



# Dublin Trout Anglers' Association

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www.dtaa.ie

## Annual Report for the year 2023



**DTAA Members on the Spring International Team, Draycote Water, May 2023. From Left; Paul Diller Delaney, Veteran International John O'Neill, Irish Captain Fran Nugent and First Cap Dave Canning.**

### DTAA Secretary Report 2023

It is that time of the year again when we hang up the fishing gear and take stock of the season past and make plans for the 2024 fishing season.

It was great to see some new faces at DTAA events this year, and great to see the increase in membership numbers, welcome all. All members, new and old, are very welcome to attend our upcoming AGM on Friday 26th January '24 at the Lucan Spa Hotel, we are looking forward to seeing as many of you who can make it on the night. We have a guest speaker Brian Coghlan, from IFI arranged who is giving a presentation about "Barriers to Fish Passage/Habitat Degradation and Mitigation, with some Liffey examples". It is great opportunity to meet up with friends and new members getting ready for the new season, and who knows, you could be lucky enough to win the raffle for free membership, congrats to Donal Raftery at last year's AGM.

In February '23 the committee carried out extensive bank clearance upstream of Gallaghers Lane where the access along the river had become totally impassable and was cleared with steps introduced to help climb up and down the steep ditches. Well done and big thank you to all who helped out. We also re-established our access to the river through the derelict cottage beside Pausdeen Bridge. Very few members used this access in recent years, and I had not used it myself until the start of this year. The access was also improved to sections of the river downstream of Straffan Bridge. Full

details can be found on our fisheries maps which have been added to the DTAA website. Members are asked to be respectful to landowners at all times, 'leave no trace policy', always close gates, don't block existing gates when parking your car and leave your membership card on display on the dashboard.

Unfortunately, despite these improvements in access, fishing reports on the Liffey continue to be poor. Whatever has impacted the fish numbers does not seem to be fully understood. DTAA together with the Federation of Liffey anglers are monitoring conditions and engaging with IFI where ever possible .

During March '23 I did get a day to fish the Liffey and planned to try out some of the new access points. I tried upstream at Pausdeen Bridge and short stretch downstream of Straffan Bridge. After a few hours there was nothing doing, not a sign of a fish and the river may have been in flood (schoolboy error, I never checked the website for Liffey releases!). I then moved to the Upper Liffey for the afternoon, where the river is not impacted by the ESB releases. I could see fish rising upstream of Ballyward bridge and as I approach them, I was putting them down. I kept following them upstream till I found a spot where I could get a cast in without spooking the rise. I switch the 'dry dropper setup' for a small dry olive and starting catching fish. Most were between 6in and 9in with one over 10in, small and pure wild fish, very well-made with lovely markings. It was clear there were bigger fish there from the rises I could see, so I'll be back.

Myself and fellow committee member Fran Nugent took a day on the Kings River in June '23. I had not fished it before and only had a 'drive by', many years ago with former DTAA secretary Ronnie Miley RIP. It is a beautiful stretch of river and seems to be a reasonable stock of wild trout. Similar to the upper Liffey, easily spooked, I saw multiples more fish from the bank and swimming past while wading than I landed. Better quality polaroids are on the list for next year, I'm learning there is quite a difference in the underwater vision between different sunglasses. We will be updating the fishery maps on the DTAA website to include the Kings River for the coming season.

The ESB have been in contact with the club during 2023 and we are in the process of updating our fishing lease on Poulaphouca lake with them. It is a pity security and parking arrangements around the lake still seem to be an issue and hard to see how the lake can reach its potential as a fishery until such time as anglers have somewhere secure to park up their cars for a day.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the outgoing Membership Secretary, Justin Clarke for all his skills and hard work over the last few years and help in transforming the DTAA membership system to a largely online process. When Justin took up the role there was a falling membership which has since stabilised and is now increasing with much appreciation to Justin's contribution. Justin is now spending a lot his time out of the country and committee member Alan

## Secretary's Report (cont.)



the Irish Team, Irish Captain Fran Nugent, John O'Neill and Paul Delaney.

I was lucky enough to get to fish the national final on Lough Ennell in May this year. Lough Ennell can be a tough place at the best of times but competition day turned out to be sunny and flat calm most of the day which is my excuse for another Ennell blank! I need to take a leaf out of DTAA member, Donal Raftery's book landing a lovely 2.5lb/3lb brown trout on a buzzer in flat, mirror calm conditions at Dysart Point during one of my practice days.

Also, a word of thanks to DTAA Committee chairman, HLM Gary Coakley for his chairmanship and advice on all committee matters during the year. Great to see Gary on the podium for a number of the DTAA competitions this year and I understand some podium finishes outside DTAA also, so well done Gary.

Doherty with the assistance of other committee members have stepped in to take over the Membership Secretary role. Members should take note of the changed details when replying to their membership renewals.

I would also like to acknowledge and thank our Competitions Secretary Tom Hipwell. There were some difficult decisions this year with challenging weather conditions, and I think everyone will agree the correct decisions were made during the year in rescheduling DTAA competitions when necessary to ensure the safety of our members. I had a day on Owel myself with Tom in April '23 when the right decision was made and we came in early when the wind was picking up.

