



News Update June 2024



***Coarse Season
Opens 16th June***

Greetings to all our members

I hope you are well and looking forward to some great fishing in the months ahead. We have had a busy time lately and there have been some big changes in the way the society is run.

I would like to thank the committee for their hard work and dedication. Most of them have busy jobs, families and other commitments and yet they still find time to carry out the important work they do for the society.

My thanks also go to our small but dedicated group of members who willingly help whenever they can. We could not manage without you.

Finally, a club is only as good as the people in it. Thanks to all members. Lets work together to make RADAS a really great club.

Ron



Ron Wood TD
Chairman

The society's aims and objectives are to:

- Strive to protect the ecology of the river.
 - Promote the sport of angling.
 - Improve the fishing on club waters.
 - Collaborate with other organisations to combat pollution, reduce litter, prevent illegal fishing, reduce rural crime and to protect the environment.
- Engender inclusivity and diversity.



Catch Returns

For the first time, the society has made it a condition of membership or day ticket fishing that anglers complete an online catch return after every fishing session. The importance of this cannot be overstated, as we cannot operate as a fishing club if we don't know if we have fish in the river. The results of the catch return also inform future stocking and negotiations with statutory bodies such as the Environment Agency. Nil returns are equally important, as they highlight potential problem areas which may need habitat improvement, for example. There is also a field on the online form to highlight problems with access, parking etc. Results from the first quarter of 2024 are as follows:

Visits	Trout	Grayling	Chub	Pike
61	36	41	7	3

I think we can all agree that this is a good return for the hardy anglers who have braved a very wet winter! Particularly encouraging is that pike have been caught. We've all heard rumours that they are present on our waters, but we now have evidence.

World Clean Up Day

20th September 2024

marks World Cleanup Day. The society has already held two successful litter picks in the last few months, tidying the riverbank area between Richmond and Easby, and generating good publicity for the club both in person and in the local press.

We aim to hold a clean up event to mark World Cleanup Day, which will take place on the weekend following 20th September. All offers of help gratefully received!

Details to follow in due course.



Junior Get Fishing Events

The society is keen to introduce young people to angling, and has therefore organised a junior fishing event on 27th July with a follow up event on the 24th August. This is to allow original participants to consolidate their skills and hopefully catch a fish! Any empty slots will be opened to new participants.

If you have, or know, children who would like to give fishing a go, check the details on the website.

Any offers of help on the day would also be gratefully received!



Steve Plumb
Development Officer

Bank Works

This last year has seen many improvements on our waters with more to come. Tree hinging has taken a back seat now that the sap has risen in the trees but will start again in the late autumn. Come the end of September/October we will be covering all our stile treads with mesh to provide a better footing on those frosty winter days.

We did manage this year to reopen two entrances on peg 3 at Langton these swims have not seen a rod for the last twenty years due to the massive wild rose problem.

Traditionally this area was always good for big bags of chub. It will be interesting to see what it throws up this year.

Skeeby Beck will shortly become a target for our work parties in preparation for possible reopening next year. The EA have just stocked our section of the beck with 1000 grayling fry and thousands more have been introduced above and below our club waters. It will be good to see the dace and chub make their way back into the beck from the main river.

Finally a massive thank you to all on my **Whatsapp Ops group**. I could not do what I do without you. You give up your valuable time weekend after weekend and it is hugely appreciated.

As before any queries you have regarding work that needs doing or if you just want to chat about the fishing just pm or text me.

Peter



Pete Fietsch
Regeneration Officer



Want to help?
Join the **Whats App**
Group.



Finance

The 2024/25 season is under way and it is great to see existing members renewing and new members joining. The change from paper to paperless with Clubmate came with a few challenges but the transition has been relatively smooth. The new system is far more efficient, secure and cost effective than before.

The events that have so far been arranged have all been for the benefit of the members not for fund raising however none have lost money.

RADAS is financially in a good place. We can cover our rents for this year along with other overheads. We have spent money on new fish stocks that will be released into the river very soon and we will set aside money going forward for future stocking.

