



Isle of Wight Freshwater Angling Company LTD

I.W.F.A.C.

SUMMER NEWSLETTER

Dear Members,

Welcome to the Summer edition of the Isle of Wight Freshwater Angling Company Newsletter

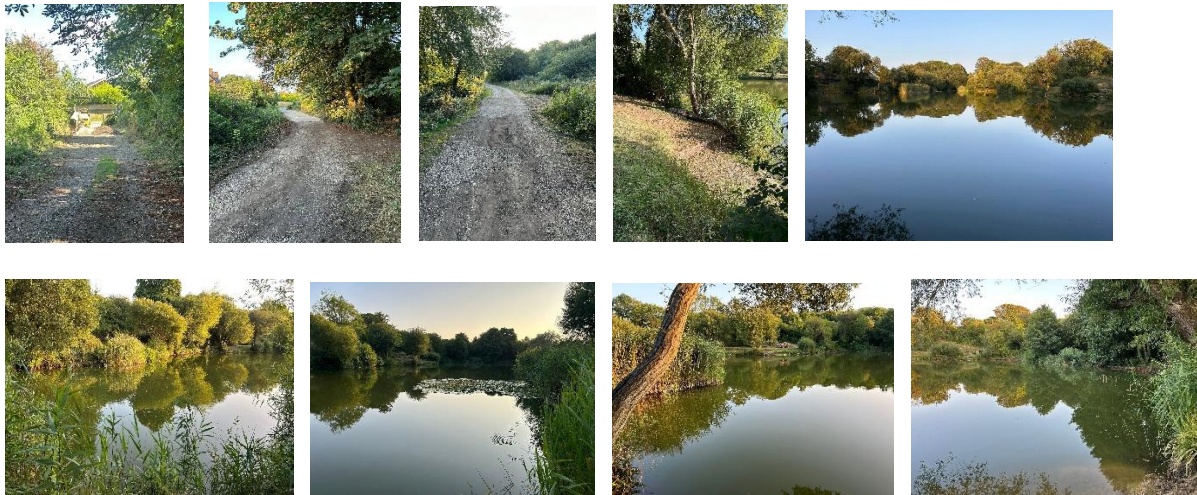
Summer is here, the waters are warm, and the fish are biting. Whether you're chasing Tench at Holliers Old lake, a bag of Bream at Kingfisher or one of those big Carp at Heron or Gunville, now's a great time to dust off your tackle and enjoy some peaceful hours by the water.

News and updates

Gunville lake maintenance – volunteers responded to the call

The work party at Gunville Lake on Saturday and Sunday was a great success. Many thanks to the 14 volunteers who turned up Saturday and to the 12 on Sunday (many on both days) who responded to the call and worked very hard to get some much-needed work done. It was so nice to see that many of the volunteers were not just the regular Gunville anglers.

Work involved resurfacing the track from the road to the entrance gate, realigning the gate post, improving the path from the gate to the car park and removing a multitude of snags from the lake. One car axle was removed, several large tree roots and a lot of fishing line. Russ provided light refreshments to the volunteers, which were greatly earned and appreciated. Some pictures below:



Major Works at Merstone and Holliers -Summer/Autumn 2025

Quotes have been received from 3 independent contractors for the following projects which will be starting at Holliers on the 18th of August. An advisory e mail was sent out to all members on 13/08. Advisory dates for Minnow will follow when known.

- 18 swim rebuilds at Holliers including 1 concrete disabled peg
- 5 replacement platforms on Minnow
- Footpath drainage at Holliers

Flooding issues at Gunville

Investigations and enquiries with the Council continue into the excess of water and sediment entering Gunville Lake following heavy rain. Site visits are planned by the Council in the near future, and the Board are optimistic of a positive outcome.

Junior event

The Company seeks sponsorship for the annual Junior event that was so well attended in 2024. Any member wishing to assist is encouraged to contact the Company Secretary @ iowfacmembers@gmail.com

RSPB section of the River Yar at Brading

The downstream section of the River Yar opened on the 15th July. This section runs from the road bridge to the first cattle ditch. Access is only via the padlocked gate marked by three yellow dots. The padlock was set to the company gate code on opening day. We are still lobbying the Environment Agency to agree to schedule work to clear weed and make it more fishable.

