

The Scottish Flyfisher Quarterly Magazine

April 2023

Morton Fishery Re-Opens

Cramond Angling Club

Angling by Nigel Duncan

Scottish National Stillwater Championship



Robin Lambert editor
www.scottishflyfisher.co.uk

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Have Your Say Here

If you have any questions or issues regarding fly-fishing within Scotland, then why not have your say here and see what advice you can get from the great Scottish fly-fishing community.

Or if you have a great fishing story to tell, then why not share it with everyone else.



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CRAMOND ANGLING CLUB (CAC) **By Nigel Duncan**

CRAMOND Angling Club (CAC) continues to promote its vision of affordable fishing and members toasted the official start of the fishing season on the popular River Almond on the outskirts of Edinburgh.

Brown trout up to 4lb were tempted by members last year and chairman Adam Cross confirmed that permit prices have been pegged at last year's level to encourage a healthy membership level.

Over 200 anglers secured season permits for CAC's eight miles stretch, which includes four beats, 12 months ago and many more bought day tickets for the popular water which is accessible by public transport. Service No 41 operated by Lothian Buses, for example, runs from South-West Edinburgh via the city centre to Cramond.



Adam Cross making the first cast. By Nigel Duncan

Water quality has improved greatly since the dark days in the 1880's when fishing stopped completely. The river was said to flow "nearly black at times" with oil and col dust evident and the popular club was formed in September 1963. Landscape gardening consultant Cross, who has been in the chair for around a decade, said CAC is still going strong and he added: "Last year membership was really good and there is still a good number of members and the fishing was really good. Anglers were catching nice, big brown trout, and there were good quality fishing coming out."

He pin-pointed the back of Edinburgh Airport as one of the best spots to fish and said: "It is quiet up there, there are not usually a lot of people about, and, if you sat there for any length of time, you saw fish taking bugs out of the water." Rules and regulations for fishing are posted on the club's website at www.fishamond.co.uk but Cross stressed that hooks must be debarbed and The Almond is a catch and release river for all species.

The chairman added: "You don't need a two-handed salmon rod and the majority of fish taken on the Almond have been taken on a spinner."

Cross said permits are available online on the CAC website or at the Edinburgh Angling Centre, Unit E, Granton Retail Park, 65 West Harbour Road, EH5 1PEW or Barnton Post Office, 199 Whitehouse Road, Edinburgh, EH4 6BU.

The club's fishing area is from the estuary at Cramond to north of Kirkliston and the price is £38 for the season, £10 a day with concessions for senior citizens and full-time students with a child ticket (16 and under) £5. Children can fish free with a paying adult.



Members and friends who attended the opening on February 4. By Nigel Duncan

Members can also fish water administered by the West Lothian Angling Association for a reduced price and their secretary, Scot Muir (cor) attended the official opening, which included a BBQ, to alert members to the special offer which, in total, covers over 50 miles of water.

Cross said: "A permit is great value compared to going to a fishery for a day. You get the whole season for £38 and the river is on major bus routes. YWhat's more, you don't have to be an expert caster to fish the river, particularly at the bottom end.

"There are plenty of open spaces to cast from and spinning is a lot easier. It can be snaggy if you are spinning, but there are plenty of places to fish on this river."

He stressed that anglers are not allowed to fish in front of the weir at School Brae and he added: "You don't have to be an expert angler on The Almond, but wading can be a bit rocky, particularly downstream after the weir was done. If you are going to wade have a wading stick with you and wear a lifejacket for your own safety."



Scot Muir (correct) (left), secretary of West Lothian Angling Association, and Joe Arndt, secretary of Cramond Angling Club, share a joke at the opening. Picture by Nigel Duncan



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Morton Fishery Re-Opens By the Editor

After a lot of hard work undertaken by Sandy Mabon his brother James and his team of helpers, Sandy has transformed Morton Fishery into a first-class fishery once more.

The old boat jetty has been ripped up and a new one put in its place, which was raised even higher up than the old one.

Anti-slip strips were also added to the jetty to ensure that the infirm and other anglers had a sure footing whilst proceeding to their boats.



All of the boats had been taken out of the water and given a thorough power wash cleaning, painted and any repairs required were also carried out, plus any seating on the boats were replaced, along with any back plates for the engines.

Once all the boats have been done, there will be 16 boats available. New electric motors and batteries were purchased incase anyone needs to hire one for their day out on the water.





