



Salmon & Trout Association

Fighting for the future of game angling

Patron: HRH The Prince of Wales

President: The Duke of Northumberland

THE SALMON AND TROUT ASSOCIATION WALES

Virginia Hawkins
Clerk to the Sustainability Committee,
Welsh Assembly Government,
Cardiff Bay,
Cardiff,
CF991NA

Nica Prichard
Welsh representative,
Spring Gardens,
Parrog Rd,
Newport Pembrokeshire,
SA420RJ
20th August 2009

Dear Ms Hawkins,

Inquiry in to Access to Inland Water in Wales.

The following is the submission to the inquiry into Access to Inland water in Wales on behalf of **The Salmon and Trout Association Wales**. We make our submission representing 242 individual members 27 clubs (Approx 10,000 members) and 10 trade members in Wales.

Q1.

I represent a great number ,as above ,of Welsh angling members. I represent Wales on the management Council of the Salmon and Trout Association in Fishmongers Hall London. I chair fisheries for the Local West Wales Fisheries Group for the Environment Agency I was secretary of Nevern anglers for 16 years I am Chairman of Rosebush fly fishing society. Am a member of Llandyssul , Llys y fran and Nevern Angling clubs and sit on WSTAA 's executive. With another hat on I am President of Newport Boat club. All the clubs I belong to provide day tickets available to the general public.

Q2.

Apart from the above I am a Federation of Welsh Angler's level 2 coach and teach all methods of fishing. I am a founder of WLAD (Welsh ladies Angling Development) we concentrate on teaching women and children. I am on the staff of Casting For Recovery, teaching fly fishing to women who have or have had breast cancer. We run 3 day retreats all over England Scotland Ireland and Wales .I also fish and have done for 20years in the Ladies Welsh fly fishing team.

I am president of the Newport Boat Club and have taught canoeing !!

In fact my children and grandchildren complain I am never home!!!

Q3.

Whilst secretary of Nevern Anglers we purchased two very good stretches of water. one private negotiation and the latter through an agent..

We lease from farmers other stretches with the right of access.

Q4.

Legal rights.

I am married to a lawyer so that we have secured our leases and purchases with in the law and our access and egresses are well defined. Over the years we have erected groins and created pools for migrating fish to rest in low water conditions We have stopped all fishing in these conditions so as to avoid exploitation The Nevern is a small spate river and considerable damage can be done to stock and the environment Certainly canoeing and rafting would be harmful at certain times.

Q5

Voluntary agreements.

Whilst Secretary of Nevern Anglers I was also Commodore of the local boat club. It was therefore easy to broker conditions between canoes and anglers.

Only recently the WCU visited the club and we offered them all our facilities, namely shower and changing rooms. Bar, limited food, and rooms to have meetings and run courses in Canoeing We have safety boats available too.

It was pointed out that the area of river would be restricted as so many of our members were anglers. I am sure given a little time for discussions then we could negotiate further agreement for river access. This is the only way forward.

Further comments.

Thank you for reading this far I am sure that you are inundated with volatile correspondence on the subject. I fear for the future if free access is given to canoeists. There will undoubtedly be conflict. This can be avoided with common sense prevailing. Others will have covered the topics of insurance, licences etc I look forward to a united approach as someone with a foot in both camps. If I can assist in any way I would be delighted to do so.

I enclose a list of member clubs and trade names also The Salmon and Trout Association's policy on Canoeing. I have not included the 242 individual members. We have many other members who do not reside in Wales but fish here contributing considerably to the rural economy.

Incidentally I was honoured this year with the MBE for services to angling and the environment .- no mention of canoeing!!

Diolch yn fawr,

Yr eiddoch

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nica Prichard". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line underneath the name.

Mrs Nica Prichard. M.B.E.