



## Secretary's report on the 2017 season

At the AGM in January, we welcomed Peter Waterhouse and Julian Weddle on to the Committee following the resignation of Phil Hall and the disappearance of John Mees.

The season was the first one where the catch and release element was introduced into our competitions. Some rules had been agreed at the AGM but workable solutions needed to be found with regard to brown trout for example, as different fisheries have different rules regarding the species. Similarly regarding buoyant flies on sinking lines and the use of barbless hooks it was clear that the Fishery Rules would be the ones to follow. All in all the system worked well and a total of at least 681 fish that would otherwise have been killed were returned to the water. The additional C&R bonus of 2lb per fish led to the occasional confusion but I'm sure we'll get better once we are more used to it.

Once again a match was cancelled as a result of forecast extreme weather. However, unlike the match in 2016 it proved possible to reschedule the Group 2 Round 3 match on Farmoor to later in the year.

Over the course of the season we involved 237 anglers, a slight decrease from 2016 but not unexpected as we were one team fewer. These anglers caught a total of 2,192 fish over 503 fishing days giving an overall rod average of 4.3. Attendance was best in Groups 1 and 3, each with a 100% turnout and 94% in Group 2. With regard to bonuses, fish were clearly more difficult to catch this year. The time bonus in Group 1 was only 126 lb compared to 200 lb in 2016 and Group 2 was only 77lb compared with 200 lb (one fewer team) and in Group 3 it was 38 lb compared to 41 lb. The best C&R bonus was 128 lb for Tunbridge Wells followed by Fish Hawks with 122 lb and Group 2's H.F.A. with 120 lb.

2017 also saw us developing a web site and tentatively passing news on via our Facebook group. Hopefully we'll get more up to speed with these next season.

My sincere thanks go to all the team organisers who do their best to ensure grand days out during the season, and to the fishery managers who work so hard to make our competition days run smoothly. As usual I am more than happy to repeat my message from last few years that the Association continues to provide a cheerful, competitive but friendly environment, for anglers both new to competition fishing and the more experienced. It continues to provide a unique opportunity to get involved, to meet some cracking anglers, and to build firm friendships. Long may it continue!

J.R.Caldwell

Secretary, AMFC