The old rickety bridge leading to the tree line platforms on the left-hand side of the fishery was also ripped up and a new one built in its place, also fitted with anti-slip plates.

All the platforms on the tree line side of the fishery were given a good power wash, and 16 new platforms were built on the right-hand side of the fishery leading up to the dam wall.

Sandy has advised that in the near future he is going to use anti-slip solutions on the dam wall leading down to the platforms attached to the dam wall. There will be posts installed on each side of the anti-slip areas done so that the fly fishers can see the proper way down to the dam platforms, which would be ideal when the rocks are slippery due to rain or moisture.



There is still some work to be undertaken at the fishery, but Sandy has advised that it will all get done once all the boats and other major works are completed.



A new seating area has been constructed so that the anglers can have somewhere to sit and enjoy each other's company, or somewhere to have their lunch in comfort.

Sandy had stocked the water with 3.5 ton of fish over a 3-day period 1st, 2nd, and 3rd of March with some cracking trout from 2.5lb upwards to double figured fish.

He will continue to stock the water on a weekly basis, to ensure that the angler has a good days fishing.

The official opening day of the fishery was Friday 3rd March and a great turn out for the opening day and the Saturday by regular anglers and new anglers to the fishery.

I managed to get a boat booked for the Sunday and fished it along with FAFA committee member Fred Paddon.

It was a really cold and windy morning when we started off onto the water. We started fishing the basin just out from the main platforms near the island, but nothing was happening, not even a tug at any of our offerings.



We moved round to the main basin near the dam wall and the platforms on the right-hand side.

Fred started to hit into the fish but I had no joy despite using various options from buzzers, nymphs and mini lures but I wasn't even getting a nip or tug.

I eventually changed over to a D13 sinking line, with just an Orange Cat Bug on the point and an Orange Egg on the dropper, bringing them back very slowly using a figure of eight retrieve and bingo I started to get into the fish.

By lunchtime I had 6 to the net and Fred had 4, some of the fish we were catching were well into double figures. I weighed one of the big fish and taking the weight of the net off it was a cracking 10lb 8oz.

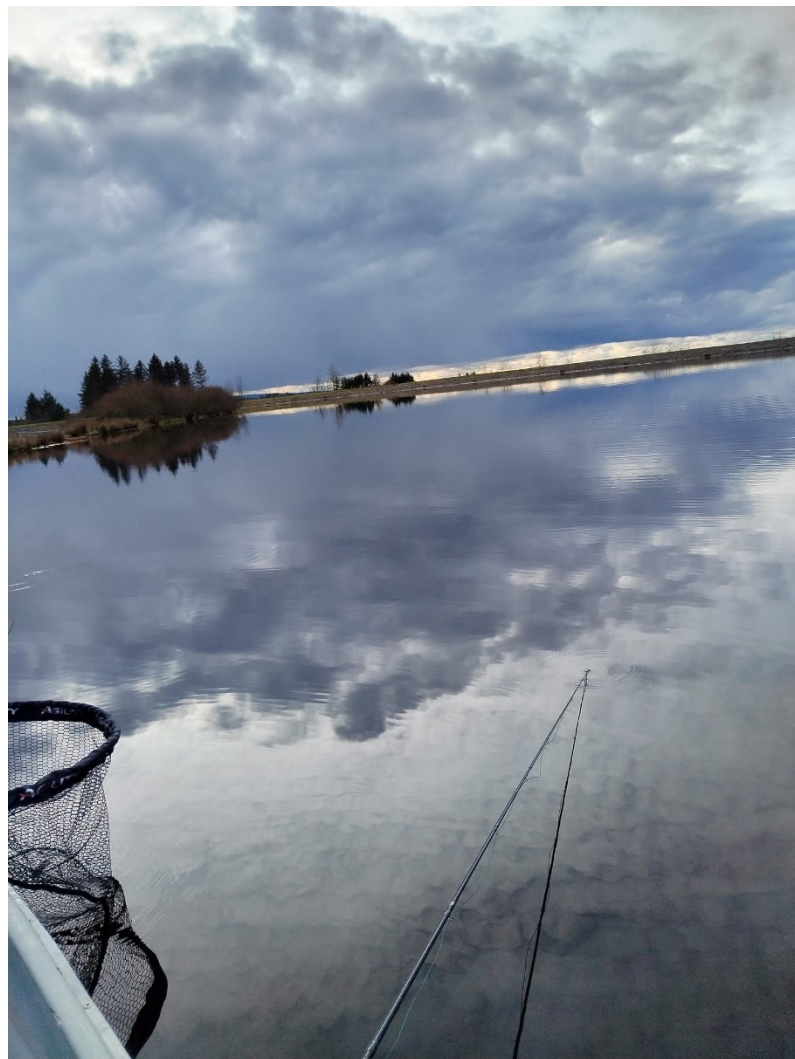
We lost as many fish coming to the net or they just came off with a twist of their heads as we were using barbless hooks, due to us fishing catch & release and not wanting to damage the fish or handle them whilst releasing them.

