

# WATERWHEELS



Formerly Handicapped Anglers Trust

## Newsletter of The Wheelyboat Trust

**Fur, Feather & Fin—the country sporting gift collection—**have generously sponsored this issue's postage. We hope you enjoy their new catalogue which is jam-packed with superb gift ideas. Alternatively, see all the collection on their new, secure and easy-to-navigate website: [www.furfeatherandfin.com](http://www.furfeatherandfin.com)

## Eyebrook Trout Fishery wins this year's Alan Faulkner Memorial Award



**Bernard Cribbins, Andy Beadsley (Wheelyboat Trust) and Roger Marshall with his award**

The Alan Faulkner Memorial Award — created by the Trust in memory of its Founder President who died in 2002 and presented annually at the CLA Game Fair — has been awarded this year to Eyebrook Trout Fishery. This annual award, presented for the first time last year, has a cash prize of £500 and goes to the fly-fishery that provides disabled anglers with the most outstanding service, facilities, opportunities and access. On behalf of The Wheelyboat Trust, Bernard Cribbins presented the award to Roger Marshall, manager of Eyebrook Trout Fishery.

Eyebrook, a 400 acre reservoir in the Welland Valley, Leicestershire, impressed the judges enormously with its commitment to provide equality of opportunity for disabled anglers. The fishery's facilities are fully accessible throughout and the parking is level and close to the water. It has two Wheelyboats and is the most successful Wheelyboat venue — the boats going out more than 200 times each season. Although bank access is limited for wheelchair users, the more mobile disabled angler can drive around the 5 miles of shoreline and park close to their chosen fishing point. The fishery is a very popular venue with disabled anglers which speaks volumes for the attitude of the management and their desire and enthusiasm to run an inclusive fishery. The English Disabled Fly Fishers hold regular competitions there. The judges believe that Eyebrook sets the standard among larger fisheries and are delighted to have conferred the award on such a fine example of a fishery where so much more has been achieved than simply providing access for disabled anglers.

## 3 new Mk IIs for Anglian Water

Brand new Mk II Wheelyboats have joined the fleet of angling boats at three of Anglian Water's premier trout fisheries—Rutland, Grafham and Pitsford Waters. No longer will disabled anglers have to struggle in and out of standard boats. Importantly, for discerning anglers, the handling of the Mk II is similar to a standard boat but its trihedral hull ensures it is much more stable — a vital factor on these waters of 3,000, 1,500 and 750 acres respectively. Anglian Water's faith in their handling and fitness for purpose is a testament to the design and build of the craft.

Funding for the new boats was provided by Anglian Water, Bedfordshire Masonic Sports Association, CHK Charities Ltd and the friends and family of Nev Butler. Rutland, Grafham and Pitsford Waters offer excellent fly fishing for trout in glorious surroundings. All three are geared up for the needs of disabled anglers — as well as the new Wheelyboats there is level parking close to the water, accessible loos and fishing lodges. Visit the Trust's website [www.wheelyboats.org](http://www.wheelyboats.org) for more details about these launches as well as comprehensive listings of all Wheelyboats currently in service.



**Attending the launch of the Grafham Wheelyboat were John Hawkings, Andy Beadsley and Clive Harwood (Anglian Water). Grafham is John's local water and he has provided the management with help and advice in their quest to accommodate the needs of disabled anglers. John is a member of the English Disabled Fly Fishers and has represented his country in international competitions. In honour of his achievements, Anglian Water has named the boat after John.**

# Government Minister launches 'Salmon of Knowledge'



**Jeremy Nicholson, secretary of CSTAA, with a Blackwater grilse caught from the new Wheelyboat at Cappoquin, Co Waterford**

With help from its sister charity The Wheelyboat Trust, Handicapped Anglers Trust (HAT) – Ireland has just supplied its first Mk II Wheelyboat to the Republic of Ireland on no less a fishery than the prolific River Blackwater in Co Waterford.

The new Blackwater Wheelyboat will provide disabled anglers and wheelchair users in particular with unparalleled access to four miles of prime salmon and sea-trout fishing on one of Ireland's most famous rivers. The boat has been obtained by the Cappoquin Salmon & Trout Anglers Association and will be available to members of the association and visiting day-ticket anglers alike. Funding for the boat was provided by the National Lottery Ireland, Southern Coarse and Trout Development Society and CLAR. She has been named 'An bradan feasa' – the salmon of knowledge.

