



Pontarddulais and District  
Angling Association (PAA)

# sewin

NEWSLETTER

9/14 > No.36

*The finest gift you can give to any fisherman is to put a good fish back, and who knows, if the fish that you caught isn't someone else's gift to you?*



Lee Wulff



> **Lyn Davies**, General Secretary  
[lyn@capturedonline.co.uk](mailto:lyn@capturedonline.co.uk)

## Mixed bag...

**Well, it's September already. Again, it seems like the season has flown by, but maybe the best is yet to come.**

I've heard reports of some cracking fish being caught, but our rivers, particularly the Teifi can come into their own late on, so watch this space. I'm expecting reports of some huge salmon being caught soon. There's encouraging signs of our members supporting catch and release. It seems the word has got about that, as anglers, we need to be doing our bit to show the Natural Resources Wales (NRW) and the Government that we are doing all that we can to try and improve fish stocks. Remember though, there's nothing wrong with taking the 'odd fish' home for the pot, if you want to – don't feel under pressure – just use your head, and try and do your bit towards the future of our precious rivers.

Personally, I've not fished as much as I'd hoped this season, but the times I've been out, I've enjoyed – which is what's it's all about. I certainly seem to spend more time talking about fishing, than fishing, these days. One thing is for sure, this winter I'm determined to get back into my fly-tying. I need to learn how to tie those expensive dry flies 'properly', as I'm fed-up of wasting £1.50 each time I lose them on a tree!

Finally, on behalf of the Committee, I would encourage you to complete not only our club catch return, but the national NRW return too (see opposite).

I hope you've enjoyed the season – get out there and enjoy what's left of our season. Tight lines.



Cyfoeth  
Naturiol  
Cymru  
Natural  
Resources  
Wales

**NRW**  
Catch returns

The committee encourage all members to make every effort to complete accurate NRW catch returns. It's vital that we provide information to the people with the power to make positive changes to our rivers! Besides filling in the paper form (which comes with your rod licence), it can now be done online at <https://www.gov.uk/catch-return>



*Click on these 'forwards' and 'backwards' arrows to navigate through the pages. Also, if you click on anything that's underlined, it'll take you to either an email, or a website!*



## Myles strikes gold

**Myles Davies from Bristol experienced a night to remember on the River Loughor during late August.**

Based in Bristol, Myles doesn't get to fish the Loughor much, but he always makes the most of an annual two week 'family holiday' down the Gower during the prime sewin season. Fishing alone our Tyn-y-Cerrig stretch, Myles hooked into something that led him a merry dance for a good twenty minutes, and eventually landed a monster hen sewin estimated to be over 12lb. Well done Myles! You'll also be pleased to know that the fish was successfully returned to continue its spawning journey. It's nice to see our members who travel to fish having reward for their efforts!



➤ What a lump! Myles' personal best from the River Loughor

## Poacher's caught!

**A Llanelli duo have been arrested for illegal netting in Burry Inlet.**

NRW officers confiscated a vehicle, boat and nets from the scene, as well as a number of dead fish.

[Click here](#) to see the full report on the South Wales Evening Post website.

## Joint meetings

**The committee have continued to hold meetings with our neighbouring associations Ammanford, GCG and Clwb Godre'r Mynydd Du.**

The main objective is to introduce 'consistency' (where possible) across all clubs. This includes rules around catch and release and bag limits. We'll keep you updated on progress.

## Wedding congratulations!

**Our vice-chairman, Lee Walker ties the knot on Friday 26th September.**

On behalf of the committee, I'd like to wish Lee and his wife-to-be good luck on the big day, and wish them every happiness for the future.

## Remember...

**As of 1st September, all sewin caught must be returned.**



We appreciate your continued support to help out of condition fish complete their journey upstream. Every little helps!

## Lampeter trip

**Our annual fishing trip to the River Teifi, Lampeter will take place on Saturday 20th September.**

Places are limited, so please phone **Lyn Williams on 07973 914249** to book a seat on the bus. As usual, the bus will stop for food (and refreshments!) on the return journey home. This year, we've decided to eat at the '[Stag and Pheasant Inn](#)' in Carmel – a menu will be available on the night. All members are welcome.