As Treasurer I would like to thank all the existing and new members for your on going support.

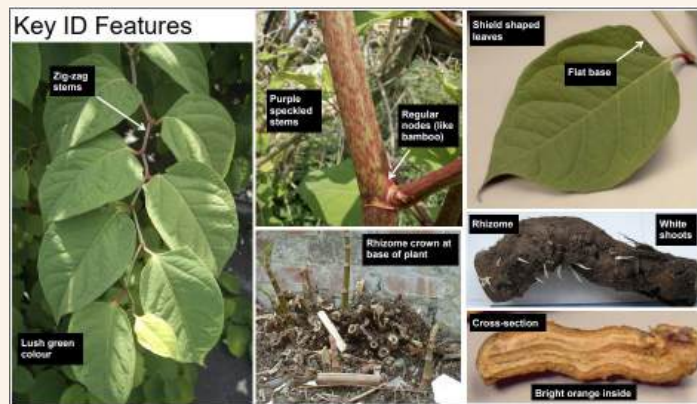
Jamie



Jamie Shewan
Treasurer

Japanese Knotweed (JKW)

JKW is growing out of control across many sections of the lower Swale to such an extent that some fishing beats have become inaccessible due to its rapidly spreading and extremely dense nature.



RADAS have prepared and issued reports & submissions to several enforcement bodies in the hope of driving action to begin treatment works, which needs to be done to best effect in the summer flowering months. The club were informed in May that funding has now been secured by the Environment Agency to begin a program of herbicide treatment works on the Swale and its tributaries, however it will take many years to tackle the multiple outbreaks, so the club and all of its members must in the mean time, remain vigilant, practice good biosecurity and continue to report sightings which can then be relayed to the EA.

Once treatment works have started, it's likely that RADAS will seek volunteers to undergo specialist herbicide training so that the club can supplement works being done by the EA.



Steve McCormack
INNS, H&S

Himalayan Balsam (HB)

HB is another highly Invasive species, which is a dense & rapidly growing plant, most commonly evidenced by stems of tall pink flowers surrounded by mass carpets of foliage. Once the flowers seed in late summer, the seed pods explode sending many thousands of seeds to new germination points. Treatment of HB is best carried out in mid summer before the flowers actually seed, and which is normally done by either brush cutting or 'Balsam bashing' to destroy the plant's growth at ground level.



Working with two other clubs on the Swale, RADAS aided in the preparation of a joint funding bid to Yorkshire Water & the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust in the amount of £3.3k to procure equipment, PPE and specialist training for several volunteers. The club were advised of a successful bid in March, with the monies being released in May enabling equipment orders to proceed with training aligned in June followed immediately by the first round of treatment works expected to start in late June.

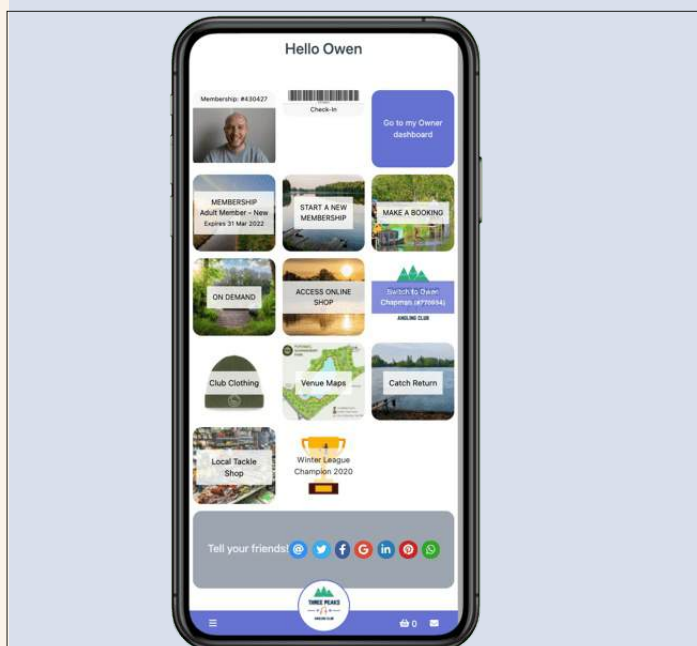
By securing funding to assist with HB treatment the three clubs involved in the successful bid now have an independent platform to move forward with, which will be essential as statutory bodies become called upon in ever increasing numbers to tackle the rapidly increasing threat from INNS.