Many thanks to DTAA President Gerry Heaslip for all his hard work again this year. As we all know Gerry does a huge amount of work to ensure the smooth running of the club, much of which is in the background and behind the scenes in all areas. Gerry is also on the ITFFA Leinster committee and keeps us up to date on developments there. Thanks to Gerry, DTAA have added to our fleet with an extra club boat this year, and we also traded in one of our older Owel boats to a new upgraded version. Also, thanks to Alan Doherty, Willie Scully, Anthony Mc Grattan, Almha Mc Donnell, John O'Neill and HLM John Harrington for the assistance launching and recovering the boats this year.

We had an enjoyable DTAA Juvenile Day in Southern County Fishery in July '23 this year with special thanks to DTAA Treasurer, Declan Mc Kibben, Tom Hipwell, Edel Decies and Clive Mills. Hopefully some new DTAA anglers in the making. More on this later in the report.

Well done to Tom Smyth and Tom Hipwell for setting up the DTAA 'WhatsApp' Fly Tying Group this year. Some lovely flies on display each week and a nice key ring to show off the selected weekly fly. Check it out if you have not joined already. 'WhatsApp' seems like an ideal forum to keep this going during the closed season and great to see it has already started up again for this year. Anyone interested contact a committee member to get added to the group.

Congratulations to new cap this year David Canning who fished the ITFFA Spring International on Draycote in May '23. David has provided an article on his experiences on international duty in this annual report. Well done to the rest of the DTAA members who joined David on

For members who would like vehicle access to Bohernabreena you are asked to phone Gerry Heaslip, on 086 2253126 before 23rd February 2024 so there is time to have details finalised with Dublin City Council representative. In previous years it has been awkward dealing with late requests and sending Dublin City Council multiple updates of the list after the deadline has closed. They have been very accommodating to date, but we should again try to have the list finalised by the end of February.

On behalf of the committee, I wish all members a safe and a happy new year and a successful season for 2024.

Tight lines,

*Cathal, Secretary DTAA*



**Kings River Brownie back on his way after taking small nymph**

## First Cap for the Irish Team—Dave Canning



I was lucky enough to land a good trout on Lough Conn in last years' National Final and my overall third place in the competition guaranteed me not only an automatic place on the following years Leinster team but also a place on the Irish team to fish the either the Spring or Autumn International in 2023.

John O' Neill qualified in 4th place and Fran Nugent also qualified in the same competition. The bauld Diller had pre-qualified also, meaning D.T.A.A. would have an unprecedented four international anglers fishing in 2023, with me being the only one of the four that hadn't previously been capped. We would soon get the great news that not only would we all be fishing together on the Spring International team, but that our very own Fran Nugent would be team captain!

The venue and date for the match was to be Draycote Water in Rugby, Warwickshire on the 19th of May 2023 and Fran got down to work quickly, organising an excellent WhatsApp group where a variety of tactics, flies, clothing, equipment, fishing reports, raffles, online and in person meetings and practice days were discussed and arranged.

Our first face to face meeting was in Mullingar on the 5th of February and Fran had arranged for Denis Goulding to give us a team talk on the art of bung fishing. Denis was just out of hospital after having a procedure but very kindly gave us his time and expertise explaining the intricacies of this much misunderstood method and I know that a lot of the team, myself included, learned a lot from that talk.

It was quickly decided that we

would concentrate our efforts on buzzer fishing in the main, as this was by far the most productive method at that particular time of year on most of the UK reservoirs and an initial practice weekend was organised on Lough Rowan in County Leitrim on the 1st and 2nd of April. The lake had just been stocked with plenty of hard fighting, well conditioned rainbows and the fishing was nothing short of fantastic, with plenty of practice obtained in all of the main buzzer fishing methods by all.

A second practice day was arranged on Lough Lene in Collinstown on the 7th of May, the week prior to our departure, where some of the less experienced buzzer fishing practitioners amongst us had a final opportunity to hone our new found skills prior to departure to the UK.

After a smooth sailing and an enjoyable coach trip, we ended up at our team hotel on the Monday the 14th of May. The first of our practice days started the next morning and I was picked to fish with captain fantastic, Fran Nugent. We fished our pre-designated zones and I



got fish straight lining with the 6" and 12" tip line but found that the bung was generally working best for me. Surprisingly, it seemed that the fish wanted the bung moved slightly or ever stripped slowly!

I fished with Sean Crean and Kenny Balfour on the following two days and on the last practice day I fished with Stephen Browne. Stephen as some of you may know is an expert dry fly man on the Loughs and at one stage, he told me the secret to the dry fly was to be "very fast and very accurate" when casting to a rising fish. When Stephen did both on his next cast and the fish didn't look at his flies, I decided to stick to buzzers under the bung on match day. Stephen went on to get top Irish rod and the Lafferty Cup on match day with 12 fish, all got on dries out in the middle!

Match day arrived and I hadn't felt such nerves since the day I got married a few years earlier. Marching with rod in hand with your teammates with the drone of the bagpipes at full blast was an experience I won't forget.

