



River Earn Improvement Association



Secretary's Report 2013

Dear members,

Upon taking up the post in March 2012 at the request of our Chairman, I set about making a number of changes to the way the Association was run, hopefully improving our administrative efficiency and also our appeal to the current membership and also to lapsed and potential members. I understand fully that in order to encourage people to retain membership and also to attract vital new members, the Association had to modernise in many ways, which was a vision shared by the Chairman, from whom at all times I received full support and encouragement.

As a primary but very important measure, I enlisted the help of my partner, Jen, to sharpen up the website and add more news, views and images on a regular basis. I also developed the Gallery Section into separate pages showing archived and current fish pics as they were received from members. Images showing our work in and around the river and its tributaries are now in prominent view and I urge you all to contribute to these pages by sending photos of your catches to me on the link provided on the website Home Page. This, of course, can be found by entering www.riverearn.org.uk into your browser, then save it to favourites. This medium will progressively feature much more in our efforts, as an association, to be much more in touch with our membership and you more easily in touch with us as a committee. You will also see that many hyperlinks have been added to associated sites such as FishTay, S.E.P.A., Farsons WebCams and T.D.S.F.B. all of which means you can access all the information required to find current conditions and available fishing on one site.

The News Page has also been updated and kept current as I feel it is vital that we continue to relay up to date information as quickly and transparently as possible.

Finally, our cyberspace antics have been enhanced by the addition of a PayPal link which allows everyone to pay subscriptions and donations easily and quickly, within a matter of minutes in fact, saving time, energy and stamp costs.

The website project, however, is not yet complete and is very much work in progress and you will all see more improvements in the coming season.

www.riverearn.org.uk



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What I would urge you all to do to assist this project and help improve our overall administrative efficiency is to provide us with your e-mail addresses if you have not already done so. We hope in future to be able to drive down costs further in an effort to spend more on actual river improvements and enhancements. Our postal costs are a burden on us and by helping us communicate by e-mail, you will contribute to a vital and considerable annual saving. Please drop me your updated details on the secretary's link on the Home Page.

In order to return something tangible to our membership, the committee decided to run a membership draw and competition during the season, the details of which all of you were advised.

Some valuable prizes were donated by our generous supporters and we achieved a fair amount of success with this project and certainly some very encouraging feedback from winners, sufficient enough for the committee to agree unanimously to run the project for a second year and I sincerely hope that you all get involved and keep the competitions vital and alive.

Lastly, I would like to make strong reference to the committee's belief in river improvements going forward, and without stealing our Chairman's thunder, we have greatly reinforced this commitment in the year past.

Following confirmation that new legislation forbids us to operate a satellite hatchery for salmonids, we now fully co-operate with the T.D.S.F.B. in the use of the Almonbank Hatchery Facility and now have brood stock in place involved in the Kelt Reconditioning Programme. Spring stock offspring will be used to seed our upstream spawning tributaries in an effort to enhance our fragile spring stock. We now have in place electronically stored juvenile population density data for all our spawning streams which will guide us in the placement of our hatchery reared stock.

We have made a substantial financial investment in people, via training courses, tools, equipment and volunteer insurances in a positive effort to be more pro active in the field of habitat improvements ongoing.

We continue to steadfastly oppose any efforts to revive in-river netting which positively enhances our stocks on an ongoing basis.

We continue to co-operate via regular meetings with the T.D.S.F.B. to achieve the best possible investment in our river and finance the fight against Invasive plants which are now sprayed on an annual basis, a project overseen by John Young.

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We have recently met with representatives from the Trossachs and Loch Lomond National Park Authority and there is scope for joint Habitat Improvements projects to the tributaries entering the length of Loch Earn , These possibilities will be developed in the coming year.

I am sure our Chairman will want to develop the final few points in my report so it only remains for me to personally thank all of you who retained faith in our Association , I can assure you it has not been misplaced. I would encourage you all not only to continue to support your river , but to encourage everyone you know who uses the river for sport and recreation to help us achieve our aims by joining the R.E.I.A.

The more funding we receive , the more we can do for the river.

Thank you,

Tom Monaghan
Secretary R.E.I.A.