How to prove you are a member

We no longer issue paper permits so how do you prove you are a member if challenged on the river bank?

If you have a smart phone and an internet connection you open the Clubmate app and show your details.

A club official can check your details using their own smart phone.



We recommend that you take a screenshot of your members area and store it on your phone in case there is no internet connection.

If you do not have a smart phone you should access your Clubmate account on your computer and print off a copy of your members area and carry that with you.

You should also be able to prove that you have a valid EA licence and carry some form of photo ID.

A club official can also check who you are by asking for your car reg or name of emergency contact and calling the membership secretary or other committee member.

Appointment of Trustees

We are pleased to announce the appointment of Steve Plumb, Paul Price and Mark Sewart as trustees. Also the re-appointment of Gordon Alexander. The trustees are responsible for protecting the fishing rights that the society owns. They serve for three years with the option to continue if they so wish.

Wanted

We are looking for somebody with a creative flair to help promote the club. We want to raise our profile in the local community and beyond. We need somebody who could:

- Run our public facing Fb page.
- Create eye catching posters.
- Post articles to local information websites.
- Submit press releases.
- Look for ways to get us noticed.
- If interested please contact Allan Harder.



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YOU BLANK**

Exchange Tickets

Did you know that we have exchange tickets available for Barnard Castle Angling Club and Derwent Angling Club. These are free and can easily be booked via the RADAS website. Just go to the Beat Maps page, scroll down to the bottom and click on the links..



Exchange tickets



RADAS members. Book your exchange tickets here.

Barnard Castle Angling Club

To visit **Barnard Castle AC** click the link below:

<https://buytickets.at/richmondanddistrictanglingociety/1155491>

Derwent Angling Club

To visit **Derwent AC** click the link below:

<https://buytickets.at/richmondanddistrictanglingociety/1154027>

Arranged for you by Jonathan Tomlinson

John Norris

Game fishing tackle and clothing.

21 Victoria Road

Penrith

CA11 8HP

Tel: 01768 864211

15% discount on proof of membership.



Brown Trout & Co

Fly Fishing tackle and sporting goods.

26 Cold Bath Road

Harrogate

HG2 0NA

Tel: 01423 709 741

15% discount on proof of membership.



Jonathan Tomlinson
Legal

Volunteer Bailiff Service

The 'VBS' is an increasingly important partnership between the Angling Trust and Environment Agency, empowering anglers to support the police and Agency in fighting back against fisheries crime and protecting fish and fisheries. The VBS initiative continues to be enormously successful, driving forward positive change.

Effective enforcement today is 'intelligence-led', relying upon incoming calls and information. This country has a long and proud history of volunteering, the police, for example, have received essential support from the Special Constabulary for many years and now have 500,000 Police Support Volunteers nationally.

The Vbs submit nearly 500 intelligence packages per year to the national wildlife crime unit. More than any other non government organisation. And. The AT have been asked to double our numbers to 1400 and prepare for a Welsh branch.

We would like to have our own team of RADAS Volunteer Bailiffs to provide intelligence and to show an active presence on our waters.

Full training and uniform provided.

If interested please contact Kev for more information.