I was picked to fish with a very experienced Welsh international who had previously won the brown bowl. I won the toss and we headed straight to Biggins Bay which had been good to me on the practice days. Unfortunately, my luck on the day wasn't in and for some reason that I still can't quite fathom, the bung was not working for me. My fishing partner out fished me but as advised by Michael Monaghan earlier in the week, I decided to take my medicine and stay over the fish for most of the day.

I only managed two fish to the net by 3pm with one being discounted as my hand was not on the rod when the fish took as I was releasing the engine from weed. I changed to my trusty 6" tip for the last half hour at the sailing club and hooked two fish in the last 15 minutes but unfortunately the fish ran straight for the boat and I lost them both. How I didn't throw either the rod or myself in the water at that point I'll never know!

In the end, England romped home in first place with Scotland in second and Ireland ending up with a very respectable third place, managing to avoid the dreaded wooden spoon, which was awarded to the Wales team. In fairness, a truly exceptional England team were never going to be caught by anyone on the day in their home international.

All in all, it was a fantastic experience for me as a novice international with plenty learned and plenty still to work on and a big thanks to Fran Nugent ably assisted by Michael Monaghan, for steering the ship along the way and leaving no stone unturned to ensure that the team did as well as they possibly could on match day.

*Dave Canning*

## Dublin pipped by half a fish to Mayo!



**Conn and Cullin's Padraig Traynor presenting the Hatchet Cup to DTAA's Gary Coakley**

Conditions were far better (aside from an hour in the late afternoon) than the previous day. Gary Coakley returned two fish over 13" and was honoured with the Pratt Cup in top position. Soon to be twice Ireland capped, and DTAA Bon vivant Paul Delaney took second position. Dublin had the majority of the ten bags that were weighed in. Gary Coakley, with no shortage of well deserved pride, won the coveted Hatchet Cup from our host Padraig Traynor. This is a long standing grudge competition between Gary and Padraig and provides much entertainment to the anglers that take part in the Crossmolina weekend each year.

There were a number of DTAA members joining this weekend for the first time or who returned after a break. These included Edel and Marcus who each had a fish on either day. Also vintage Dub team members the O'Neill father and



**Paul Diller Delaney being presented with the Ronnie Miley Trophy for the best performing angler from both teams across both days.**

There was only one fish in it at the end of the day, with Lough Conn and Cullin measuring 15 fish over 11" to Dublin's 14. The Dublin Bowl stayed in Crossmolina after a hard days fishing with the top performers coming from Cloghans, Abbey Shore, Castle Hill bay and Massbrook.

On the Saturday temperatures were a bit lower than forecast but the wind in the earlier part of the day was encouraging. The morning was the most productive as the later afternoon became flat calm with the occasional breeze or shower stirring things up and providing an opportunity to the eager angler. Best of the dubs on day one was Justin Clarke who measured 3 fish. There were some mayfly but not enough and not for long enough for the fish to be on them. Enjoyable fishing and conditions were at times perfect, the action, however, was less than what the local anglers are accustomed to for this time of year, with several saying that the Mayfly was about two weeks late due to the wettest March for a long time.

Day 2 was the individual competition.



**Edel Decies in the prizes on Conn**

son team were in the prizes on day two, and Ray one of very few anglers who returned fish on both days.

International angler, and DTAA's most photographed angler, Paul 'Diller' Delaney won the Ronnie Miley trophy for the best performing angler from both teams across both days.

There were many funny moments and memories: Padraig slugging the Dubs who have 4 internationals this year including Captain Fran Nugent, for not showing up on day one! Another funny one only became evident at the weigh in and in the banter between anglers. On the Sunday, everyone thought that DTAA Captain Willie Scully had a four pound trout in Castlehill Bay. This news made it through to lads fishing over in Cullin (Diller, Colm, Stephen) and apparently the shoulders dropped, with the chance of beating that slim to none. What Willie has in fact caught a pike of over ten pounds, which, having been photographed, was returned. Tom Timoney lost a great fish well over four pounds in Castlehill that came to a Connemara Black... the fish was on for 10 or 15 seconds before the line slackened. Somehow this beast had dislodged the hook. Tom was fit to be tied and went through the five stages of loss: shock disbelief anger regret and acceptance!

Overall an excellent weekend and the highlight of the angling calendar for many anglers. Huge thanks to Padraig and Orla for organising and hosting and for the Mayo anglers who boated many of us around the lakes and were generous with their good company and fishing knowledge. It was great too to see Johnny Warren again, the seasoned angler getting in the prizes on day two with a fish at 5.20pm. Tight lines and looking forward already to Crossmolina 2024.

*Declan McKibben, Treasurer,  
DTAA*



**Solving the Problems of the World and analysing what went wrong for the Dubs!**

## DTAA Fly Tying



A few years ago on Lough Sheelin with Tom Hipwell we were talking with Paddy Lyons before going on the water and he advised us to try Mayfly Nymphs for a few hours before the late evening hatch arrived. In the couple of hours afterwards we had 3 fine Brown Trout in the boat. They were between 3 and 5 Lbs. More significantly they were on Mayfly Nymphs which we had tied the previous night. It just doesn't get better than that.

