

1. The start of the coarse season on running water started mid week with the Tees attracting most attention. Catches of chub, perch, dace and grayling rewarded anglers in the middle reaches which catches of over 22lb reported, falling to stick float and maggot combinations. Dace featured in Tyne catches.

2. Staying with the rivers the three Opens that take place each year on the Tyne are always sell outs and TAA Tyne rep Steve Hoggins does a great job in organising and running these events. It is not often Steve asks for help but is in that position now as he is looking for a number of volunteers to assist with the Tyne match pegging and bank trimming this year. The plan is to assign a section to an individual who will be responsible for pegging and clearing the pegs after the match. Anyone interested please send an email with contract details of Stephen.hoggins@btinternet.com or call on 0788 163 1870.

3. The Throckley Reigh pegs are now up and running, Les, Gordon and I spoke to some locals fishing illegally and who were initially hostile to us, but I think we won them over and they could be an asset to the TAA which they said they would be joining. Hopefully the E.A. will pay for more pegs in 2015.

4. Coarse fishing has been as pleasant as the recent weather, At WACACs QE2 Lake at Ashington, young Regan Hogg landed a potential new junior Carp record from the water, landing a superb mirror carp of 24lb 11oz. Catches of over 30lb and perch and coach to 2lb have been reported from Derwent Reservoir. The final positions in the Whittle Dene Spring League saw Nick Jose in first place followed by Steve Woods with Dave Coster in third.

5. An excellent report on the state of one of Northumberland's finest small rivers, the Blyth, has recently been completed by the Northumbrian Rivers Trust. Sadly the report points out just how much help this river needs, especially in the upper reaches of its main tributary, the river Pont. Where the Whittle Dene aqueduct system means passage up and down the river is impossible. Anyone who wishes to comment or help restore this once most beautiful river system should contact Pete Kerr on pkerr3@sky.com

6. The biggest change to Hexham AAs reviewed Health & Safety and Fishery Risk Assessment has meant that sadly unaccompanied juniors can no longer fish Wydon Burn, and I have informed Hexham that other TAA clubs will co-ordinate.

Congratulations are in order to what is arguably one of the oldest existing angling clubs on Tyneside. The University of Newcastle Employees A.C. celebrates fifty years of existence next month. It was formed by the Glendinning brothers, Bob Farrier, Alan Morpeth and John Clayton in 1964, to cater for all types of angling in a time when the region was game angling orientated. It is sad to record that those pioneers mentioned are all now dead.
