

AnglingTimes NATIONAL ANGLING AWARDS

ANGLING CLUB OF THE YEAR
WINDERMERE, AMBLESIDE
& DISTRICT ANGLING
ASSOCIATION



QR codes direct anglers to a catch return form.



FORWARD-THINKING CLUB CLINCHES TITLE

Windermere, Ambleside & District Angling Association wins coveted Club of the Year award

TECHNOLOGY has an increasingly large part to play in everyday life, but when it comes to fishery management, it's fair to say that we've been pretty slow to adapt.

However, one club that has embraced the latest scientific know-how to its advantage are Windermere, Ambleside & District AA (WADAA), who have just been voted Angling Club of the Year.

They're reaping the rewards of a pro-active approach using state-of-the-art technology to protect their stocks and make the fishing in their waters as good as possible for members.

After a fish-kill in 2019, the club realised how unprepared they were for our rapidly

changing weather, so decided to invest in oxygen and water temperature gauges, the readings of which members can access via the club's website. In addition, they've invested heavily to protect their venues from predators, so they now not only offer better fishing but have also seen their membership swell to an impressive 1,600 members, with another 450 on the waiting list.

WADAA manager, Nick Butterfield, was pleased to have been recognised with the award, and hopes it'll help the club continue to thrive.

"I can't believe we've won, to

be honest!" he admitted. "But it's really nice that all our hard work is paying off. We like to use as much technology as we can, and in this last year, with record temperatures and droughts, we've really reaped the benefits. We hardly lost any fish and were notified instantly

by our equipment when the oxygen levels and temperatures in our ponds reached unsafe levels. We were able to act immediately, which made all the difference.

"Although the investment to get set up initially can be high, I'd advise all clubs to do it."

In addition to using technology to safeguard stocks, WADAA also use it to keep their members fully informed of developments.

"We have QR Codes that direct anglers to an online catch return form, and since setting it up in 2021, we've received over 17,000 catch submissions!" Nick revealed.

"We've been able to build up a great database, and Manchester University have

teamed up with us. They're currently investigating trends in catches, water temperatures, and oxygen levels, which in the long run could benefit anglers."

WADAA also send weekly emails to members, keeping them up to date with everything going on at the club and to understand where the investment in tech is helping.

"It can be tricky in fishing, as the obvious thing to do with funding is to buy more fish! But by using technology and speaking to experts, we found that fewer fish in the correct environment makes for better fishing than loads of fish in an overstocked, unhealthy water."



State-of-the-art gauges monitor water conditions.

HIGHLY COMMENDED WELLINGBOROUGH & DISTRICT NENE ANGLING CLUB

THE pioneering Wellingborough & District Nene AC once again enjoyed an excellent year, with their fantastic junior coaching scheme continuing to thrive.

Not only are they introducing ever more kids to fishing, they're also helping them reach the next level by running regular junior contests and entering teams into national events.

Long may their tireless team of volunteers continue their excellent work and shape the next generation of anglers in the East Midlands and beyond!

HOW YOU VOTED

- 1 Windermere, Ambleside & District AA - 38%
- 2 Wellingborough & District Nene AC - 25%
- 3 Peterborough & District AA - 18%
- 4 Hereford & District AC - 10%
- 5 Luton AC - 9%