The following winter we heard that the Vartry Anglers had a closed season fly tying competition driven by John Mullins and we were fortunate to be accepted. They have some very fine fly tyers who are also very encouraging. One season was enough to motivate

us to propose that DTAA would benefit from something similar. After all we have a good membership with a fair number of exceptional tyers.

So last year got the thing going and some weeks we have had as many as 17 entries. There have been weeks where the entry has been lower and we would love to see some new and old faces get involved. An unexpected benefit I've found is the chats around sourcing materials and tools along with suggestions regarding what flies to use on different waters and times of year based on how the naturals are behaving. Now on a slightly different note I would like to suggest to members new to tying that before they go to make a purchase of material or tools that they might post their needs on the site. I am sure that most tyers have some duplicate articles lying in a drawer and may be willing to donate to help get a young member started at the craft. And this leads me to something else to help in developing our skills as fly tyers.

I'm thinking here of the possibility of organising a few nights before the season opens where we can get together with our tying kits and spend time one to one tying a limited number of pat-

terns. It would be time well spent both on the vise and getting to meet and chat and keep in contact through the winter.

And of course we could also cover the topic of dyeing feathers which adds further to the satisfaction of turning out your own flies while saving some money at the same time.

So I invite as many as possible to join us in the tying competition and the one to one tying class and dyeing when we get it arranged.

Without doubt you will derive enjoyment and satisfaction from it.

*Tom Smyth DTAA*



## The River Liffey, Now and Then

As part of this year's annual report, I have been asked to submit an update on how our lovely River Liffey is fishing presently. This is based on my own personal experience without any scientific evidence to back up my opinions.

I have been fishing on the River Liffey for over 30 years and unfortunately, I have noticed a huge decline in the number of trout in the Clane/Straffan fishery over the last four or five years. This decline led me to fish elsewhere on the River Liffey and in other rivers. Most anglers who would have fished in Clane will remember the

days when you could go down for an evening rise and see fish everywhere. You could walk up Paddy's Strand and nearly have to step over trout because they were so plentiful. It was the same for both sides of Dunne's Island and indeed, all the shallow runs in the Clane fishery. It didn't matter whether it was day time or in the evening, you would always have some success. I fished in Clane on four occasions in 2023 and had minimal success, which I believe is due to the very low number of trout in this area. The DTAA postponed their club competitions on the River Liffey, as did Clane Anglers, the local club, again due to the low number of trout in the river.

In 2021 the IFI did a fish stock survey by way of electro fishing on several different parts of the River Liffey, including Clane. Although the number of trout was up and down in different areas, the Clane fishery showed the smallest number of trout. This was followed up by a meeting in 2022 to update Liffey fishing clubs on the results of survey and what they found. In their survey report, the IFI recognised that the number of trout in Clane was low but they didn't seem to have any

major concerns. They explained it was not unusual for the number of trout in any river to fluctuate year on year. They suggested that weed growth could be a factor, but did not rule out other possibilities, such as water quality or pollution. This report is still in the early stages and hopefully, with the IFI's support and help, we can determine the cause. To finish on a more positive note, in the early 1990's the Clane/Straffan fishery went through a similar period of very low numbers of trout, but after the upgrade of Osberstown Sewage Treatment Plant later on in the 90s, the fish and indeed the fishing improved greatly. This situation continued until 2017 or so, until the numbers began to decline again. Four or five years ago North Kildare Trout and Salmon Anglers who lease the fishing from just above Clane all the way to Newbridge and past Athgarvan had some concerns about fish stocks in their fishery. Since then, the fish stocks have improved significantly for them, so hopefully this is just a temporary situation for the Dublin Trout Anglers.

If any DTAA members have had a different experience than this, we would love to hear from you.

*Fran Nugent, DTAA, 2023 Ireland Captain*



## Family Fishing Day

The annual juvenile outing was a great success. DTAA and Dodder Anglers hosted the event at the Southern County Fishery in Garryhill which took place on 16th July, more than 30 people were attending with 14 young anglers competing for the prizes. The emphasis was on fun and 'giving it a go' rather than competition, however, with only two anglers netting fish. Joseph Swayne took top spot with 4 fish while Fionn Kenny came second with a brown trout.

Smiles all around, several people felt the strike of a fish, others lost fish and we all saw many fish moving to the surface. Liam Butler from Raheny lost a lovely fish on the bank for want of a net!!!

Needless to say, everyone got a prize or a goodie bag and went home satisfied, fed and hopefully with a growing passion for fishing. We hope these young anglers and others will join us for the next day out (date to be agreed).

Thanks to Declan, Gerry (Hogarty), Cath-

al, Tom, Edel, Clive and Stephanie for volunteering their time, and for Clive for delivering on the BBQ services ensuring that we were all fed.

A big thanks to Dave McBride and Southside Angling for supporting us with prizes and to Shane O'Reilly from IFI for providing prizes and angling information. Thanks also to Southern County Fishery for hosting.