We came in for lunch when Sandy's brother James sounded the horn at 12.30 for everyone to come in and enjoy the great spread that was laid on over the 3 opening days of the fishery, we enjoyed our lunch of lentil soup made with ham hocks, sausage rolls and various sandwiches, along with tea or coffee.

After lunch Fred and I decided to go back to the same area as the morning leading up to lunch time.

However, the wind had changed directions and a wee bit slower in blowing the boat about.

But we only managed to get another one each and also lost a couple each.



Due to the wind changing plus it completely dying down, the water turned into a millpond completely flat calm.

The other 4 boats out on the day also had some really good sport catching some cracking fish.

There were quite a few bank anglers out and the majority of them were bung fishing and getting into the fish drastically.

Just before lunchtime one of the blokes fishing opposite us on the new platforms had 14 and his friend had 9.

The week of the 6 March Sandy was double stocking the water once more but this time with fish well into double figures, plus the normal stocking.



Over time Morton Fishery will be one of the top places within Scotland as a fly-fishing venue, where everyone will want to visit and have a good day's fishing.

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RIVER FISHING SAFETY TIPS BY THE EDITOR

I was enjoying a day's fishing on the river Tweed just on the outskirts of Peebles leading down to the Cardrona Hotel when I heard someone yell out.

Looking back, I saw a bloke heading my way in the middle of the river laying on his back and coming head first. It transpired he had turned to go back to the river bank and lost his footing and ended up on his back and traversing down the river.

If I hadn't been there at the time to grab him; I don't know what might have happened to him. There is nothing worse than slipping and ending up in the water and if you don't know your river craft when fishing you won't know what might happen to you when it does occur.

The aim of this article is to educate both the novice and expert fishermen on how to improve their river fishing skills.

THE BASICS OF FISHING IN A RIVER

River fishing is the method of fishing in a body of water that flows towards another river, ocean, lake, loch or sea. You can fish a river from the shore, by wading or if the size and depth of the river make it possible, via a boat.

A wide variety of different species of fish (including popular game fish) can be found inhabiting rivers or at least navigating them in order to reach spawning grounds or to catch fish when they migrate. Fishermen will need to use specific types of fishing methods due to the natural movement of a river.

Many rivers have dams and water locks that help control the flow of water. These structures can be a great place for large fish to congregate because of the water depth and temperature. However, they can be a hazard to the wadding fisherman.

RIVER FISHING SAFETY

Get a Pair of Polarized Glasses - Depending on what river you plan on fishing in you may be able to see through the water with a good pair of polarized glasses. By being able to visually locate fish you can prevent a lot of wasted time searching for them also you can see the river bottom contours slightly better.

When you're fishing in a river you'll want to follow basic safety precautions to ensure your safety and the safety of other people around you.

You should always know how to swim or fish with someone who is able to swim. If you're wading in a river, make sure to use a wader belt to prevent water from filling up your waders if you fall over.

If you're using a boat then make sure to follow all boating rules and regulations and remember that the depth and speed of a river can change quickly.

River Fishing Safety Tips:

Always dress appropriately, this includes waterproof fishing jackets, waders and footwear.

Check the weather before you leave and be ready for any sudden changes in conditions that may occur.

Remember, the hooks on the end of your line are very sharp. Before you make a cast, make sure there is no one behind you.

If you go fishing alone, be sure to tell someone exactly where you are going and when.

If you're fishing from a boat, wear a life jacket.

If you are fishing in unknown waters with a strong current, go with a friend. Always carefully check out the area before wading in, and when you do wade in, do so carefully. Carry a wading stick and take one step at a time to feel for any deep drop-offs.

What river fishing equipment are you likely to need to be safe?