New aerators

With climate change we need to ensure our waters have enough oxygen dissolved in the water to keep our fish healthy. We have therefore invested in another 2 efficient and quieter aerators so that with constant monitoring of the water condition we are prepared as we can be in order to prevent loss of stock.

Somerton

We have finally managed to reach an agreement in order to finalise the ongoing saga of the Somerton reservoir sale which has dragged on for the last 9 years. The IWFAC no longer has any liability for the site and have managed to negotiate the return of retained funds pending completion. Following solicitor costs £4,500 was deposited in our 95 day higher interest account.

Angling for schools

Discussions continue with Dover Park School in Ryde with support from the Angling Trust to encourage greater participation in angling from juniors. Any lapsed coaches who still have an interest in coaching please get in touch. The aim to get coaches into schools to teach juniors about angling and ultimately get angling on the curriculum.

New PPE

We are committed to ensuring that participants in any of our work parties have access to appropriate PPE if required. We have therefore purchased some basic items to ensure that Health and Safety procedures are adhered to.

Money laundering

New government legislation aimed at helping to reduce the likelihood of financial irregularities such as money laundering, means that all Company Directors have to provide documentary evidence of who they are. This is an ongoing requirement that any future Director nominations will have to be undertaken.

Japanese Knotweed

We have contracted Groundsells to eradicate the knotweed we have found at Gunville. It is an expensive on-going project which can take up to 10 years to eradicate it totally. We have no choice in this matter as just turning a blind eye could have serious consequences. We hope to have secured some funding to help pay for some of the costs.

Some notable catches

Shane Pearce tackled minnow in June with Carp to 8lb and a stunning 2lb Perch (picture below). Minnow although small, is full of surprises. Jamie Wenborn also pictured with a beautiful Crucian from Minnow along with Roach and Rudd.



Peter Wright had a noteworthy 28lb common Carp from Heron and many other anglers too numerous to mention, (but you know who you are) have also had many specimen Carp from Heron and Gunville. Kingfisher has also produced some noteworthy lumps as well, despite the heat.

Ian Jones also receives credit for a match winning weight of 180lbs 11 oz on a company match at Kingfisher on the 1st of June. 2nd place went to Danny Barsdell with 155lbs 1 oz. 5 competitors had over 100lb of fish that day.

We hope to get a gallery up and running on the website featuring notable catches, but it does take time to deal with, so please have patience.

Upcoming events

You may have already seen our recent e mail regarding the 2nd Juniors competition on 7th September. It was a great success last year and nice to see so many excited and enthusiastic juniors being introduced to angling. All the prizes have been donated by generous members, but there is always scope for more.

Match Schedule

A full schedule of matches can be found on the company website, and you would have received them as an attachment to your new membership or membership renewal (www.iwfac.co.uk). Matches are free to enter, and there are optional pools available if you like a flutter. For any further information on matches please contact Shane Pearce.

Notices

Environmental Agency Rod License renewal reminder

Before you fish you must have a current rod license. Because it is a condition of membership and part of our bye laws a Company Bailiff is entitled to see your rod

license or evidence you have one. Please don't get caught out, the fines are heavy and fishing with out one would invalidate your membership

Fish Welfare

- When unhooking a fish on the bank, resting the fish on any surface other than a pre-dipped unhooking mat is not allowed.
- Nets, mats and slings must be dipped in the disinfectant tank on each visit to our venues. This is to prevent the spread of fish diseases of which Koi Herpes Virus (KHV) is currently spreading through mainland fisheries. If we ever had to replace all our fish we would have no financial reserves left.

Send us your photos

In order to publish any photos in a newsletter or on our website we need to have your photos with some details about weight, where caught, and how caught, as well as your permission to publish it. Photos to Company Secretary please. We would love to make this a monthly article, but need your help.

Best wishes and tight lines

The Board of Directors