*Declan McKibben*



Declan with the Junior Anglers on the family fishing day, Southern County Fishery, 16th July '23

## Treasurer's Report 2023



Declan competing in the ITFFA Corcoran Cup Leinster Qualifier, Lough Owel

2023 was a busy year, with 21 members travelling to Crossmolina for the annual weekender, new boats bought, and an extra competition to the already hectic social schedule. The Profit and Loss statement for 2023 showed a model surplus of income over expenditure of €13 (the accounts are subject to audit later in January). Last year we had a surplus of just over €1000. There are a couple of key expenditure areas in 2023 that account for this: Foremost is the Fishery Development category where we have purchased 2 new boats in 2023 at approximately €3,500 (as mentioned in the Secretary's report earlier). Another additional expense this year was the juvenile outing in July. This cost €483 to run but we had a generous contribution from Dodder anglers of €150 (see separate report for more details on this event).

As mentioned earlier, the Crossmolina trip was a great success with 21 members travelling for this inspirational event. Due to higher than expected hospitality costs, we went €58 over budget but given that the competitions are running profitably this year, we are happy that this will not impact other activities or commitments in DTAA.

The financial statements will soon be audited by the external auditors and I look forward to giving a more comprehensive report at the AGM later this month.

*Declan McKibben (Treasurer)*

## Christmas Outing 2023

DTAA had our annual Christmas outing in Laois Angling Centre on 25 November with 14 anglers catching and releasing 53 fish. The weather wasn't too bad with only a small drizzle shower during the day. Our winner on the day was Brian Conway with a tremendous 15 fish, while Matt Clarke took the second spot with 11 fish and 3rd place for DTAA President Gerry Heaslip with 7 fish.

A big thank you to all who took part to make it a very enjoyable day. Also a big thank you to John at the angling centre for his prize voucher which was won by Alan Doherty in 4th place. Looking forward to seeing you all in the new season tight lines for 2024

*Gerry Heaslip*



**Xmas Winners, First Place Brian Conway, 2nd Place Matt Clarke and 3rd Place DTAA President Gerry Heaslip**

## Bohernabreena Report

Fishing in Bohernabreena was very mixed this year with the upper lake water levels been high for the whole season which was due to works been carried out on the Ballyboden treatment plant, hopefully the work will be finished early in the new year and the fishing will be back to normal,

The lower lake fished very well during the season with some nice rainbows and even some nicer brown trout been caught on both dry and wet fly patterns.

The weather did affect the lower lake at times due to spells of heavy rain and water levels changing up and down which can put the fish down. All in all it's still a beautiful fishery and I'm looking forward to spending more time there next season. Hope to see you there.

Members wishing to access Bohernabreena by car during 2024 should contact Gerry Heaslip: 086 225 3126 and provide their car registration details before 25 February 2024. Places are limited, so please only request access if you intend using this fishery.

*Gerry Heaslip*

## D.T.A.A. Boat Booking & Rules

DTAA have now got four club boats available to our members, 3 boats on Lough Owel and 1 boat on Lough Lene.

To book a club boat for you day's Fishing please call Gerry Heaslip on 0862253126 and John O'Neill on 0876316987.

The following rules apply to DTAA boat use:

- The use of DTAA boats is for members only for insurance reasons
- Boat must be booked in advance with boat manager, Gerry Heaslip and John O'Neill for their contact details, please see membership card
- Life jackets must be worn at all times
- After use, pull boat well up on shore and place tyres under each side
- Lock the oars under the seats and lock the front of the boat to the ground chain
- Leave the boat clean and tidy and take all your litter home
- Don't forget to return keys

Please exercise care on the water and make sure you look at the weather forecast before setting out.

*Gerry Heaslip*



**DTAA Angler of the Year 2023  
Gerry Heaslip, DTAA President 2019-2023**



**Pasker Cup, Lough Owel, 25th March '23**



**Ian Rowand Cup, Lough Owel, 29th September**



**Elvery Cup, Lough Lene, 19th August '23**



**Comp. Sec. Fantastic Tom Hipwell**



**LM Byrne Cup, Lough Lene, 22nd April '23**



## Competition Review 2023

Wow what a year 2023 was! DTAA held 7 competitions for the first time. Overall, we had great turnouts to all our competitions with amazing spirit and camaraderie. We had 5 different winners this year and once again we had the 'Angler of the Year' decided at the final competition of the year, the McCarron Cup. Gerry Heaslip took the honours this year with 41 points with Gary Coakley and Tom Hipwell in joint 2nd with 27 points.

This is Gerry's 4th time winning the David Ring Cup and steps into 2nd place in DTAA folklore on his own now. Fran Nugent has an amazing 7 wins with Gary Coakley and Paul Dunne on 3 wins each. This competition has been running since 1985 and the first winner of this coveted trophy was the one and only Noel Ross.



**Anglers anticipation, Mc Carren Weigh-In, 23rd Sept '23**

JP Johnson was the winner of the Junior Angler for the second year in a row. JP will now compete in the senior competitions next year so watch out everyone!

We managed to hold one junior outing in Carlow in July with a turnout of 14 juniors. What a great day it was, fishing was tough on the day but the enthusiasm and great BBQ run by Clive made up for it! In 2024 we would really like to see more junior involvement and more junior outings.