Here is a little kit advice below.

Adequate footwear - Rubber soled boots for sand-based & felt soled for rock-based rivers

Water & wind resistant clothing

Wading staff or stick to determine water levels

Map of where you will be fishing

A method of communication such as a mobile phone/radio

First Aid Kit in case of minor injury.

If you do happen to have a mishap and end up floating down the river, try to right yourself if possible and retain your balance. If not try to make sure you travel feet first as there might be rocky outcrops in the water and it's better to hit them with your feet than with your head.

You can always mend a broken leg but not a loved one's broken heart



Staycation Time



They say Scotland is the home of modern fly fishing, trips in Scotland are ideal for fly-fishing tourists.

Experienced fishermen/women can enjoy the tradition and serenity of the majestic beauty that Scotland has to offer, including the famous fly-fishing waters of the Tay, Spey and Esk rivers.

Fishing trips in Scotland can also be great for those keen to learn about fly fishing. Where better to learn than the fishing lochs in Scotland?

Fishing trips in Scotland, for beginners and experienced fishermen alike, can include hotels near fishing, spots with professional fishing guides. Guided fishing trips in Scotland may indeed help you with many other tips that could help you reel in a better catch wherever in the world you fish next.

Although Scotland has arguably the best fly fishing in the UK, you will find that local knowledge is almost essential for successful fishing.

If it has always been your dream to fish the legendary waters of Scotland, why not look into a fly-fishing holiday that you will never forget.

Most fly-fishing holiday spots are within easy driving distance of Edinburgh or Glasgow, or if you fancy having a tour of Scotland you can also experience fly-fishing in the majestic Highlands and Islands of Scotland.

Or if you are Scottish and fancy a staycation and looking for some ideal accommodation for your next fly-fishing trip, then on the following pages are some really good places to stay, with easy access to local fisheries and rivers.



Cairnsmill Caravan Park
Largo Road
St Andrews
Fife
KY16 8NN

<https://www.cairnsmill.co.uk/>

Email: info@cairnsmill.co.uk

Tel: 01334 473604

My brother John and I had a great weekend here staying in my caravan. The facilities are excellent and of course the fishing was really good on the two days we were there.

Reception opening hours: Every day from 9:00am-4:00pm. (5:00pm on Fridays)

Situated on the outskirts of St Andrews, Cairnsmill Caravan Park is the perfect place for your next holiday!

Whether it is with the family or just going on a weekend fishing trip and looking for somewhere to park your motorhome, caravan or pitch your tent, then this is the place for you.

It is the ideal place to unwind and enjoy the company of family and friends.

At Cairnsmill they have a lovely onsite fly-fishing reservoir which they regularly stock with some cracking trout.

Whilst you're enjoying a day fishing the rest of the family can enjoy the great facilities on offer, swimming pool, games room, soft play and gym

Cairnsmill Caravan Park allows tourers, tents, motorhomes. They have a bar on the park and offer evening entertainment for you to enjoy as well.



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SCIERRA Helmsdale Wading Jacket

The Helmsdale Wading jacket is made for the unpredictable weather you encounter by the river or fishing along the coastline. The 2-layer jacket is 100% waterproof and very breathable, which makes it easier for temperature to adjust and make you focus on fishing. The shorter design makes it perfect for wading.

- 2-layer Wading jacket with membrane 8.000mm/5.000mvp
- Nylon Taslon 100% polyester fabric with thick PU coating

Size	Code
S	SV21833
M	SV21834
L	SV21835
XL	SV21836
2XL	SV21837
3XL	SV21838

RRP: £139.99
£70



SCIERRA Helmsdale 20000 Chest Stocking Foot Waders

The Sierra Helmsdale breathable waders range, are produced with focus on movement, comfort and durability.

- Massive 20.000 Water proof 3 layer material
- Breathable of 4.000 mvp
- Elastic suspenders
- He and she buckle
- Elastic chest adjustment

Waders RRP: £169.99 **£120**

Size	Code	Size	Code
M	SV21864	XL	SV21870
ML	SV21865	XLL	SV21871
L	SV21867	2XLS	SV21872
LL	SV21868	XXL	SV21873
XLS	SV21869	-	-

Kenai Boots

Felt	Size
SV25785	6/7
SV25786	7.5/8
SV25787	9/10
SV25788	11/12

Waders & Boots Only
RRP: £294.98
£180



SCIERRA Helmsdale 3/4 Fishing Jacket

This 2-layer jacket is 100% waterproof and very breathable, which makes it easier to focus on your fishing.

