

# Waterwheels



## Newsletter of The Wheelyboat Trust



Fur, Feather & Fin—the country sporting gift collection *are generously sponsoring this issue of Waterwheels. We hope you enjoy their latest catalogue which is jam-packed with superb gift ideas in perfect time for Christmas. Alternatively, see all the collection on their new, secure and easy-to-navigate website:*

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### 100th Wheelyboat launched!

The official launch of the 100<sup>th</sup> Wheelyboat took place at Eyebrook Reservoir in July marking a significant milestone in the history of the Trust. Wheelyboat no 100 is sponsored by Kevin Horstwood, the Trust's boatbuilder, and is a memorial to his brother, Mark.

The landmark craft, a Mk II, has replaced one of Eyebrook's two Mk I Wheelyboats which will be refurbished and given a new home. The new Mk II, which is bigger and more stable than its predecessor, is guaranteed a busy life at Eyebrook as the Wheelyboats there are used more frequently than at any other venue. In recognition of the quality of service it provides to disabled anglers, Eyebrook was last year's winner of the Alan Faulkner Memorial Award. It is particularly fitting, therefore, that Eyebrook was chosen to receive the 100<sup>th</sup> Wheelyboat.

To mark this special occasion and to celebrate the Trust's 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary, Eyebrook's owners, Corus Group plc, organised a champagne buffet lunch for 100 distinguished guests including Wheelyboat users, sponsors, supporters and representatives from associated organisations and other Wheelyboat venues.



*Dr Chris Bywater, senior Trustee of The Wheelyboat Trust, cuts the celebratory cake*

### Trust announces new Chairman

The Trust is delighted to announce the appointment of Anthony Duckworth-Chad OBE, DL as its new Chairman. The position has been vacant since the sad death of Sir Charles Morrison last May. At the meeting in October which appointed him, Mr Duckworth-Chad, a former Prime Warden of the Fishmongers' Company, said how very pleased he was to be the Trust's new head and that he had long admired its work.

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In honour of his services to the Trust, Sir Charles Morrison will have a new Wheelyboat named after him in 2006.

### Grafham Water—AFMA winners 2005



*L-r: Andy Beadsley (Wheelyboat Trust), Richard Whittaker (Suzuki Marine), John Mees (Grafham Water) and His Grace, the Duke of Rutland at the CLA Game Fair, Belvoir Castle*

Cambridgeshire's 1,560 acre reservoir, Grafham Water, is this year's winner of the Alan Faulkner Memorial Award sponsored by Suzuki Marine. John Mees, Grafham's Senior Warden, was presented with a 5hp Suzuki outboard motor by the Duke of Rutland at the CLA Game Fair in July.



The judges were very impressed with the nominations that came in for Grafham – it is clearly held in high regard for the services it provides to disabled anglers. Providing access to the water is the major issue, but fisheries can do so much more to make their fishery truly inclusive. Grafham is the epitome of a fishery where disabled anglers are as equally valued as their able-bodied counterparts. The fishing lodge, canteen, loos and shop are fully accessible; the parking is convenient and the fishery staff are helpful and enthusiastic.

Some fisheries provide only a token service to disabled anglers, but the example set by Grafham and other fisheries like it is very important for the future of the sport as it endeavours to spread its appeal. Grafham's close working relationship with the Grafham Water Fly Fishers Association, which provides tuition, help, advice and boat partners, has been vital to its success.

All in all, Grafham sets a very high standard among game-fisheries for the service, facilities, opportunities and access it offers to disabled anglers. It is therefore a very worthy winner of the 2005 award.

# Paralympian launches Wimbleball Wheelyboat

On a wet and windy day in July, Wimbleball's new Mk II was launched by local equestrian paralympian gold medal winner, Debbie Criddle. Some 30 or so local dignitaries and disabled anglers gave the new boat a warm welcome in spite of the weather. The new Mk II replaces the Mk I that had been on loan to the fishery since its original Mk I was stolen two years ago. Funding for the new boat was provided by The Percy Bilton Charity, CHK Charities Ltd and The Norman Family Charitable Trust.

