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Information

2023

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Westwater Fly Fishing Club

Westwater Fly Fishing Club is a fly-fishing club whose policy is to promote the art of fly-fishing and to provide such sport for its members.

We are based at Hallington Reservoir, where there is the members' lodge, the office, and two extensive lakes totalling 250 acres.

The key provided to each member will open the oar lockers and premises to which members need access. Replacement keys are available from the Office Manager.

Membership

There are five categories of membership:

Full Members. Persons who, upon application have been proposed and seconded by members, and are accepted by the Directors. Full membership is annual and by invitation.

Full members have full rights and privileges, including the right to attend and vote at general meetings of the Company.

Junior Members: Children aged from 8 to 16 years, who upon application, with proof of age, have been accepted by the Directors. They shall be nominated by an adult Full Member. Junior Membership is held in the name of that nominating Full Member, and is free.

Student Membership: A person over the age of 16 who is in full-time education.

Honorary Membership: A person whom the Directors shall deem suitable for the privilege may be granted Honorary Membership by the Directors on an annual basis.

If a person has served a minimum of 10 years as a director, and has rendered outstanding service to the Company, the Directors may grant Honorary Membership for life. Honorary Members enjoy the same full fishing privileges as Full Members.

Subscriptions

An annual subscription, at a rate determined by the Board is payable by all members.

Subscriptions are due on the 1st November each year and should be paid promptly to the Office Manager upon notification.

By arrangement with the Office Manager, subscriptions may be paid in instalments. Members whose subscriptions are still outstanding on 31st January following will be deemed to have terminated their membership.

Payments in respect of guests are due on demand.

Fishing

Method of Fishing. FLY ONLY. All imitations of non-natural fish food, including pellet imitations, egg flies and the like, are banned from our waters.

After catching 3 fish at each runner on East and West, anglers must vacate these spots for the remainder of the day.

Size Limits: Brown trout under 20cm in length must be returned to the water unharmed. Trout between 20 and 30 cm will not count towards a member's catch & keep limit.

Catch & Release Limits. A member may Catch & Release up to 16 trout a day and 270 in a year.

Catch & Keep Limits: Of the above, a member may keep up to 5 trout a day and 85 in a year. Please note that once 5 fish have been killed on any one day, angling must cease, as the option to kill a damaged fish no longer remains.

If fishing Catch & Release it is essential that the fish be returned to the water in the best possible condition.

Catch & Release Good Practice:

- Use only barb-less hooks.
- Use hooks no bigger than size 10 long shank.
- Use leaders strong enough to land the fish quickly.
- Leave the fish in the net in the water whilst unhooking it, or, if fishing from a boat, in the net on the mat whilst unhooking it.
- Wet hands before handling the fish.
- Remove the hook using forceps if necessary.
- Kill the fish if it is bleeding or damaged in any way.
- If the fish is exhausted, keep it in the net in the water and steady it

in its natural position before allowing it to swim off.

- Do not use flies that fish tend to swallow e.g. Boobies.
- Do not measure the fish.
- Do not weigh the fish.
- Do not continue fishing if you have reached your Catch & Keep limit as **you need to be able to kill any damaged fish without breaching the Catch & Keep limits.**
- Respect for the fish is paramount.

Catch & Release will be monitored to ensure that the above Good Practice is followed.

Catch & Release fishing may be suspended during and immediately after periods of high water temperature.

Record Sheets: There are record sheets in the signing-in hut.

Before starting to fish, all anglers must enter their name, membership number, vehicle registration number, time of commencement, and whether they are fishing from bank or boat.

When finished fishing the sheets must be completed to show the time of finishing, the details of the fish caught, and the number of fish released. Nil returns are important and are required.

Anyone found deliberately entering false data on the record sheets may be banned from fishing at Hallington.

Extra Fish: The purchase of fish in excess of the annual limit will be permitted. This purchase must be made prior to the annual limit being exceeded and will be available in blocks of 6 fish at a cost of £30 per block.

When the annual limit of 85 (or higher if additional fish purchase is made) is reached, ALL fishing must cease until an additional fish block has been purchased. This is to provide for the killing of damaged fish when 'Catch & Release' is intended.

Junior Catch Limits: Members may bring children to Hallington if they are aged 8 to 16 years old, as follows:

1. As a free Junior Guest sharing the member's rod & bag limit. This may be done up to 5 times per year.
2. As a free Junior Member, in which case the catch and release limits are: 6 fish daily, and 40 annually. Of these 2 fish may be kept per day and 20 annually.