Size	Code
S	SV21827
M	SV21828
L	SV21829
XL	SV21830
2XL	SV21831
3XL	SV21832

RRP: £139.99
£70



SCIERRA Helmsdale Fishing Trousers

100% waterproof trousers that is great for fishing but will also be the perfect trousers for hiking.

Size	Code
S	SV21839
M	SV21840
L	SV21841
XL	SV21842
2XL	SV21843

RRP: £89.99
£45



SCIERRA Helmsdale Stretch Trousers

The 4-way stretchable material deliver outstanding movability, but without compromising the durability.

Size	Code
S	SV21844
M	SV21845
L	SV21846
XL	SV21847
2XL	SV21848

RRP: £79.99
£40



SCIERRA Helmsdale 20000 Bootfoot Waist Waders

- 20,000 Hydrostatic Head Waterproof 3 layer material
- Breathability of 4,000 MVP
- Vertical cutting technology for active movement support
- Neoprene belt, for comfort and back support
- Elasticated zones in waist line
- Two water repellent zipped front pockets
- Silicone 3D printed logos
- Half elasticated gravel guards
- Mesh carry bag are included

Size	Code
8/9	SV21887
9.5/10	SV21888
11/12	SV21889

RRP: £219.99
£120



Wychwood NEW Brookman Net

The robust frame features a non-fish scaring matt finish, this coupled with the dark rubber mesh net bag means it is the ideal choice in challenging fishing situations.

LD13501
RRP: £39.99
£25

Dimensions:
86x41.6x9.2cm



DAM Salmon Net

Large net for salmon and pike fishing with a slightly thinner rubber net that is easy to pull through the water.

Dimensions:
75x75cm.

DM4813
RRP: £59.99
£30



SCIERRA Traxion 2 Fly Reel

The Traxion family gives you the newest machine cutting technology - cut from 1 block of 6061 grade aluminum, best break system solutions- considering water resistance, smoothness and strength.



RRP: £119.99
£70

Code	Size	Capacity
SV16273	#5/7	WF6 + 150m/20lb

SCIERRA S Mesh Cap

6-panel design with pre-curved brim.

SV17669
RRP: £14.99
£10



SCIERRA Fly Line Backing

Orange 30lb 250yds
SV9425

RRP: £19.99
£10



SCIERRA Baby Brook Fly Combo

The Sierra Baby Brook Fly Combo is an ideal kit for beginners to fly fishing.

Included with this combo is a loaded SIE Track 2 Fly reel, holding backing, line and leader altogether.

Code	Length	AFTM	Pcs	RRP	Price
SV20289	3ft 7	#4	2	£169.99	£80.00



SCIERRA Brook Single Hand Fly Rods

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- Built on 40T Japanese carbon material
- High quality Portuguese cork
- Real peacock wooden reel seat
- Quality light weight stripping and snake guides
- Supplied in cloth bag and quality tube with screw in fittings, and carry handle

Code	Length	AFTM	Pcs	RRP	Price
SV16232	7ft 6	#3	4	£179.99	£90.00
SV16233	8ft	#4	4	£179.99	£90.00
SV16234	8ft	#5	4	£179.99	£90.00
SV16235	9ft	#5	4	£199.99	£100.00
SV16236	9ft	#6	4	£199.99	£100.00



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Single Hand

Code	Length	AFTM	Pcs	RRP	Price
GR2693	9ft	#8	4	£389.99	£195.00

Comp Special Single Hand

Code	Length	AFTM	Pcs	RRP	Price
GR2705	9ft 6	#7	4	£424.99	£255.00

Double Hand Salmon

Code	Length	AFTM	Pcs	RRP	Price
GR2699	12ft	#7	4	£529.99	£320.00
GR2700	13ft	#8	4	£559.99	£335.00
GR2701	14ft	#9	4	£579.99	£350.00
GR2702	15ft	#10	4	£599.99	£360.00

Double Hand Salmon Travel

Code	Length	AFTM	Pcs	RRP	Price
GR2729	14ft 6	#9	6	£599.99	£360.00

Salt Single Hand

Code	Length	AFTM	Pcs	RRP	Price
GR2706	9ft	#10	4	£389.99	£190.00
GR2707	9ft	#11	4	£389.99	£190.00
GR2708	9ft	#12	4	£389.99	£190.00