We had a good year in terms of participation for the ITFFA qualifiers with 11 anglers entering both competitions. With Fran Nugent winning heaviest fish at the Corcoran Cup (Leinster qualifier for the National InterPro) in April on Lough Owel and Gary Coakley was 2nd in the National Qualifier on Lough Lene. Gary will be joined by 7 other DTAA anglers of the ITFFA National in Killarney next year. Well done to all.

Next year at the Corcoran Cup, each addition Trout marked on the card will be counted at 2lbs instead of 1lbs.

In terms of the qualifying for next year's team, John O'Neill came 3rd in the National Interpro on Lough Conn in September and won the Moylett Cup for Top Leinster Rod and qualifies to fish for Ireland on Lough Ennell next year, good luck John.

We had amazing representation for the Irish International Team this year with no less than 4 DTAA angler on the same team on Draycote Water in May, Fran Nugent was the captain for Ireland and what a huge honour for him and DTAA that was. Fran put in a huge

amount of work in the lead-up to the competition and the team finished a respectable 3rd overall. No stone was left unturned with lots of meetings and practice days. Dave Canning won his first Cap for Ireland also, and has written a report contained in this publication.

The Leinster Shield was fished on Lough Owel and is a competition that is for all club Committees. Our team captained by Declan McKibben finished a very respectable 3rd on the day. Team - Declan McKibben, Alan Doherty, Anthony McGratten and Willie Scully.

We also fished ITFFA Fundraiser in September we entered 2 teams, fishing was tough in the day with one of our teams getting close with 6 fish and the winners had 8,

The Teams :Gary Coakley, Gerry Heaslip, Cathal McDonnell, and Fran Nugent, John O'Neill, Dave Canning and Paul Delaney.

We had our annual Christmas outing in Laois Angling Centre on the 25th November with 14 anglers catching and releasing 53 fish. The weather wasn't too bad with only a small drizzle shower during the day. Our winner on the day was Brian Conway with a tremendous 15 fish, while Matt Clarke took the second spot with 11 fish and 3rd place for DTAA President Gerry Heaslip with 7 fish.

And I leave the best to last. My competitions committee of Gerry, Declan and Clive, thanks so much for all your help and amazing effort this year. I think everyone will agree we had an amazing year and the craic was mighty.

*Tom Hipwell, Competitions Secretary*



**JP Johnson winning the Ian Rowand Cup Junior's prize, presented by Competition Secretary, 29th July '23**



**Gary Coakley HLM, DTAA Committee Chairman, into a fish at Elvery Cup, Lough Lene, which Gary went on to win 1st place. One week later Gary would go on to win the Ryder Cup in Bohernabreena.**

**Like Gary, PJ O Driscoll also had a double win in the first two DTAA competitions of '23**



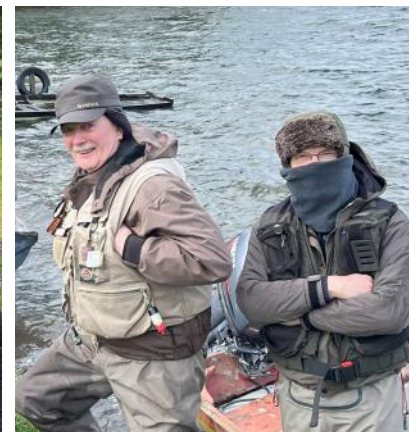
**Treasurer Declan McKibben, Comp Sec Tom Hipwell and President Gerry Heaslip ready to cast off.**



**Gerry Heaslip, John O'Neill, Fran Nugent and Gary Coakley taking lunch on Srudarra Island, Lough Owel**



**The Graveyard lunch stop, Lough Owel- Diller, it's a boat not the catwalk!!**



**Paul Dunne and Richie Duggan, waiting for the starting hooter.**



**Dermot Flynn looking for his crock of Gold at the Pasker Cup, 25th March '23**



**Always great craic at the dinner after each days fishing on the Crosmolina Weekend, Conn and Cullen Team Captain Brendan Murphy (on right) in the prizes and delighted with the Mayo win.**



**Enjoying the World Cup Rugby at the end of season dinner, Greville Arms Hotel, following Mc Carron Cup 23rd September '23.**

# Boating Safety

In the past few years, a considerable number of new members have joined DTAA The Association has boats available for members to use, and as the boats are not closely supervised, it is up to members to exercise caution when using boats to ensure that they are safe at all times. We have collected a few thoughts on boat safety to guide inexperienced members, and to refresh the knowledge of the old-salts among us.

The most important advice we can give is that you should know the lake you are going out on. Do not boat on a lake if you are unfamiliar with the area you are going to. Always take a person with knowledge of the lake with you before you set out.

Secondly, try to avoid emergency situations before they can occur by being cautious and by acting sensibly. Once an emergency occurs on the water it can quickly become very serious and life-threatening. Bad weather is a major contributor to boat accidents, do not go out in bad weather or if bad weather is forecasted.

Always be prepared for engine failure. If you would not be able to control the boat on the oars, then it is not suitable to go out.

