

Trust embarks on major new initiative

The Wheelyboats For All project, which began in earnest with the appointment of John Hood as the Trust's first permanent Field Officer, is a major new initiative that will help propel the Trust into a new phase of development. Wheelyboats For All provides the Trust with the resources to promote the Wheelyboat to a wider audience of users, supply more Wheelyboats to a greater variety of venues and broaden the range of waterborne activities Wheelyboats are used for.

Most Wheelyboats supplied so far have gone to fisheries but there is tremendous potential for Wheelyboats beyond the fishing lake and the Trust has long since recognised the wider therapeutic, sporting and recreational benefits they can provide. The majority of Wheelyboats now being launched have this wider remit and provide disabled people with hassle-free and independent access to pleasure boating and nature watching as well as angling. Examples of recent dual purpose



Wheelyboat projects include Roadford Reservoir, Wimbleball Lake and Dearnford Trout Fishery, and Wheelyboats being supplied later this year to Siblyback and Sutton Bingham Reservoirs will also fulfil this wider role.

Broadening the activities Wheelyboats are used for is essential if they are to appeal to more disabled people but their benefits and availability need to be communicated more widely. To this end the Trust is talking to other disability organisations, particularly children's charities, and is tremendously encouraged at the enthusiasm with which Wheelyboats are being received. Additional venues, particularly on navigable rivers and canals, are needed to ensure Wheelyboats become a local facility wherever in the UK beneficiaries live. The new Mk III model is in development (more details overleaf) which, with its rounder profile and extra capacity, will suit the needs of these waters particularly well.

The Trust is delighted to welcome John Hood as its new Field Officer. He has been involved in disability sports for many years and is widely known and respected in this field. John lives in Scotland and will be able to give the Trust a higher profile here and in the north of England. The Trust is hugely grateful to the Henry Smith Charity and Esmée Fairbairn Foundation for providing the funds it needs to employ John and embark on the exciting Wheelyboats For All objectives.

New Field Officer, John Hood (in the hat), at the launch of the Lake of Menteith's new Wheelyboat in May

Lake of Menteith

On May 14th, Menteith's new boat was launched by Anne McGuire, MP for Stirling and UK Minister for Disabled People. Also in the above picture are (l to r) Ritchie Stewart from Lloyds TSB, disabled angler Sean Roake and John Hood. Mrs McGuire remarked that the Wheelyboat was an excellent facility for helping disabled people enjoy the great outdoors. Hear! hear!

Funding for the project was provided by Lloyds TSB Foundation for Scotland, The Robertson Trust, Scotbelge Charitable Trust and Lake of Menteith Fisheries Board.

Menteith is one of the great beauty spots of Scotland and its flora and fauna is protected by the lake's SSSI status. It has its place in history too as Mary Queen of Scots took refuge in a priory on one of its islands prior to her escape to France. Its reputation as a fine trout fishery is no less impressive, with it being the venue of choice for national and international championships.

The Wheelyboat opens up all of its 700 acres to disabled anglers. Trout fishing there is all done by boat so disabled anglers are truly on equal terms with able-bodied anglers now the new Wheelyboat is in place.

Lockwood Beck

May saw another Wheelyboat launch, this time at Lockwood Beck Trout Fishery near Guisborough. The new Wheelyboat comes at a time when Lockwood Beck has scooped two major awards from Trout Fisherman magazine for its popularity, first class fishing and excellent facilities.

Gordon Byers, who runs the fishery, has been looking forward to the Wheelyboat for some time. He says it will provide disabled anglers with access to the entire reservoir where bank access for an angler using a wheelchair is almost non-existent. He hopes it will encourage newcomers to fly-fishing to try it for themselves. 'Being disabled is no barrier to the pleasures of fly fishing on waters where the problems of access have been solved', he said. He is very keen for disabled people and especially children to take up the activity and is providing tackle and tuition free of charge for those wanting to give it a go.

The Wheelyboat has been funded by the Normanby Charitable Trust, the Environment Agency and local angling groups and businesses. Hardy Greys supported the project by donating a rod for the raffle and Northumbrian Water has built a new concrete slipway for the Wheelyboat.

Alan Faulkner Memorial Award 2006

Suzuki Marine is once again sponsoring the annual Alan Faulkner Memorial Award which will be presented to the winning fishery at the CLA Game Fair in July. This year Alan Faulkner's widow, Glenys, will be making the presentation. Alan was the Trust's Founder President and originator of the Wheelyboat. The award goes to the game fishery that provides disabled anglers with the most outstanding service, facilities, opportunities and access. Previous winners include Eyebrook Trout Fishery and Grafham Water. The prize will be one of Suzuki's super reliable small four horsepower 4-stroke outboard motors, worth more than £700. Nominations are now being sought so please complete the enclosed form and send to John Hood. The deadline is July 14th and everybody sending in a form will automatically be entered into a draw for a £50 Sportfish voucher.



