



CLANE TROUT & SALMON ANGLERS Association

**49th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
THURSDAY 23rd FEBRUARY 2023 at 8pm
MANZORS VILLAGE INN,
CLANE**

AGM AGENDA

Chairman's Opening Remarks

Minutes of 2021 AGM (last AGM)

Matters Arising

Correspondence

Honorary Secretary's Report

Honorary Treasurer's Report

Election of Officers and Committee for 2023

Any other Business

Firstly, I would like to thank the Committee for their contribution and support to the club over 2022. As I am sure we are all aware, 2022 was another poor year for fishing on our club water. Only 3 competitions were fished in the early part of the season due to low fish stocks.

As outlined below, the Committee members met with ESB and IFI along with representatives from the other major clubs on the river to see what can be done to understand the causes of the decline in fish stocks and also look into options to address the situation. Discussions with the IFI were primarily related to the report listed below from the 2021 survey on the river. The Committee are also exploring opportunities to secure funding from IFI to invest in improvement projects. Looking to the 2023 season, it looks like another challenging year for fishing on the river. However, I would ask that you persevere with us as we embark on a potentially long journey to improve the fishing on the Clane water.

Tight lines for 2023.

Chairman

Bill Gray

I would like to sincerely thank Eugene for keeping the minutes of the Committee Meetings for me and for compiling this report. Thanks also to Fintan and Eugene and Terry for their work on the different projects during the year. Hopefully the condition of the river can be improved and the fishing will improve with it

Tight lines for 2023.

Tony Doherty.

Secretary's Report 2022

The 2022 season started off with Covid restrictions around travel being lifted and thereby allowing for normal Club activities to re-commence. The Committee had decided that normal competitions could be resumed, however as the health restrictions were fluid in the early part of the year, we were conscience that restrictions could be re-imposed at any time, so the holding of competitions was decided upon on an adhoc basis.

Three competitions on a Catch & Release basis were planned to be held between 1st March and 8th May, Wet & dry, Spring Cup and Gray cup. Fishing was poor during this period as fly life was non-existent and weed was abundant. For the Gray Cup in early May the weed growth was so predominant that the Committee decided that the holding of further competitions was fruitless and the remaining competitions were cancelled.

Committee Work

The Committee met on a monthly basis for the past 12 months with an average 60% attendance. In March the ESB met with angling clubs to discuss re-stocking and River quality. The club had representatives attending, however the meeting primarily focussed on salmon angling downstream of the Leixlip dam. A number of trout angling clubs were represented and voiced their concern on water quality in the upper Liffey stretch.

As the water quality and fishing deteriorated the Committee were determined to get the state agencies involved. IFI were lobbied for intervention and survey conducted in 2021 was released. The detailed report is available to view on our website or at, <https://www.fisheriesireland.ie/sites/default/files/2022-08/R.LiffeyFishStockSurvey%202021.pdf>. The main findings relating to the Clane area identified excessive weed growth and the low fish numbers recorded. A subsequent meeting with the clubs and stakeholders was held in November 2022 and plans and actions are being developed. Unfortunately, the condition of the river has been building over a number of years and will take some time to be rectified. The Committee have action plans in place to implement in 2023 in an effort to build a dossier of information on how the weed might be controlled and reduced. The Committee continued through the year to maintain the river banks and Feeder Streams by clearing debris, managing spawning streams and general monitoring of pollution with reporting to the relevant authorities.

Congratulations to Terry Walsh who qualified to fish the Interpro on Sheelin 3rd September and Kevin Dunne on making 1st reserve for the National Rivers competition in 2023.

Our two boats were launched on Sheelin and Lough Lene for use of the club members. They have been removed to safe storage for the winter and any remedial works needed will be carried out. The club held its Christmas competition in the Laois Angling centre on Sunday 4th December, 22 adult members and 9 children attended. The day was cold and wet and most anglers caught fish. Prizes on the day were presented based on an open draw and everyone left with a prize. Thanks to the hospitality of Laois Angling centre for the soup/sandwiches and the roaring fire.

In 2023 the club will be 50 years in existence and it is hoped to commemorate this special milestone in some way.

Kick sampling resumed in 2022 and for the past four years members have been collating data from the same stretch of the river to monitor water quality by documenting the quality of the fly life. In the years prior to covid restrictions the fly life would indicate that the water was marginally just above the 'at risk status'. In 2022 the fly life in the same area had declined by approx 50% and the resultant decision of the survey is the waters are 'at risk' of being incapable of sustaining invertebrate life. Details of all the kick sampling data is available on the website at ctsaa.ie

Competitions

With the deteriorating condition of the quality of fishing on the river our competitions in 2022 were fished a pro-forma basis. The Spring Cup and Wet & Dry were not fished due the lack of participants. May 8th was the designated date for the fishing of the Gray Cup, our most prestigious and oldest competition. On the day 6 anglers competed with

- Tony Doherty 4 fish for 126.1cm
- P Doherty 2nd with 104.5cm.

In total 6 anglers returned 17 fish in poor conditions with very little fly life & weed growth being a factor. The season at that time was a replica of previous seasons with very poor distribution of fish on the river, with lot of areas, runs & pools devoid of fish.

With Tony winning the only competition of the year he was also deemed to be Top Rod for 2022.