The formal launch ceremony took place on August 20<sup>th</sup> and was well attended by local dignitaries, local and national press, television and radio, club members, disabled anglers and priests from both denominations who blessed the boat. The Minister for the Marine, John Browne, formally launched the new boat and warmly welcomed the initiative, even suggesting that government funds will be provided for future Wheelyboat projects in Ireland.

The day after the launch, Jeremy Nicholson, secretary of Cappoquin Salmon and Trout Anglers' Association and Andy Beadsley, Director of The Wheelyboat Trust, took the Wheelyboat up river for its first fishing trip. Within an hour, Andy had christened her with a small salmon, possibly the first salmon ever caught from a Wheelyboat. Minutes later, Jeremy followed suit.

The Blackwater Wheelyboat, which will also be available for coarse fishing and pleasure boating, can be booked by telephoning Jeremy on 00 353 58 52302.

## Funds urgently sought

The Trust has provided more boats this year than ever before and as a consequence of the increasing pressures it faces from Wheelyboat enquiries and projects plus the downturn in charitable donations across the board, income for running expenses is falling significantly short of expenditure. Please would you consider helping the Trust continue its valuable work by sending a donation. A Gift Aid form should be attached, otherwise one is available on our website. Many thanks indeed for your support.

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Recent Wheelyboat arrivals:

Mk IIs to Bewl Water in Kent, Rutland, Grafham and Pitsford Waters in the Midlands, the River Blackwater in Co Waterford, Republic of Ireland.

#### Wheelyboats coming very soon:

Mk II to Dearnford Hall in Shropshire, refurbished Mk I to Bushyleaze Trout Fishery in Gloucestershire.

#### Some projects in hand:

Mk IIs to the River Thames at Chiswick, Roadford Reservoir in Devon, Wimbleball Reservoir in Somerset. Refurbished Mk Is to Willington Trout Fishery, Derbyshire and Carman Fishery, West Dunbartonshire.

## Bewl Water—new Mk II replaces one of the first Wheelyboats ever supplied

A brand new Mk II Wheelyboat has joined the fleet of angling boats at Bewl Water, Tunbridge Wells. Designed to provide disabled anglers with hassle-free and independent access to the water, the new Mk II Wheelyboat replaces Bewl's elderly Mk I Wheelyboat which was one of the very first supplied nearly twenty years ago. The Mk II Wheelyboat is a significant improvement on its predecessor – it is bigger, much more stable, and is better suited to Bewl's 720 acres. It is also much better looking!

The new Wheelyboat has been funded by the J G Hogg Charitable Trust in memory of John G Hogg who died in a light aircraft accident in 2003. Also involved in the project are Southern Water (owners of Bewl) and the Environment Agency who have contributed to the purchase of a 10hp engine with electric start.

In spite of its age, Bewl's old Mk I Wheelyboat is in good condition and will not go to waste. After undergoing a thorough refit it will be sited at a smaller venue where it can once again continue to help disabled people enjoy hassle-free access to waterborne activities.

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

J G Hogg Charitable Trust, Chatsworth Country Fair, Bedford Masonic Sports Association, Truemark Trust, Gallaher plc and Lord Mason of Barnsley, Environment Agency, Strangward Trust, Jane Hodge Foundation, Misses Barrie Charitable Trust, SEM Charitable Trust, Clive Richards Charity, Charles Shorto Charitable Trust, Raymond & Blanche Lawson Charitable Trust, HDH Wills Charitable Trust, Lynn Foundation, Chapman Charitable Trust, Charles Littlewood Hill Trust, David Laing Foundation, Muriel Woellwarth Trust, Middlesex County RFU Memorial Fund, the readers of Trout & Salmon and Trout Fisherman magazines, Ian Askew Charitable Trust, Camelot Foundation and the friends and family of Richard Burt, Belton Hills Rod & Gun Club, Mary Webb Trust, members of the Salmon & Trout Association, the friends and family of Nev Butler, Weatherall Foundation, Radnor Charitable Foundation, Flydressers Guild - Rother Valley and Sussex branches, Eric Thomas, PALS Fishing Club, Lord Moynihan, Peter & Sylvia Beadsley, Verdon Smith Charitable Trust, Gerry's of Wimbledon, Maurice Melhado, Mr R H R Bomford, Marshalls Mono Ltd.

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#### THE WHEELYBOAT TRUST

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