressure and we probably need to consider another venue for this year.

Accounts

The club began the year with an operating surplus of €519. Although we had fewer members, a loss from the Open and no sponsorship money, we were fortunate that our matches attracted visiting anglers who paid €5 and in total contributed €110 to the club. With the club on a sound financial footing we were able to pay the €5 insurance on behalf of all members this year, as well as again pay for all the engraving out of club funds. Unfortunately, Henley's asked for the €200 sponsorship cheque back before we had an opportunity to lodge it. Although they said they would issue a new cheque this hasn't happened and given the economic downturn we are unlikely to see it again. In spite of this, we ended the year with a surplus of €330.66. We also have €2,481.76 in the club's Permanent TSB deposit account.

The Website

The website is attracting more and more interest and traffic – average daily visits are up from 14 a day in 2007, 21 a day at the end of 2008, to 35 a day at the end of 2009. The yearly total was 12,540 unique visits, which is almost double the figure for 2008. We continue to update it as soon as possible after each match and to keep the league tables up-to-date.

The Year Ahead

2008 and 2009 were great years in terms of members and turn-outs at matches. However, 2010 is not looking good so far. Just 10 members have joined the club this year and the first few matches saw very few members attending. The bitterly cold weather hasn't helped and only 7 members are fishing the Spring League. While it's understandable that anglers are keen to fish the Lakelands and Gaulmoylestown Leagues as well as other competitions, it would be great to see more anglers on the bank with us on Sundays and keep the club motoring along. Every club has its ups and downs, and after 15 years in existence we have seen many other clubs and leagues come and go. As a club we have always tried to accommodate every type of angler and we should all continue to do that and have plenty of craic along the way.

Again, Eoin Schweppe put in a lot of time and effort as chairman during the year, alongside his sterling work as PRO for the NCFEI. So full credit to Eoin once again.