The Committee have decided that for 2023 the only competition to be held will be the Gray Cup, this will be fished on 14th May. As this is the 50th Year of the club we would like as many members as possible to turnout for this prestigious event and we can capture the event with photographs at the "weigh-in".

Membership Fees 2023

For 2023 the Committee are leaving the existing fees at their current rate, ie

Senior	€30
Junior	€5
Senior Citizens	€10
Intermediate (16 - 18) or Full-Time Students	€10

The Committee have decided to reduce the New Members Admission fee to that of the Senior fee €30

The closing date for renewals is 1st April. All members should renew their membership prior to this date. No member is allowed to fish on club water or use the club boat without their membership fee being paid

Boat booking

The Committee have decided that for 2023 that members can pay an additional €20 to their membership fee to allow them book either of the boats on Lough Lene or Sheelin. Currently when using the boat on Lene the member is required to pay the landowner €5 per day of use. By paying the €20 this daily payment will be dispensed with. In order for the system to work effectively it is necessary to appoint someone to manage the bookings. Joe Doherty has kindly offered to perform this task. All members (Driver or passenger) that want to use the boat must pre-book with Joe and they will be given the lock code. No member is allowed to use the boat if they have not pre-booked and had it confirmed with Joe Doherty.

Visit to the River Nore at Thomastown.

On July 30th five of your committee members travelled to Co. Kilkenny for a change of scene and a day's fishing on the beautiful River Nore. Thomastown Anglers Association controls seven kilometres of fishing and day tickets are available to visiting anglers for €15. We met at Thomastown GAA club where there is plenty of parking and access to the river is easy. Spirits were high as we tackled-up, and Peter Doherty who knows the river well was, as always, generous with advice on tactics and flies. The river looked beautiful with clear water, and with plenty of obvious holding spots for fish but without the over-abundance of weed we have seen on the Liffey in recent times. Care is needed in wading as the Riverbed has many large boulders waiting to trip the inattentive angler. We fished from early afternoon to well into the dark and unfortunately what had begun as a nicely overcast day turned into a day of unrelenting heavy rain which tested rain gear to the limit, and beyond! Despite this the quality of the fishing was excellent. "Klink and dink" with a nymph suspended under a Klinkhammer style fly proved successful from the start with some trout willing to rise to dries. As the afternoon changed to evening more olives hatched and dry fly fishing with a variety of olive emerger and dun patterns was very enjoyable. Trout came fast and furiously, many small but with some bigger specimens among them too. As the light dimmed the fishing only became better. The River was literally alive with fish rising to spinners and sedges and everyone was catching. We had the river to ourselves with the local anglers obviously having more sense than to venture out in the foul weather. All fish were returned safely and it was a contented if somewhat damp group who headed for home at the day's end. If you have the opportunity to visit this lovely River, I would highly recommend it.

Fintan Cullen

River/Lake Qualifiers

Due to the reduction of competitions planned for 2023 if any Adult or Junior want to fish the River or Lake qualifiers then they should make contact with the incoming Chairman or Secretary for assistance.

Inland Fisheries Funding Call

In December 2022 IFI open the latest funding call for projects.

In 2021 the club had submitted an EOI (expression of Interest) for a feasibility study to look at the excessive weed growth in our club waters. With the first step completed, the club undertook to submit a proposal to have this EOI turned into a funded project. The Funding call remained open for just under 2 months and, in that time, it was required to define the scope of the work, identify potential contractors to carry out the project, obtain 3 quotations and write a synopsis on why we should be selected to obtain funding.

All of this was done between mid-December and end of January.

The scope of work is;

- Survey the River between Alexander bridge and Bakers Strand
- Identify aquatic weed species present and propose management options
- Identify any known invasive species
- Consider the cause of the excessive weed growth
- Report on how the weed control methods might impact on resident invertebrates, fish and other local diversity.
- Formulate a phased program for the control of the obstructive weed species.
- Present the plan to Club officers and Committee
- Formulate a report for final submission to IFI.

It is anticipated that any remedial work will be extensive and expensive and future Committees will need, with assistance from IFI, pursue different funding options to rectify the current situation.

As with all funding calls the current program is oversubscribed and the success of the application will be decided by an independent review board. Should the project be approved, the work will be carried out during the May/June time period.

There may be a financial cost to the club to allow the study to proceed, this will not be known until the independent board make their adjudication. At that time the Committee will decide how to proceed.

The Club bids a sad farewell to Anthony (Anto) Nolan.

The CTSA Committee wish to pass on our sincerest condolences to the family of Anthony (Anto) Nolan. Anthony passed away in early January & will be sadly missed by all who knew him. He was one of our longest serving members and was of immense help to the club in maintaining & storing of the club boats. Originally from Maynooth, Anto started his fishing on the Liffey in Clane, after moving to the Lakeland area of Westmeath near Mullingar he spent more time fishing the midland lakes Owel, Ennel, Sheelin, and Lene but remained a great supporter of Clane Anglers. For those who fished with & knew him they will miss his very distinctive voice & his love of the craic & a laugh (& what a laugh). He was so much more than an angler, friend, panel beater, family man, he was Anto a big character. May he rest in peace & be always hooked into a big one.