Junior Guests and Junior Members must be accompanied by an adult Full Member at all times. An adult Full Member may supervise a maximum of two Juniors at any one time, but only one when fishing from a boat.

The Junior's details must be entered immediately below the supervising Full Member's on the record sheet.

Student catch limits: Catch and keep: 2 fish/day, and 40 fish/year. Catch and release: 6 fish/day, and a 60 fish/year.

Fishing Guests: Members may take guests fishing with them at a fee of £20 per guest per day. Catch limits as for Full Members.

The guest's name must be entered immediately following the member's on the record sheet and be annotated 'Guest' in the membership number column.

Guests must abide by all rules and the host member is responsible for the guest's conduct.

An individual fishing as a member's Guest (or on a Day Ticket) may not fish our waters on more than a total of 2 occasions in any one season.

Non-Fishing Guests: No charge is made for non-fishing guests, but if the guest accompanies the member while he or she is fishing, the guest's name must be entered in the Non-Fishing Guest Book provided.

Non-Fishing Guests must not handle rods in the vicinity of the water.

Environment Agency Licence: All those fishing must be in possession of a current Environment Agency Licence.

Identification: Members must at all times carry their membership card, wear their WFFC badge, and display the WFFC sticker on their vehicle.

WFFC Bailiffs: The Office Manager, and members of the Board have authority to inspect catches, tackle, and vehicles and to check record sheets etc.

Boats and Equipment

Boats are free of charge for members and are available on both the Hallington lakes. There is no advanced booking system for the boats. They are used on a first come first served basis.

Life jackets MUST be worn, over all other clothing, and properly fastened, when using a boat. In the case of single occupants, it is advised that they be of the automatically inflating type. If you forget your life jacket you must not use a boat.

Boats must be secured to their correct mooring after use, and the oars returned to the oar lockers.

Mooring Ropes: The mooring rope is a continuous loop passing through a pulley on the anchor and around two posts on the shore, with a small knotted loop attached to the first post. To bring a boat ashore, first release the loop in the rope from the first mooring post and pull ashore the end of the rope passing round the second post so that the anchoring loop is pulled out towards the water as the boat moves in. To move a boat out, first attach the clip to the boat and pull the other side of the rope. When the boat is back out secure the rope loop over the first mooring post. Do not use force, as this will drag the anchor.

Oars are available for each boat in the lockers at the top of each ramp. Boats should not be taken out without oars on board. Please return the oars to the oar locker after use.

Boats should not be pulled ashore and left, even for a short time. Please use the offshore mooring facilities, as this greatly reduces wear and tear on the hulls.

Not more than 3 adults, or two adults and two juniors, may be in a boat, of whom a maximum of three may be fishing, at any one time.

Juniors must not use boats unless accompanied by an adult.

Anchors and/or drogues may be used but are not provided.

Trolling using a motor is not permitted.

Boats should be left clean and litter free after use.

Damage to boats, or the need for urgent maintenance, must be recorded in the remarks column on the record sheet. Please handle the boats with great care as they are quite costly to repair.

Restricted Areas:

Boat fishing is prohibited at the East and West runners.

Boats must remain outside the buoys, and no fishing from boats into the restricted areas is allowed.

Hygiene

The Kitchen and its equipment must be left clean, and litter and uneaten food deposited in dustbins or taken away. Fish must not be placed in refrigerators.

Members must use the toilet facilities provided in the lodge.

Northumbrian Water will insist that anyone polluting the reservoirs or their surrounds be banned from their waters.

Members must not allow anything to enter the reservoirs, or their feeder streams, which could have a deleterious effect on water quality.

Opening and Closing Dates

Rainbow Trout from the 1st of April to the 31st of October. (or 30th November if notified)

Brown Trout from the 1st of May to the 31st of October. (or 30th November if notified) **Any brown trout caught in April or November must be released unharmed.**

Times

Time Fishing Commences: Fishing starts at 08:00 hrs. However members are not allowed to enter the environs of the Hallington reservoirs before 07:45 hrs.

Time Fishing Terminates: This varies with the time of year and will be shown at the booking-in site. This is the time by which all angling must have ceased, all boats connected to

their proper moorings, and all members booked out on the records sheets. Anglers must have left the premises fifteen minutes after this time.

Nets

At each visit, you must disinfect your net in the tub where you sign in to prevent the spread of infections or parasites from other waters.

Your net should be large enough to cope with the large trout you will probably land each year. Fish must be netted, not beached.