Allan Harder
Secretary



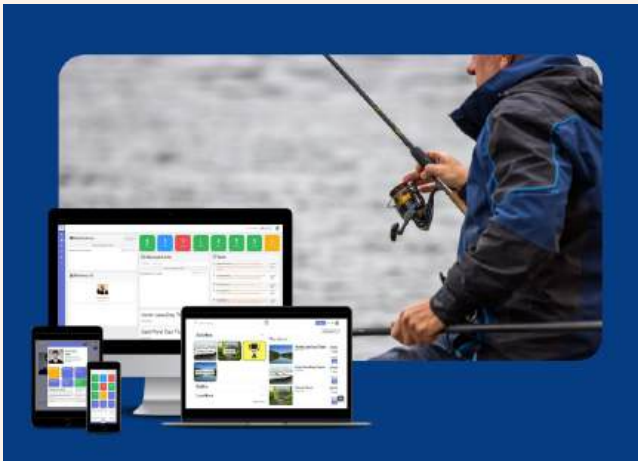
JOIN US



Clubmate Review

Our transition to paperless is now complete. All memberships, day permits, ticket sales for events and bank transactions are done online.

Managing the club's affairs is now much easier as all of the information we need is readily available.



A good example is day permits. We receive a notification immediately when someone makes a purchase and we can contact them if we need to.

The new system provides greater efficiency, greater security and saves time.

We shall continue to look at ways of utilising the internet and IT for the benefit of the club.

Current Membership

Adult 120

Concession 55

Junior 10

Honorary Life Members 2

Total 189



Kev Woodcock
Membership Secretary



Who wouldn't be happy if they caught this and three more like it on the same day plus lost two more. There are some very decent fish swimming about in our waters!



Did you know?

Approximately 25% of our current membership live in Richmond.

Approximately 50% of our current membership live in North Yorkshire.

Approximately 15% of our current membership live in County Durham and 6% are from West or South Yorkshire.

The remainder of our members are from: Lancashire, Tyne and Wear, Cheshire, Lincolnshire, Northumberland, Aberdeenshire, Staffordshire, Norfolk, Rutland, Surrey, Renfrewshire, Edinburgh, Singapore, Middlesex and Cambridgeshire.



Recent Events



Ladies Day

The serene banks of the River Swale were graced with the lively chatter and infectious laughter of our ladies fishing group. The day kicked off with a hearty breakfast, providing us the perfect fuel for a fun-filled day ahead.

We were blessed with a day of sunshine as we cast our lines, with each cast bringing a mix of anticipation and joy. Fly fishing, although an art in itself, becomes an even richer experience when shared among friends. The fish were elusive, but as one of our witty members quipped, "We didn't blank, we just didn't fish long enough!"

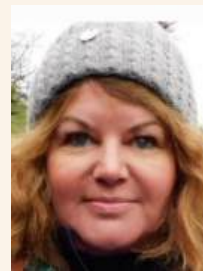


more about the camaraderie. The river's tranquil flow mirrored the ease with which we shared stories and celebrated our time together.

Our day on the river wouldn't have been complete without the expertise and enthusiasm of our excellent ghillies, Jonathan and Ron. Their guidance was invaluable, and their sense of humour kept the spirits high.

By the end of the day, we might not have caught any fish, but we had collected a net full of wonderful memories. Our ladies fishing day on the River Swale was a reminder that sometimes, the best catches are the moments we share with friends.

Cress



Cressida Tomlinson
Inclusivity Officer



As the sun climbed higher, it was time for our buffet lunch. It wasn't just about the food but the stories and laughter shared over the picnic table. This gathering was a celebration of long-standing friendships and the welcoming of two new members into our fold.

The afternoon was reserved for more fishing and catching up. It was less about the catch and



Report what you see

It is the duty of every member to report anything of concern. Be that poachers, predators, pollution or anything else.

Please, please, please use the report form on the website. The information is automatically logged onto a database and an email notification goes to the committee.