Two new Wheelyboat models coming very soon

The design and development of the brand new Mk III Wheelyboat is well under way. It will be longer than the Mk II at 5.3m and will have significantly more deck space and a carrying capacity of up to 6 people. Its rounded profile will make it ideal for waters where it is likely to encounter other craft in close proximity (e.g. locks) but it will also be suitable for use on inshore waters and on the largest inland lakes, lochs and reservoirs. It will take up to a 30hp outboard. It is designed as a dual-purpose craft and will be as equally at home on the fishing lake as it will be cruising on inland waterways.

The Trust is very close to launching an accessible ghillie-boat for the River Tweed. Bank access on rivers like the Tweed is almost non-existent and, to fish it properly, disabled anglers need to fish from a boat. Such a boat needs to be rowed (by ghillie) as well as being easily accessible. Working with JM Coulam Boatbuilders, Emrhys Barrell and the Tweed Foundation, the Trust has developed a number of ingenious modifications to the Coulam 15' reservoir boat. The first of these special boats should be in service by the end of the summer in time for the large runs of autumn salmon on the country's most famous game river. Both new models will be on display at the CLA Game Fair.

We would like to express our enormous thanks to the following for their recent generous support:

Henry Smith Charity, Lord Barnby's Foundation, Mercers' Charitable Foundation, Hedley Foundation, Environment Agency, Miss Alex Burt, Inchcape Foundation, Normanby Charitable Trust, Chatsworth Country Fair, Ormonde Charitable Trust, Good Neighbours Trust, Thompson Fund, Northumberland & Durham Masonic Fly-Fishing Association, Barker & Stonehouse Ltd, Clinkard Group, S&TA Cleveland Branch, St Edmunds Parish Church, PALS Fishing Club, Muriel Woellwarth Trust, House of Type, Mr I Phillips, Mr & Mrs R de Vere, Mr C Tayler, Mr M Baldwin and all contributors to last autumn's Waterwheels appeal.

Toft Newton changes

Disabled anglers will be heartened at the news that the fishing at Toft Newton has been taken over and, as a result, the storm damaged Wheelyboat has been replaced by a spare Mk I from Eyebrook. Neil Grantham, the new leaseholder, has supplied a new electric outboard for the replacement boat and the Lincolnshire trout fishery is now once again fully accessible to disabled anglers.

New Trustees join the team

The Trust welcomes two new Trustees—Mrs Annabel Loyd from Mildenhall, Wiltshire and Mr Ray Prince from Stamford, Lincolnshire. Annabel is a development consultant with a particular interest in South Asia and is the daughter of our previous Chairman, Sir Charles Morrison. Ray is a director of the Corus Group subsidiary that runs Eyebrook Trout Fishery, the venue with the country's busiest Wheelyboats.

Wheelyboat Trust on the road

Come and meet the Trust at the following shows:

Game Conservancy Scottish Fair, Scone Palace, Perth—June 30th to July 2nd

Royal Welsh Show, Builth Wells—July 24th to 27th

CLA Game Fair, Broadlands, Romsey—July 28th to 30th.

Already attended this year are **Chatsworth Angling Fair** and the **Mobility Roadshow**.

Maurice Melhado

Maurice, who sadly died in May, was a keen fisherman and regular at Lechlade Trout Fishery. He was also a generous supporter of the Trust and our deepest sympathy goes to his wife, Catherine, and family.

Special thanks to the following for their invaluable help and support:

Chris Woodward, Rex & Margery Harpham, Gwyn & Sue Hiatt, Brian & Lyn Frith, Chris Stoneham, Peter Beadsley, Michael Joyce, Emrhys Barrell, Steve Ashby, Andrew Wolstenholme, Jim Coulam, John Clark and Karen Woolley.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Recent Wheelyboat arrivals:

New Wheelyboats have been delivered to Lockwood Beck Trout Fishery near Guisborough and the Lake of Menteith in Stirlingshire.

Wheelyboats coming very soon:

Mk IIIs to Chew Lake near Bristol, Siblyback Reservoir near Liskeard, Sutton Bingham Reservoir near Yeovil, Clatworthy Reservoir near Taunton, Lough Ennell, in the Irish Republic. The Nature and Environment Office in Denmark are buying two Mk IIIs for angling on Vilsted Lake, North Jutland.

THE WHEELYBOAT TRUST

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