

# VAC Trout Section - End of 2010 Riverside Road Season Review (May 2010)

1. Our 2010 season ended on May 6<sup>th</sup> and we held our Alternative Fun Day on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> May to try and remove as many fish as we could. Sadly, though we had a good turnout with 17 of us having a go, we only managed to remove a further 9 fish on the day leaving about 160 behind but it was followed by an evening BBQ which provided a great end to what was a terrific season. Your Committee has received many messages of thanks and appreciation for providing such good sport and company but, really, it was all down to our season ticket holders plus purchasers of Day and Guest Tickets. Let us hope next season is as good.

2. The Final Trout Return shows what a great season it was. Have a look. There were a record 60 season ticket holders this year (up 9% on 2009) with an astonishing 70 Day and Guest Ticket sales (37 in 2009, up 189%) thanks to Fred Edwards and all his hard work. The number of rods during the season was 551 (up 15%) with 1243 fish taken (up 12%) and an average catch per rod of 2.26 slightly down on 2009 at 2.31 per rod. As you will see, the catch rate was going like a train up to the last two weeks but fell off dramatically at season's end. We will have to try and figure out what caused that but it was, up to then, a record-breaking season in all respects.

3. Our congratulations to those that managed to show the rest of us how to fish. We have Chris Jennings and Fred Edwards returning a perfect score of 30 fish over 10 weeks followed by Bob Ring with 29 and Brian Gear with 28 each. Of the Half Season Ticket holders we have Andrew Lassman, Peter Stone 2 and Peter Green, again with a maximum score of 15 fish over 5 weeks. Well done chaps, maybe you will show the rest of us how it's done next season!

4. After season's end, the Trout Committee visited our new supplier's Trout Farm at Bibury near Oxford, and what an interesting day that turned out to be. The supplier kindly showed us round the entire process as they rear their fish from their own eggs to full growth and all weights to at least 15 pounds as I recall. It is well ordered and meticulously kept. You can, if you wish, visit yourselves as entry is available for a modest fee and excellent family picnic areas are available with kids fishing also there but fish caught will cost extra. I think we are buying our fish from an excellent source and I believe we all agree the eating quality this year has been outstanding. Thanks are due to our Secretary, Neil Roberts, for setting this up. Excellent choice.

5 Now that our short 10 week season is over, we are into our Away Day activities when the Section arranges visits to nearby Fisheries usually with a modest pool to share between the angler taking the biggest bag and the one taking the biggest fish, all organized by Brian Gear and Richard Russell. The first event was held on Saturday 22 May at Eyebrook Fishery just inside Leicestershire near Rockingham. All 6 boats booked were taken and the 12 anglers had a fantastic day weather-wise but fish-wise, the story is a bit different. There were quite a few blanks by weigh-in time at 3:15 PM but Bob Ring won the pool for biggest catch (2 fish at just over 6 lbs) while his boat partner, Gerard Panting took the pool for the biggest fish, also at just over 6 lbs. Afterwards, most boats went out and fished until dusk when several more fish were landed but it was tough going though most enjoyable. The next Away Day is to a new fishery for us, the Yew Tree Fishery in Kent, on Saturday 19 June. I recommend an Away Day to those that have never been with us before and if interested, contact Brian Gear on 07795 262281.

On a personal note, I would like to express my thanks to all of our members for your support and especially to those on our Committee for their sterling work, including our casting clinics that has done so much to attract new members. Thanks to Clive Butcher and his team.

Oster Bayne  
VAC Trout Section Chairman