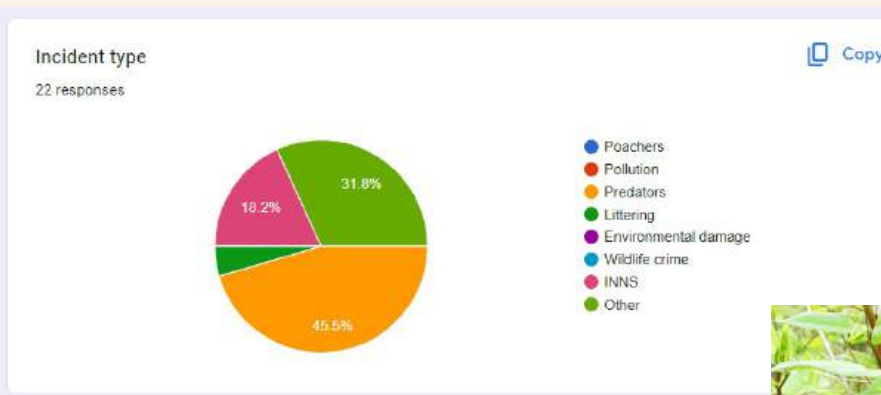
Phone calls get forgotten, emails can be overlooked. We are only volunteers with lives outside of the angling club. Help us to help you.

By all means ring, especially in an emergency but then confirm in writing. Don't pass the buck.

It only takes a few minutes. Get it logged!

Use the report form.

<https://richmondangling.org.uk/report>



Goosander (just one)

Fly tipped tyres, crates, bottles. Reported to NYCC

Cormorant seen mid river but flew off.

1 x Cormorant

2 adult mink and 3 young ones opposite peg 12 Not possible to photograph

Otter

Wilful destruction of RADAS signs on car parking and ford Reported by Gordon Alexander

Seen goosander about 6 times during 6hour fishing session. The same was last week but only for one hour last week. Don't know if it was the same bird flying up and down or different birds. No photos taken, they're too fast



WANTED

We are looking for somebody creative to look after the RADAS website. Must be prepared to do regular updates and keep the content fresh. Somebody who is able to work as part of the team and willing to help promote the club and spread the good news. If interested please contact Allan Harder.



Social Media

Facebook page

Our public facing Facebook page currently has two hundred followers. We use the page to promote the club to the outside world in combination with our website, Instagram and X (formerly Twitter) accounts.

Only admins can post on the page.



Facebook Members Only Group

Only members can join this group. There are currently 65 members. This is where we share information, post reports, post pictures of fish caught etc. Only members of the group can view the content. If you are a member and have a Facebook account we strongly recommend you join this group.

Instagram

This is one of the most popular social media platforms. We currently have 145 followers.

X (Twitter)

We currently have 20 followers on our X account.

WhatsApp

We run a WhatsApp group for anyone interested in helping out with bank works. It provides a quick way for Pete to get in touch with people and organise work parties etc.



Skeeby Beck Update

We have been advised by the EA that the investigation into the cause of the pollution last April is progressing rapidly. The beat remains closed and we are persuing a claim for compensation for the loss of our fishing. Allan Harder is dealing with this.

We hope that fish will migrate up from the main river to repopulate the beck. Obviously this will take time. We intend to carry out habitat improvement work to benefit the fish that move in and of course the insects, birds and wildlife that live in or by the water.

The EA have just put 5,000 grayling fry into the beck. Our section received 1,000 of these. They are also hoping to carry out electrofishing in September to see what fish are present.

We will review the situation before the AGM in December. It is too early to say if we will be able to open the fishing again in 2025.

Coarse Fishing

We will be introducing several hundred Chub and Dace into the river very soon. The fish have been ordered and paid for. We are waiting for a delivery date from our supplier. The fish will be released at the Falls so that they can spread downstream.

We started catch returns just before the rivers closed in March and three Pike were reported.

Barbel have been seen at Station Bend, Easby and Great Langton in the last few weeks.

Several thousand Barbel were released into the river at Red House a few years ago.

Chub are present throughout the river from the Falls down.

Night fishing is permissible at Easby, Round Howe, Broken Brae and Great Langton but not Red House Farm (which includes Hagg Losh).