Restrictions

Bank fishing may be restricted in any area by the Board and notices will be displayed should this arise. Certain areas may be closed to boats. A map of any such area will be displayed in the signing-in hut, or lodge. After catching 3 fish at each runner on East and West, anglers must vacate these spots for the remainder of the day.

Vehicle Parking: Members must stick to designated parking areas. Our main car park, which is for the use of WFFC members and Northumbria Water staff only, is the area in front of the Clubhouse. This is where you are expected to park. The only exceptions are a handful of parking spaces on the road verge at the Western end of West lake (once NW begins engineering work at the top of West, those spaces will probably be unavailable), and similar in front of the cottage beyond the overflow on East lake. Parking at the East runner is only permitted for members with mobility issues and is limited to a maximum 2 vehicles because the farmer needs access to his fields.

Dogs: This is a sensitive issue. Many members prefer that dogs not be allowed around the club premises, car park, and the environs of the lakes. So, if you do wish to bring your dog along, please ensure, at all times, that it is under control, that wildlife is not disturbed, and that your fellow members are not annoyed or alarmed in any way by your dog.

- Dogs are not allowed to accompany you whilst you are actually fishing.
- Do take care your dog is not left to suffer in an inadequately ventilated or sun heated vehicle.
- Do clean up after your dog and take the droppings away with you for disposal.

Riparian Owners

Four Riparian owner's rods are permitted each day. These rods are required to book in and out on the record sheets. They may use our boats.

General items

Poaching: Please ask to see the credentials of any angler who is not known to you and who is not wearing a WFFC badge. Members should not mind being approached and should be only too willing to co-operate. The Board will continue with its policy of securing the prosecution of poachers.

Trespassers: WFFC Members and personnel may only challenge non-members if they are fishing or interfering with the fishing or our property. Inappropriate or antisocial behaviour by non-members should be reported to the NWA Rangers, whose contact numbers are displayed in the clubhouse.

Ground Baiting: Ground baiting is not allowed. Fish food pellets are included in this ban.

Electronic Fish Locators: This type of equipment is not permitted.

Publicity: The general policy of Westwater Fly Fishing Club is that publicity of any aspect of our activities should only come from an official Board statement. Members should not make any claims for 'records' to outside sources or supply any material which could identify our waters.

If a member feels that there is a matter of sufficient interest to warrant publicity he should inform the Secretary in writing giving sufficient relevant details for the Board to be able to consider the matter.

A Few Important Reminders

- Individuals who are ex-Members because they did not receive an invitation to rejoin, may not fish our waters.
- Any dead fish found on any of our waters must be reported to the Office Manager. Such fish must not be sent to any outside agency without permission from the Board.
- Boat anglers must keep well clear of bank anglers. The bank angler always has priority. All anglers are expected to adhere to the general rules of fishing etiquette. If you're a bank angler, and find a boat anchored where you would like to be, the boat got there first, and has priority. But boats should not stay anchored in one spot for too long. If you're fishing from a boat, and drifting parallel with, or towards, a bank, then alter your drift if you're heading towards bank anglers.
- Do not leave any litter; in particular do not leave discarded nylon where it can be a hazard to wildlife. If you brought it, please take it away.

- If you injure any farm animals on estate roads, see the farmer concerned and report the incident to the Office Manager as soon as possible.
- When completing the Catch & Keep record sheets please enter the length of each fish (in inches) with the notation 'R' for Rainbow and 'B' for Brown, 'Bl' for Blue in the column provided.
- NO fires, close all gates, and follow the country code.

New Members

We are delighted to welcome new members.

Safety Recommendations

All anglers should be aware of these dangers, not only to themselves but also to others. Westwater Fly Fishing Club shall not be liable for accidents to persons or their property, however they are caused. Please observe the following:

- Take care when wading. Consider a wading stick. Wading beyond thigh depth is not allowed.
- Take care when back-casting. Look behind you first.
- When boat fishing, always wear a life jacket, which must be worn on top of all other clothing.
- Wear head and eye protection, particularly when casting in windy conditions.
- Keep rods and lines away from overhead power lines.
- In a thunder storm, cease fishing, put your rod down, and move away from it.

- Be familiar with the location and use of lifesaving equipment provided at the fishery.
- Be prepared to help anyone in difficulty, but do not put your own safety at risk.
- Northumbrian Water requires members to be aware of the risks associated with fishing from the dam walls, such as uneven and slippery surfaces, tripping hazards and holes, particularly when water levels are low.
- The consumption of alcohol whilst fishing, especially from a boat, is potentially dangerous, so is strongly discouraged.

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1st December 2022