## **BY LAW, LIFEJACKETS ARE REQUIRED TO BE WORN AT ALL TIMES**

### Before you go on the water:

1. Make sure that you consult the weather forecast, especially the wind strength. Be aware of weather warnings that may be active. Check inland lakes forecast on [www.met.ie](http://www.met.ie).
2. Check water conditions before you launch – definitely do not go out if you see spray being blown off the waves, but do not wait until conditions get this extreme. Met Eireann issues a small-craft warnings for Beaufort Scales 5 and above (wind greater than 30km/hr) and it is recommended that club members exercise extreme care well before the weather even approaches these conditions.
3. Ensure that you are warmly dressed and that you wear appropriate footwear
4. Make sure that someone knows where you plan to go and how long you will be on the water
5. Make sure you have some means of communication (mobile phone), it is charged and waterproofed.
6. Ensure your engine is properly serviced in good running order
7. Ensure that your engine is securely attached to the boat and that you have used a safety chain.
8. Make sure that the engine kill-switch is attached to the helmsman.
9. Make sure you have sufficient petrol, and it is of the correct type (e.g. 2-stroke oil), make sure that your fuel tank bleed valve is open.
10. Essential boat equipment:
  - Set of oars
  - Bailing bucket
  - Length of rope (preferably a floating rope)
11. Bail out the boat and remove any slime from the floor of the boat to prevent slipping
12. Make sure that there is no rope trailing from the boat which may catch in the propeller. Use rope secured to the bow of the boat that is no longer than the boat so it can not catch in the propeller.
13. Pack things neatly in the boat to avoid tripping over your equipment
14. Make sure your boat partner knows how to use your engine; you may need them to take over in an emergency.

### As you go on the water perform the following initial checks:

1. Ensure that your engine is working correctly, if you suspect any issues with your engine return to shore.
2. Observe that engine cooling water flow from the impeller is working.
3. After a few minutes, recheck the engine clamps just in case engine vibrations may have loosened the clamps.

4. Make sure that you have read water conditions correctly from shore and return to shore if it is worse than you first thought.
5. Ensure boatman and partner keep the boat trim, particularly when motoring the boat in heavy weather.

### General boating advice:

1. Do not overload the boat, generally we should not have more than two anglers in the boat.
2. Do not stand up in the boat unnecessarily. When moving in the boat, keep your centre of gravity low. Warn your partner if you intend to move or lean over the side of the boat so they can counterbalance if necessary. It is best to bend over and make sure you are holding onto the boat with both your hands and then only move one of your four limbs at a time when moving in the boat.
3. Ensure weight is distributed evenly in the boat. Avoid too much weight on one side of the boat as well as having weight too far forward or too far back.
4. Travel slowly, particularly in areas you are not familiar with or when approaching shore. 'If you think you are travelling slow enough – slow down!'
5. In high waves, try to travel into the waves, and do not travel along the waves.
6. Take care when you are travelling downwind in heavy waves as the waves may cause the boat to broach (turn sideways) and capsize.
7. Adjust your speed when in heavy weather do not go too fast or too slow, concentrate on meeting each wave at the correct angle, speed and under the correct power.
8. If stopping on shore for a short while, make sure that your boat is properly secured, particularly if the wind is blowing away from the shore.
9. When underway, make sure that you are on constant lookout for other boats or markers indicating underwater hazards, a good way to do this is to move the boat slightly from port to starboard and back as you travel as this allows you to scan the water ahead.
10. When possible, always approach a shoreline from the leeward side of an island or a point.

### When you get back to shore:

1. Secure the boat properly:
  - Make sure that you have pulled it up sufficiently
  - Ensure that the boat is securely tethered
2. Support the sides of the boat with tyres and ensure that the boat cannot bash against other boats.
3. Ensure that the boat and oars are securely locked and the keys stowed
4. Remove all your belongings, litter and discarded fishing line.



