

UPPER SHIN NEWS



2007



2008

The season got off to a very promising start with the two fish being caught on the 23rd May. The first by Willie Munro (90) and the second by assistant ghillie Patrick Tillard (19). The third fish was caught by a visiting Brae Langwell fisherman as the Caron was so low. Talking of water, it turned out to be the driest summer in Sutherland for many years. Loch Shin went down to its lowest level in living memory, compensation water was therefore a godsend.

The salmon continued to arrive steadily, 18 salmon were caught in June, by far the best June since 1998. Patrick made the most of the late evening light and caught 6 fresh run, sea liced salmon, weighing from 10 to 20 plus pounds, all on cone head variants. The month was not heavily fished as only two weeks had been fully let. Then the hot weather really took hold and only 25 fish were caught in July.

August came along and the fishing continued to be very hard. Lots of early starts and late evenings, trying to find a fish which was not hiding out under a rock to avoid the sun! 101 were landed and I must say that every one made a huge effort. One party showed just how it could be done by managing to land an incredible 35 fish, all bar 4 were returned.

September continued in the same vein and 75 fish were landed. The earliest fish caught in the morning were at 07:00am on the 2nd July in Upper Eleanors a 9lb hen by Kenny Home and on 22nd July by Ric van Beek on Cottage 4 an 8lb cock. The latest fish in the evening was caught at 22.15, one each by Arthur and Jo Manners on the 22nd & 26th July. Early mornings on the river are some of the best times, the anticipation of a fish before breakfast, the light gradually improving, the mist rising off your favourite pool. Only 17 fish were caught before 9 o'clock.

First fish were caught this year by, Cellie Murray, Angus Dixon, Mila Shortt, Henrietta Curry, Emma Baxter, Hamish Van Bergen, Chatty Knight, Nick Barton-Jayne, Shrimpy Martin, and Tiffinie Pride, (her first in the UK). 97 fish were landed using the Sunray Shadow.

Overall 75% of fish were returned this year, slightly down on last season but still a good effort and I would like to thank all of you for continuing to think about the salmon's welfare. They are still being persecuted at sea and until this stops we all have to make every effort to conserve stocks.

We have to as usual say a huge thank you to Alick and this season to Patrick too. Alick with Patrick's help have been hard at work on the banks, strimming and building walkways all over the place, they also repaired



the concrete that had been washed away during last winter's floods on the groin by rocky. It was interesting to see how the clear felling along the cottage pools might have affected the fishing. I am happy to say it seems not to have had any detrimental effect what so ever. What has happened is the water now runs off the hill in many more places and as a consequence the path has suffered terribly. Alick is going to review the worst places and either dig in pipes to channel the water away or build more walkways.



The Lodge bedroom/bathroom improvements are now complete. We did though suffer one of our worst nightmares last season when a glass shelf in the Mill bedroom fell into the sink, in the process it knocked the cold tap on and the soap fell into the sink blocking the plug hole. We are not sure how long the water overflowed

the office/cooks sitting room/ gun room/computer room into a lunch room. The rose wood table will re-locate into the fishing room and the large table in the window will be positioned the other way round. All the chairs will be replaced with new ones.



We had a visit early in the summer by a most remarkable machine, it afforded incredible views up and down the Loch and surrounding area.



for but it was well over 2 hours. Kiy just happened to be walking into the fishing room and thought it was rather strange to be raining in

doors! The damage was fairly horrendous, but luckily the incoming tenant was myself.

The carpet in the Mill bedroom was under 6 months old



so that had to come up, also the floor boards by the sink had to be lifted to remove the wet filling between the joists. All the repairs were carried out by Alick, Annie, myself and Henrietta Curry who was one of our guests. The last coat of paint was only just dry by Sunday.

We have just replaced all the hall and stair carpet which I think you'll agree look fantastic.

The only plans we have for this winter is to try to turn



Alick will be assisted next season by Jesse James. Jesse is a fairly experienced fisherman and also a great cook! We wish him luck for the coming summer.

Tight Lines for 2009,

James Greenwood.