**INCIDENT HOTLINE**

Environment Agency (EA)

 **0800 807 060**

## An introduction to night fishing



➤ Waiting for darkness to fall on the banks of the River Loughor

**New to fly-fishing, my brother-in-law and nephew were keen to experience a nights sewin fishing.**

Having learnt their trade lobbing wet flies down and across to ever-willing six-inch brownies, both Ceri and his 13-year old son Owen soon progressed to dry fly fishing, delicately flicking small flies to rising fish. By now they were well and truly hooked, but it was time for another angling experience – a type of fishing that seemed so inaccessible until now – night fly fishing for the mystical sea trout, or sewin. They'd heard all the stories over the years, read Falkus' 'bible' – it was time to see what all the fuss was about.

On the night, Ceri and Owen decided not to bring their own rods. This made sense to me, as I wanted us to be as mobile as possible, cover water quickly and not be too distracted by the 'newbies' learning to cast themselves in the dark – which usually means being stuck in one place for too long! It's all about keeping things simple at night, so I setup with my usual 10ft 8wt and attached a fresh 8-foot length of 10lb maxima, onto which I tied on a small home-tied 3/4 inch tube fly. We sat waiting for darkness, watching the last of the brownies rise before I slipped in the river to begin fishing. I fished through the first pool, but besides seeing a few small sewin jump in the known 'awkward' places, we didn't experience any action until moving further downstream. Casting across the head of pool (avoiding overhanging trees), I hooked into what I thought was small sewin and quickly passed the rod to Owen. With a big beaming smile, he played-out the fish into my waiting net, but on closer inspection, it turned out to be a larger than average brownie. Owen commented how the fish 'pulled', which suggests to me how much your senses are heightened at night. We continued to fish through a couple of other known hot spots, before the thought of a 6 o'clock start in the morning made us make our way home – it was just gone 12.30am.

No sewin from this session, but it really didn't matter to my two apprentices. The whole experience of being on the river at night, hearing the noises, seeing the wildlife, watching the pretty night sky, was more than enough for a first experience. They also realised that it's never actually as dark as you may think it would be – if you limit the use of your torch, you can see surprisingly well, even on the darkest of nights. To a beginner, everything seems much more difficult and awkward at night, but like everything, the more you do it, the more you gain confidence – and that fish will come in the end. I've been doing it for more than 25 years, and I still tremble when I feel the weight of a big sewin on the end – that for sure, will be a feeling that will never go away.



## River maintenance at Tyl-y-Cynllwyn

The Committee have continued to work hard on our river ensuring that you have access to as much water as possible.

Thank you to all those involved, including club member Stephen Williams!



➤ The new boat being used to gain access to those awkward places



➤ Team work. The boys drag out heavy logs

## Tiddlers 50/50

**August winner:** No.19 – A.J. Roberts, Llanelli.

**September winner:**

No.39 – Hana Grug Jones, Llanllwni.

## Salmon and sea trout identification

To improve the accuracy of our catch returns, we thought it would be a good idea to illustrate the differences between salmon and sea trout...

### Salmon



*Maxilla inline with eye*

### Sea trout



*Maxilla extends beyond eye*

Salmon can be distinguished from large sea trout by a more streamlined shape, concave tail, slimmer tail wrist, upper jaw reaching no further than rear of the eye, few if any black spots below lateral line, 10–15 (usually 11–13) scales counted obliquely forward from adipose fin to lateral line – trout have 13–16.

	Salmon	Sea trout
General appearance	Slender and streamlined	More round and thickset
Head	Pointed	More round
Position of the eye	Maxilla (bony plate usually alongside mouth) does not extend beyond rear of eye	Maxilla extends beyond eye
Colour	Relatively few spots	Often heavily spotted
Scale count (number from adipose fin to lateral line)	10–13	13–16
Fork of tail	Usually forked	Usually square or convex
Wrist of tail	Slender	Broader
Handling	Easy to pick up by tail	Tail slips through hand



**TOP TIP!**  
FOR  
SEPTEMBER

**Try for a salmon!**

Make the most of the late season by trying to catch a salmon on the fly. Pick your day when the water is running fresh with a little colour!