For safety reasons we recommend that you message the secretary and let him know if you are going on the river at night.

We look forward to hearing your stories and seeing photos of the fish you catch.



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Save Our Swale



The Save Our Swale group are campaigning to force Yorkshire Water to clean up the river. At the public meeting held in Richmond Town Hall on the 8th June it was stressed that the main source of pollution is from sewage being unlawfully dumped into the river. Whilst there are other sources of pollution sewage is by far the most serious and that is the target of the campaign.

Recent tests carried out by the SOS citizen science team have identified the presence of ecoli in the river at certain locations. They are therefore planning to put up signs warning people that bathing is not advisable.

I spoke on behalf of the anglers and talked about the work we are doing to improve the ecology of the river with our habitat improvements. **I stressed that we have have some great local farmers and could not do what we do without their support.**

As anglers we must look after ourselves by following the safety guidelines stated on our website. This has recently been updated with the inclusion of an Angling Trust advisory document.

Read more here: <https://richmondangling.org.uk/safety>

All of the main parliamentary candidates attended the SOS meeting except Rishi Sunak. They have all said that they will support the campaign to clean up the river.

Lets hope they do!

Ron

Awards

We congratulate the following members on receiving their **River Champion Awards**:

Ronnie Kane

Will Smith

Joe Josephs

Nigel Banks

Ian McGregor

These members have all given up their time to help the club. We are most grateful.

On behalf of the entire membership we thank you.

Trout and Salmon Magazine

Andrew Flitcroft and Robert Hardy from the Trout and Salmon magazine paid a visit in April. Unfortunately it was cold and windy. However they were highly impressed and are plan to come back over tthe summer months to fish anf gather material for an article on RADAS. They absolutelky loved the river.



IMPORTANT NOTICE

Follow our safety guidelines. Do not put your fingers in your mouth if they have been in the water. Wash your hands or use hand sanitizer before handling food when out fishing.

Read the Angling Trust advisory leaflet. It is on our website: <https://richmondangling.org.uk/safety>

STAY SAFE.



Pat Bush
Welfare Officer



In recognition of outstanding voluntary work to protect our water environments.

Your Club Needs You



We need:

Somebody to run the website...

Somebody to help promote the club...

Volunteers to help with bank work...

Volunteers to train up as river fly monitors...

Volunteers to help with water quality monitoring...

Members to join the Volunteer Bailiff Service to provide eyes and ears along the river...

At the moment a very small number of people are doing ALL of the work. That is not fair. If everyone came forward and gave up a few hours of their time throughout the year it would make a huge difference.

Be proud of your club.

Do your bit!

As Citizen Science coordinator for RADAS, firstly I'd like to introduce myself, having joined the Society last year as a new fisherman and I would also like to take the opportunity to tell you all what we are planning in terms of monitoring our environment and the health of our fine river.

Each month I test the river quality which is part of a nationwide testing group, the data being stored on a database called Epicollect. This allows many user groups across the country to record and monitor the water quality, mainly testing for the presence of phosphate. The save our Swale group also record data of tests as well as those monitoring the Swale tributary streams. If you would like to join me to see how the testing is done do please drop me an email. I test near to the Easy Water Works.

RADAS have a small number of riverfly testers, this being another way to test and monitor the quality of the river.

We are looking to expand our panel of volunteer testers, so if this is of interest to you, again please do drop me an email. I'm looking to put together a day of training on a Saturday in September. It will be a 10am to 4pm day probably at Gilling West's Village Hall.

If you would like to join in, again please drop me an email. Confirmation of the date and times will be published closer to the day.

Thank you for reading!



Ian Boshier
Citizen Science Coordinator
Email ianboshier@gmx.com



THANK YOU to our fantastic River Fly Monitoring Team, Allan Harder, Steve McCormack, Joe Josephs, Ronnie Kane, Steve Plumb and junior member Holly Kane. You are doing a brilliant job!



Skeeby Beck Stocking, 11th June 2024