

*A very warm welcome to the first ever issue of **WATERWHEELS**, HAT's new bi-annual newsletter to Wheelyboat users, venues, sponsors and supporters. Look out for Issue 2 in the spring. In the meantime, do let us know what you think of Issue 1!*

The Alan Faulkner Memorial Award Winner 2003 — well done Stonebridge Trout Lakes!

The Alan Faulkner Memorial Award — created by the Trust in memory of its Founder President who died last year and presented for the first time at this year's CLA Game Fair — was awarded to Stonebridge Trout Lakes of Northallerton, North Yorkshire. This newly created annual award, with a cash prize of £500, goes to the fly-fishery that provides disabled anglers with the most outstanding service, facilities, opportunities and access. On behalf of HAT, Bernard Cribbins presented the award to Adam Dick, Stonebridge's owner.

Stonebridge Trout Lakes impressed the judges tremendously. There are two trout lakes and one coarse lake, all three being entirely accessible by way of concrete footpaths and level fishing platforms. The fishery's two lodges, parking and loos are also all wheelchair friendly. In fact, all the fishery's facilities have been purposely laid out to provide disabled anglers with equality of opportunity alongside their able-bodied counterparts. Tuition is provided and competitions, both specifically for disabled anglers as well as integrating disabled and non-disabled, are held, including the prestigious Northern Disabled Championship.

The anglers who nominated Stonebridge Trout Lakes could not recommend the fishery highly enough and the judges were delighted to confer the inaugural Alan Faulkner Memorial Award to such a worthy contender.

As well as being a fitting memorial to HAT's Founder President (who conceived the idea of the Trust's wheelchair accessible angling boat, the 'Wheelyboat') it is hoped this award will highlight the needs of disabled anglers and encourage more fly-fisheries to provide suitable access and facilities. In themselves, most disabilities do not create a barrier to the pleasures of fly-fishing, however it is the consequences of the disability, such as the need to use a wheelchair to get around, which causes the problems. If they are to encourage disabled anglers to come and fish, fisheries need to take into account the major issue of access. It is particularly important that fisheries address this issue now because in just over a year's time legislation will start to compel all businesses and other service providers to ensure that they do not discriminate against disabled people by failing to provide suitable access to their services. Nominations for next year's award will be sought in the Spring.



Adam Dick is presented with his award and cheque for £500 by Bernard Cribbins.

Environment Agency and Welsh Sports Council to fund 8 new Wheelyboats in North Wales

Since October 2002, EA Wales has been working in partnership with Fishery owners and Angling Clubs across North Wales to improve 'Angling Infrastructure' and to encourage improved access to fisheries with grants of up to 50%. The Welsh Assembly Government and the European Objective 1 fund have provided the funding. This improvement program will be operating until January 2006. In addition to this funding, more resources have been obtained from an increase in rod licence sales and will be used to help support fisheries that wish to purchase Wheelyboats for disabled anglers. Applications have been invited from all lake fisheries in North Wales and the closing date for entries was August 1st. The EA is funding 45% of the costs which are being matched by the Sports Council for Wales, leaving the fisheries to fund just 10% of the costs themselves. These funds will provide 8 new Mk II Wheelyboats each with its own brand new 10hp Honda outboard with electric start.

HAT's new website nearing completion

Keep a look out in the next month or so for www.wheelyboats.org, HAT's brand new website. It will feature information on the work of the Trust, Wheelyboat locations list, photos, information about accessible fisheries and links to other useful sites. If you have any photos you would like to see featured, e-mail them to wheelyboats@tiscali.co.uk. Can you recommend an accessible fishery? What about other websites to link to of interest to disabled anglers and other Wheelyboat users?

HAT Trustee Danny Peet wins best bag in Rutland competition from a Wheelyboat

Competing in the Salmon & Trout Association centenary inter-branch competition at Rutland Water on May 10th, HAT Trustee and wheelchair user Danny Peet won the prize for biggest bag. His eight fish weighed 20lb and included a 4lb brownie. There is presently no Wheelyboat on Rutland so to ensure that Danny and HAT's Director Andy Beadsley, also a wheelchair user, could fish together, Anglian Water kindly allowed them to bring along HAT's demonstrator Mk II for the day. It performed admirably in a gusty wind and helped the branch they represented, West Sussex, to 4th place in the competition.



Danny receives his prize from Tony Bird, Salmon & Trout Association Chairman



Wheelyboat saves the day at Game Fair!

Judging the final of the Musto Spey Casting Competition at the CLA Game Fair went ahead without a hitch thanks to HAT's demo Mk II Wheelyboat. Earlier, the mobile pontoon that was to be used broke its transom and sent one of the judges in for a swim!

Wheelyboats coming very soon:

2 Mk Is to Coolyerner Lough (Enniskillen), Mk IIs to Thornton Reservoir (Leicester) and Cobbinshaw Loch (West Lothian)

Recent arrivals:

Mk Is to Teglan Fishery (Lampeter) and Westlow Mere (Congleton), Mk II to Hillend Loch (Airdrie)

Some projects in hand:

Mk IIs to Wistlandpound Reservoir (Exmoor), Carsington Water (Derbyshire), the River Thames at Chiswick and up to 8 in N Wales



New Mk II for Hillend

Following the loss of their Mk I Wheelyboat in a storm last year, Airdrie & District Angling Club with help from HAT have provided a new Mk II Wheelyboat for the 365 acre Hillend loch near Airdrie. The launch ceremony took place on August 2nd with Provost P Connolly officiating. The Wheelyboat (84th to have been built) was given a hearty send off. It is equipped with a brand new 15hp!! Honda engine. Book by calling the fishery office on 01236 843611. No waterskiing now!!

HAT would like to thank the following for their recent generous support:

Esmee Fairbairn Foundation, Hedley Foundation, CHK Charities Ltd, Farrell Trust, Gallaher plc, The Good Neighbours Trust, Benham Charitable Settlement, Ormonde Charitable Trust, Findel plc, Sir John Fisher Foundation, Sobell Foundation, Securicor Charitable Trust, McCabe Charitable Trust, Rowan Bentall Charity Trust, Thomas Curtis Charitable Trust, Verdon-Smith Family Charitable Trust

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WATERWHEELS is designed and edited by Andy Beadsley.

Photos, Wheelyboat news stories and other contributions are most welcome. Please send all correspondence to Andy at the Trust's office address. Should you no longer wish to receive a copy of this publication, send your name and address and you will be deleted from the database.