**This is how to leave the DTAA boat securely on the shore**



**PJ O'Driscoll,  
Pasker Cup Winner 2023**



**PJ O'Driscoll,  
LM Byrne Cup Winner 2023**



**Tom Hipwell, Anna Livia Tro-  
phy Winner 2023**



**Gerry Heaslip, Ian Rowland Tro-  
phy Winner 2023**



**Gary Coakely  
Elvery Cup Winner 2023**



**Gary Coakely  
Ryder Cup Winner 2023**



**Cathal McDonnell, McCarron  
Cup Winner 2023**



**JP Johnson Elvery Cup Junior  
Winner 2023**



**John O'Neill top Leinster rod at  
National InterPro on Lough Conn**



**2022 DTAA Angler of the Year, Tom Hipwell receives his  
trophy from Gerry Heaslip at Jan '23 AGM**



**Juvenile Angler of the Year 2022: JP Johnson,  
presented at the Jan '23 AGM**

## Competition Results 2023

Position	Angler	No. Fish	Weight (lbs)
<b>Pasker Cup 25 th March Lough Owel</b>			
1	P J O Driscoll	2	7.715
2	Hubert Smith	2	4.96
3	John O'Neill	1	4.805
<b>LM Byrne Cup 22nd April 2023 Lough Lene</b>			
1	P J O Driscoll	1	4.23
2	Richard Duggan	1	4.18
3	Gerry Heaslip	1	3.5
<b>Anna Livia Trophy 18th June Bohernabreena</b>			
1	Tom Hipwell	2	2.71
2	Gerry Heaslip	2	2.07
3	Fran Nugent	2	1.86
<b>Ian Rowand trophy 29th July 2023 Lough Owel</b>			
1	Gerry Heaslip	2	4.31
2	Tom Hipwell	2	3.715
3	Jim Keeshan	2	3.525
<b>Elvery Cup 19th August 2023 Lough Lene</b>			
1	Gary Coakley	1	4.22
2	Almha Mc Donnell	1	3.695
3	Jim Keeshan	1	3.605
<b>Ryder Cup 27th August 2023 Bohernabreena</b>			
1	Gary Coakley	2	1.835
2	Dave Canning	2	1.525
3	John O'Neill	2	1.36
<b>McCarron Cup 23rd September 2023 Lough Owel</b>			
1	Cathal Mc Donnell	2	5.79
2	Brian Conway	2	4.885
3	Tony Mc Grattan	2	4.83

## Angler Of The Year 2023—Standings

Position	Name	Points
1	Gerry Heaslip	41
2	Gary Coakley	27
3	Tom Hipwell	27
4	Cathal Mc Donnell	22
5	Fran Nugent	21
6	Alan Doherty	20
7	P J O Driscoll	20
8	Hubert Smith	19
9	Jim Keeshan	18
10	John O'Neill	16

### Notice to Members

Please note that juvenile members must be accompanied by an adult member when fishing on Association waters or in an event, organised by the Association. The accompanying adult, if not a permanent member, must have a day permit for the day in question. This is an insurance requirement and must be obeyed.

Where non-DTAA members are accompanying members on a DTAA boat the DTAA member must notify the boat manager (Gerry Heaslip or John O' Neill) when booking the boat so that the non member becomes a member for the day. Alternatively Day Membership is obtainable on the DTAA website.

Members should return their Membership Renewal Form with payment of their annual sub as soon as they can. This will help us to compile the statement of fish caught and make the necessary return to the IFI in good time. Thank you,

### Membership Secretary

#### Care On The River

Be aware that water levels in the Liffey can rise rapidly due to water release from the ESB works at Poulaphuca, data is available on-line and please check before venturing out on the water. Water can take between 11 to 15 hours to reach our waters.

#### Release Fish Safely

DTAA asks its members to take great care when releasing fish. Please revive your fish in a net in the water before releasing it. Always wet your hands before handling a live fish. Ensure that the fish is fine before releasing it. Please do not remove fish unnecessarily.

**Dave Ring Cup:** awarded to the member scoring the most aggregate points in Association fly-fishing competitions. This year with 41 Points; **Angler of the year: Gerry Heaslip**

**Martin Donohoe Trophy** (presented by Tara Mines). Awarded to the member catching the heaviest trout in Association fly fishing competitions. Winner: **John O'Neill 4.8lbs.** in the Pasker Cup Competition.

The **Ronnie Miley Trophy** was awarded to **Paul Delany (DTAA)** who was the best overall angler on the Crossmolina weekend.

**Bob Allen Cup:** Awarded to the juvenile based on competition results and general commitment to the club. **JP Johnson**

**Dave Canning, Fran Nugent & John O'Neill and Paul Delaney** all fished in 2023 internationals. Fran was nominated as captain.

**John O'Neill** Top Leinster rod at National InterPro on Lough Conn

## Membership Report

DTAA membership has remained constant over recent years and we welcomed a fair number of new members over the years. We welcome all new members to DTAA. However membership numbers remain historically low, please encourage interested people to join.

Please inform the membership secretary of any changes to your contact details so we can remain in contact.

Furthermore, we are continuing moving increasingly to email as our primary means of communication, both for cost and efficiency reasons. Please make sure that we have your email address.

Most members make use of our on-line payment channel to pay subscriptions and fees this has proved to be an easy and secure payment method.. On-line payment really make the job of the membership secretary and the treasurer much easier, and we would encourage all members to avail of this option.

Due to personal circumstances, Justin Clarke will be stepping down as membership secretary and Alan Doherty will assume this role in 2024. Justin wishes to thank everyone for their support over the past 5 years.

Thank you,

*Justin Clarke & Alan Doherty Membership Secretary*

## APPRECIATION

The committee wish to express the gratitude of the Association to the following: Mr Dan O'Brien, our Waterkeeper in Clane.

Rory's and Southside Angling for their generous donation of prizes for our weekend trip to Lough Conn and Juvenile Outing.

Charles Camping, Blessington for selling our day permits for the Liffey fisheries.

All the Landowners, who facilitate us in getting to the river bank.

The Managers and Staff of IFI, for their help and advice during the year.

Mr Michael Doolan who look after our boat requirements on Lough Owel.

Mr Tommy Fagan, who looks after our boat on Lough Lene.

The Many Members who contributed generously to the Association's Fishery Development Fund.

DTAA wishes to offer condolences to family members of all deceased members over the last year. In particular former DTAA member Noel O'Neil (Snr) and Paddy Donaghy (Snr) RIP



End of Season—Lifting the boats