



# Dorchester Fishing Club

(Founded 1877)



## Annual Report & Newsletter

October 2007

### Annual Report

We had an excellent start to the season, with good grannom hatches. The mayfly season was cold and the river was mostly coloured from the heavy rains. The rain continued for most of the summer, providing the unusual sight of summer flooded fields and the wettest summer on record! It wasn't until August that things started to settle down, providing Members with plenty of fine fishing, from the early morning, right through to the evening rise.

The Club also held it's first ever sea fishing trip along the east side of Chesil Beach. Most fished with a surface plug, but full marks to Robin for sticking with a fly! It was the pluggers that finally won the day with catches of school bass & a mackerel.

Another first for the Club, we shared a stand at the Dorset County Show this September. It was a very tiring three days and a lot of interest was generated from our pond dipping samples and casting displays. Many thanks to all the helpers – Peter Leatherdale, Doug Pritchard, Tony Trickey, Robin Ayles, Richard Miller, Rod Crane, Tony King and John Aplin for the bacon & egg sandwiches!

The Lower Water Improvements are now a year old and the recent electro fishing results provided the greatest numbers of trout & salmon parr for the Lower Water since records began (1993). These improvements are also being used as a shining example on how to 'do it right' by national organisations, such as; Wild Trout Trust, Environment Agency, Dorset Wildlife Trust and Natural England. \*Stop Press\* John Aplin has more plans to improve the Upper Water during 2008!

The work to build a fish pass at Loud's Mill has been put on hold after they encountered an engineering problem. The whole project is back in the melting pot, because of the increase in the costs – we sit and wait!!

Big thanks to all who contributed to the Fishing Club online diary this year. Please, if you do have any interesting stories, photographs etc. email them in to the Hon.Sec ASAP ©

Managing Committee



### Keepers Corner

There it goes again, another fantastic season, lots of fine Brown Trout and Grayling, plenty of fly life and plenty of you out on the water making the most of our second to none fishery.

I even managed a little time to fish myself, or should I say made time, life is just so short not too, more than a handful of fine Frome fish, one or two Bass, and the icing on the cake a trip to the Florida Keys last week boating or I should say releasing fish to over 300 pounds including lots of fish on the fly.

The Frome has been in fine fettle all season, mainly I feel down to the rather damp summer.

The work on the lower water is almost a year old to the day and I am sure you have all noticed a vast improvement in the fishing and of course the whole eco system.

A heart felt thank you goes out to all those involved, and equally to all our anglers that have sneaked the odd fish from that area.

The willow flow deflectors we constructed earlier are starting to have an effect as is the willow mattress constructed below Whitfield hatches on the whole its been a very busy year, I just wish they would slow down a little.

The Dorset Show was great fun and I can honestly say the team never stopped, I can't wait for next year...

As I write this the team are out in force gravel washing all over the Frome before the Salmon and Sea Trout start their autumn run, and we have plenty of winter projects in the diary.

Dates for your diaries:

23 Nov Tree trimming Poundbury 9.00 am

26 Dec (Boxing Day) Short family river walk, to hopefully see a Salmon 11 am

John E Aplin  
River Keeper

