PFAC Chairman’s Report for events held 2018.

Introduction
What an eventful year 2018 has been for PFAC. It is hard to believe that PFAC has now been in existence for 10 years and it gives me great pleasure to look back at how much we have achieved over those years. It all started in 2007 with an idea from a few like-minded people of putting something back into our chosen sport and to introduce people, in particular younger generations, to the pleasures of angling and watercraft by sharing our own experiences and skills.

We were keen to ensure that we covered the 3 main disciplines of Sea, Coarse and Game angling. We are fortunate in Pembrokeshire to have access to each of these types of fishing on our doorstep.

In the first place a letter was sent out to as many local fishing clubs of all types that we could find, inviting them to attend a meeting at the Rising Sun Pub in Haverfordwest. From this first meeting, with the help of those who attended, The Pembrokeshire Federation of Angling Coaches (PFAC) was created.

Our first task was to develop a Constitution and find ways of raising money to train anglers to become qualified coaches, some at level one and others up to level two. To start with, a bank account was opened into which all members would pay an annual subscription of £5. Once this was in place successful applications were made for funding from the Environment Agency and Angling Cymru in the early days. In later years this has included funding from Natural Resources Wales who had replaced the Environment Agency in Wales only.

In 2008 we started planning events with our newly trained coaches in conjunction with the newly formed Pembrokeshire Rivers Trust, the Pembrokeshire Fish Week promoted by the local council, plus a number of local fisheries who offered support to this idea of promoting angling in the county.

From this modest start with a couple of events held in 2008 we have grown gradually to an amazing total of 44 events held in 2018. PFAC members meet once a month to discuss new ideas, planning events and other business relating to PFAC at the Mariners Hotel in Haverfordwest. We also hold an AGM.
We normally start our events in March/April and run a programme through to September/October. All events are well attended but it is difficult to produce exact figures because the same group of people learning over say a course of six lessons involving 11 participants actually adds up to 66 coaching contacts which are all recorded. On the other hand, one busy open day session could include well over 100 different participants taking part.

**Summary of Events 2018**

Some examples of the work that give an indication of the type of event and amount of turnover completed in 2018 include:

- Taskers Milward School 3 lessons up to 26 pupils in total in April & May.

- Taskers Milward school & Mary Immaculate school 7 lessons up to 9 pupils and 9 mentors in total 106 pupils in June & July.

- Redhill school 5 lessons with up to 12 pupils in total 58 pupils in April & May.

- Springboard 6 sessions which included 88 individual participants all from different schools.
- Haverfordwest Scouts 6 lessons and up to 15 scouts per session with a total of 78 scout contacts. May June & July.

- Ysgol- Bro Gwaun 3 lessons up to 14 pupils in total 34 participants contacts.

- Milford Mums 2 lessons 4 participants 8 contacts.

- RedHill Holiday club consisting of 6 lessons with some 8 children attending with a total 48 participants in total starting June and finishing in July.

- Scolton Manor open National Children Play Day at which well over 100 participants took part in a variety of activities from simple fishing for plastic ducks in a pool aimed at young children up to long pole fishing and casting practice for the more advanced.

- Bronze Duke of Edinburgh award with twin sisters.
Some of the year highlight.

For me, one of the highlights of the year was meeting Bill Carnes Radio Pembrokeshire Sports Producer & Sports Editor for The Western Telegraph on the 1st October. This took place during a game fishing session held at Treffgarne with Pupils from Ysgol Bro-Gwaun School, Fishguard as the second of a 3 session fishing experience. The first session (Coarse fishing) had been held at Yet-Y-Gors Course Fishery. A third (sea fishing) session followed on the shore line at Goodwick.

I was most impressed by the way Bill Carne went around all coaches interviewing each one of them about their reasons for being a coach. Plus further interaction with the children taking part and teachers from the school.

- Other highlights of 2018 include:
  - Milford Mums event with their special needs children at Puddleduck.
  - Twin sisters taking part as part of their completion of the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze award.
  - At some of our events leading to the achievement of either an Angling Badge or certificate.
- The training of Taskers Millward secondary school children by PFAC coaches to become mentors to children from Mary Immaculate Junior school whom they coached with a little assistance from PFAC coaches.

- Children from Red hill private school children receiving introduction to angling.

- The introduction of a Holiday Club for Schools

- A very successful Children Open Play Day at Scolton Manor for which PFAC were praised for their contribution

A support of a group of visitors from an Irish Fishing Club carrying out an exploratory visit prior to a planned fishing trip by the club to Pembrokeshire in September 2019

Gillabbey Anglers Fishing Club

www.youtube.com

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=onlufCSNXjg&t=161s

10 years on
As I now look around the table at our meetings I remember that around several of the coaches were there at our first meeting to which we are indebted. We have lost about 12 people who have moved from the area over the years or left for personal reasons but we have recruited several new faces over the past 10 years, either as assistants or who have gone on to become qualified level one and level two coaches.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to all our former and present coaches, helpers and supporters including those who cannot be with us tonight for whatever reason who have committed their time and effort to help create and shape PFAC since from our humble beginnings in September 2007, to make Pembrokeshire Federation of Angling Coaches what it has become today.

I would also like to extend our thanks to all Pembrokeshire fishery Owners in allowing PFAC to carry out our fishing tuition at their fisheries and this is much appreciated. Once again without their generosity and constant support to PFAC we could not of achieved so many of our goals.
My thanks also goes to David Griffiths who looks after our Web site and Greg Laycock who has recently created facebook page for his work behind the scenes in constantly updated our sites and maintaining our public profile.
I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the owners of the Mariners Hotel who allow us to hold our meetings there free of charge.
At the end of 2017 we once again completed the latest 3 years of a collaborative agreement with National Resources Wales, successfully delivering on the terms and conditions set out in that collaborative agreement. I must thank those involved in developing the new Collaborative agreement with NRW which include Steve Carter NRW, our former treasurer Eric Williams and PFAC representatives Peter Tadman and Peter Jordan for their contribution in managing to achieve further funding from NRW for another two years. The main differences between previous agreements is that this one is only for two years and not three. But it is for a larger sum of money. Also each event needs to be delivered before we receive the funding. We have achieved first year agreement and know need to achieve our second years agreement.

Which requires us to deliver per year:

- 20 separate training sessions.
- 100 individuals to be introduced into fishing.
- 25 from above individuals to be taken into training sessions.
- We need to support Pembrokeshire Fish Week & National Fish month.

I must also thank Angling Cymru for their contribution for 2018 and 2019. This will help us to support our Mentoring program between pupils from Taskers Milward School. These contributions should see us through the next couple of years and a little beyond. We need to continue our work in seeking out new funding and opportunities to allow PFAC to continue and develop further.
In summary I would like to sincerely thank everyone involved either directly or indirectly in supporting PFAC through 2018 and the previous 10 years. I look forward to the next 10 years of PFAC continuing to promote the sport of angling in Pembrokeshire.

Roger Pratt (Chairman of PFAC)