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Angling Society on 50 years of angling
6 Sunnyside, Shitterton, Bere Regis

DORCHESTER and DISTRICT ANGLING SOCIETY

celebrate their

HALF CENTURY



Looking to the future

TO establish an angling club with a handful of members and no water to fish is at best optimistic and at worst downright crazy!

But on October 18, 1947, nine intrepid coarse fishermen did just that and so the Dorchester Angling Society was born.

Society archives reveal that an inaugural meeting was held in The Old Comrades Club at which a Mr Arnold was appointed Chairman.

A committee comprising Mr Dyer, Mr Whison, Mr Attyde and Mr Gilbert were appointed with a brief to find some water — and fast! Secretary/treasurer was a Mr T A Brook.

The matter of where to fish was discussed at subsequent meetings and in December 1947 it transpired that a small section of the River Frome at Bockhampton was identified.

The acquisition turned out to be convoluted and ultimately short-lived. Owner Mrs Graham-Jones was willing, but not so her



TROPHY WINNERS: Dorchester and District Angling Society's top anglers line up at the club's annual presentation evening.
Pictures: FINNBARR WEBSTER.

1948 the matter was resolved and the Society got its first water.

Even then it was fraught with difficulty because the stretch of water was so short that the committee had to draw up a rota of

ings, afternoons and evenings.

No sooner had the rota been established and the now 12 members got down to some serious fishing, than the Society lost its tenure of the water.

people moved into the area to work at the UKAEA at Winfrith, among them being many coarse fishermen wishing to join a local club.

Naturally the Society began to grow and more

plus members can fish about six miles of the River Stour, some three miles of the Frome, one mile of the Brue and almost seven miles of the Parrett, Isle and Yeo near Langport plus lakes at

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Happy 50th Anniversary to Dorchester and District Angling Society

Keeper for Dorchester Fishing Club

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Members of the Wild Trout Society



lety lay dormant for almost six years, but in May 1954 the Society re-emerged courtesy of Mr R H Cooper of Manor Farm, Blandford St Mary, who made available a stretch of the River Stour which flowed through his land. A new committee was formed and got down to business.

Subscriptions were fixed at 10/- for adults, 5/- for 15 to 18-year-olds and free membership for up to six minors. Membership was fixed at 30.

Soon about 1,200 yards of the River Frome at Wool was acquired from Morton Estates which the Society still rents today. By 1957 membership was raised to 40, but as demand continued to outstrip supply AGMs were frequently attended by the entire membership, fearful they may be out on their ear if they didn't put in an appearance. In the late 1950s/early 1960s a large number of

the River Stour at Marn-hull and Child Okeford. Still waters were also obtained at Sydling and Milton Abbas.

By the time the Society reached its 30th anniversary in 1977, membership had grown to 124 seniors and 20 juniors.

In the 1980s a further two miles of the Stour at Hanford were rented from Hanford Farms, a close relationship having developed with landowner Bing Ingram-Spencer II.

Also in the 80s the Society recognised the need for small clubs to work together and for over 10 years it has had a water-share arrangement with Wareham Angling Society.

In the early 1990s the Society — again looking for safety in numbers — joined the Wessex Federation of Anglers, giving members access to several rivers in Somerset owned by the Environment Agency. Today the Society's 200-



Angling Society

The Society caters for

ALL AGE GROUPS FROM 12 YEARS UPWARDS

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The Society has

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For further details please contact:

Anglers Tackle Store, Park Street, Weymouth
Dennis Tackle, Portlans Road, Wyle Regis
Weymouth Angling Centre, Town Bridge, Weymouth
Adkins Tackle, Athelstone Road, Dorchester
Dorchester Tackle, Charles Street, Dorchester

Secretary, Dorchester and District Angling Society
The Secretary, Leisure Centre, Armada Way, Dorchester

As Society Chairman Mike Park says: "That the Dorchester and District Angling Society has not only survived but prospered for half-a-century is as much a tribute to the management of the Society's affairs as to the quality and availability of its waters."

"Another part of our success is that we are a friendly club which attracts people from all walks of life who just want to enjoy their fishing, whether at the matches we run or in some secluded spot on their own."

"We've got members from the business world, the professions, the factories and offices, the military — especially the Royal Navy and even showbiz. Top TV entertainer Chris Tarrant has been a member for about 15 years."

"Also contributing to the success is the tremendous help and encourage-