On the eastern outskirts of Exmoor National Park, Wimbleball is one of the country's prettiest reservoirs. The Wheelyboat will primarily be available for trout fishing but the lake's owners, South West Lakes Trust, are keen to promote other waterborne activities on the lake's 374 acres and it will therefore also be available for pleasure boating, nature watching, etc.



Local farmer Jim Payne lends a hand



L-r: Debbie Criddle, Andy Beadsley (Wheelyboat Trust) and Evelyn Stacey (South West Lakes Trust)

## Wheelyboats at the Game Fair

At the CLA Game Fair in July, two Mk II Wheelyboats provided an important ferry service and helped new and improving fly-fishers hone their casting skills. The adult fly-casting tuition was held on the far side of the fishing lake—a short trip by water but a long one on foot. So, volunteers manned two Mk II Wheelyboats for the three days of the Fair and ferried hundreds of participants to and from the tuition area. While there was no fee for the service, the Trust used the opportunity to promote the benefits of the Wheelyboat and collecting buckets accumulated nearly £400. Many thanks to Anglian Water for providing an engine and to all the helmsmen and crew for their help.



## Field Officer

Early news of an exciting development! Grants awarded by The Henry Smith Charity and Esmée Fairbairn Foundation will cover the costs of a part-time Field Officer for three years. The post is likely to commence on January 1st and one of its roles will be to help the Trust achieve a higher profile in the north of the UK. Much more about this will appear in the spring issue.

We would like to express our enormous thanks to the following for their recent generous support: Fishmongers' Company's Charitable Trust, Percy Bilton Charity, Anton Jurgens Charitable Trust, Belton Hills Rod & Gun Club, Raymond & Blanche Lawson Charitable Trust, Suzuki GB, Charles Littlewood Hill Trust, Scott Eredine Charitable Trust, Aquarius Charitable Foundation, PALS Fishing Club, Maidstone Ex-Services Angling Club, Verdon Smith Charitable Trust, Duncton plc, Mr & Mrs Peter Beadsley, Maurice Melhado, Brian Frith, Gordon Watson, the estate of the late Sir Charles Morrison, Johnson & Johnson, Skipton Building Society, Ronnie Noble, Gwyn & Sue Hiatt, Rex Harpham, and all contributors to last spring's Waterwheel's appeal.

Our very special thanks go to Corus Group plc and their staff including Ray Prince, Andy Miller, Cornelia Taylor and Michelle Wright for organising such a tremendous party to celebrate the launch of the 100th Wheelyboat.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Recent Wheelyboat arrivals:

Mk IIs to Wimbleball Reservoir in Somerset, Eyebrook Reservoir in Leicestershire and Lake of Menteith in Stirling (official launch takes place next year—report in the spring issue). Refurbished Mk Is to Fontburn Reservoir in Northumberland and Chigboro Fisheries in Essex.

### Wheelyboats coming very soon:

Mk IIs to Lockwood Beck in North Yorkshire and Chew Lake near Bristol.

### Some projects in hand:

Mk IIs to River Thames at Chiswick and Clatworthy Reservoir in Somerset. New model Wheelyboat to River Tweed.

## Refurbished Mk Is find new homes

Chigboro Fisheries near Malden in Essex and Fontburn Reservoir near Morpeth in Northumberland have each recently taken delivery of a refurbished Mk I Wheelyboat. While the Mk I is no longer manufactured, having been superseded by the Mk II, the craft still plays a vital role in the overall Wheelyboat scene. After all, the majority of Wheelyboats built (80 out of 106) are Mk Is. Quite often, secondhand Mk Is become available, for example when they are replaced by a Mk II, and make ideal craft for smaller waters. The Trust recovers, repairs and refurbishes the Mk I—including complete replacement of the original foam in the floatation chamber—before placing it at a suitable venue, generally waters up to 50 acres. Funding for the Fontburn Mk I was provided by Northumbrian Water while the project at Chigboro was funded by Belton Hills Rod and Gun Club, Aquarius Charitable Foundation and The George John Livanos Charitable Trust. Information about these two new Wheelyboat venues and all the other Wheelyboat venues is on the Trust's website—www.wheelyboats.org.

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### THE WHEELYBOAT TRUST

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#### COUNCIL OF MANAGEMENT

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