Streamflex Single Hand

Code	Length	AFTM	Pcs	RRP	Price
GR2717	6ft 6	#3	4	£299.99	£180.00
GR2718	7ft	#3	4	£299.99	£180.00
GR2719	7ft 6	#4	4	£309.99	£155.00
GR2722	9ft	#3	4	£329.99	£165.00
GR2715	11ft	#3	4	£349.99	£175.00
GR2716	11ft	#4	4	£349.99	£210.00

Travel Single Hand

Code	Length	AFTM	Pcs	RRP	Price
GR2730	9ft	#5	6	£349.99	£210.00
GR2731	9ft 6	#7	6	£389.99	£235.00

Streamflex Plus Single Hand

Code	Length	AFTM	Pcs	RRP	Price
GR2726	10ft-10ft 6	#3	4	£389.99	£195.00
GR2728	9ft6-10ft	#4	4	£389.99	£195.00

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An extensive range of high performance, modern fly rods including single handed, double handed and switch models. These are Greys' first fly rods that utilise their tried and tested TOREON® nano blank technology.



Single Hand

Code	Length	AFTM	Pcs	RRP	Price
GR2667	6ft	#3	4	£164.99	£130.00
GR2668	6ft6	#4	4	£174.99	£150.00
GR2669	7ft	#3	4	£174.99	£160.00
GR2670	7ft	#5	4	£189.99	£160.00
GR2671	8ft	#4	4	£184.99	£100.00
GR2672	8ft	#6	4	£184.99	£160.00
GR2676	9ft	#7	4	£199.99	£170.00
GR2677	9ft	#8	4	£199.99	£170.00
GR2679	9ft6	#7	4	£209.99	£170.00
GR2680	9ft6	#8	4	£209.99	£170.00
GR2681	10ft	#6	4	£222.99	£170.00
GR2683	10ft	#8	4	£222.99	£170.00

Switch

Code	Length	AFTM	Pcs	RRP	Price
GR2684	11ft 1	#6/7	4	£289.99	£200.00
GR2686	11ft 1	#8/9	4	£289.99	£200.00

Double Hand

Code	Length	AFTM	Pcs	RRP	Price
GR2687	13ft	#8/9	4	£309.99	£210.00
GR2688	14ft	#9/10	4	£319.99	£220.00
GR2689	15ft	#10/11	4	£349.99	£240.00



Oracle Salmon Fly Rods



These rods display amazing quality, value and performance and will help to continue the famous Oracle legacy.

- High modulus Carbon Blank
- Aluminium Reel Seat
- Stainless Steel Snake Intermediate

Oracle Exp Salmon

Code	Length	AFTM	Pcs	RRP	Price
SP3397	12ft 9	#8	6	£144.99	£100.00
SP3398	13ft 9	#9	6	£154.99	£110.00

Oracle Exp Switch

Code	Length	AFTM	Pcs	RRP	Price
SP3488	11ft	#7/8	6	£99.99	£75.00

Oracle Spey

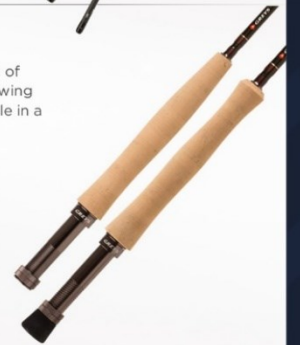
Code	Length	AFTM	Pcs	RRP	Price
SP3436	12ft	#8	4	£119.99	£90.00
SP3435	13ft	#8	4	£124.99	£100.00

Oracle Switch

Code	Length	AFTM	Pcs	RRP	Price
SP3835	11ft	#7/8	4	£99.99	£80.00
SP3836	11ft	#8/9	4	£99.99	£80.00

GREYS GR40 Fly Rods

The Greys GR40 Fly Rod is a premium built rod, part of the faster action range of rods offered by Greys, allowing for faster line speeds with minimal effort and available in a wide range of models to suit every fishing scenario.



Code	Length	AFTM	Handle	Pcs	RRP	Price
GR2572	7ft6	#3	RHW	4	£137.99	£75.00
GR2573	8ft	#4	RHW	4	£149.99	£130.00
GR2574	8ft6	#5	RHW	4	£149.99	£130.00
GR2576	9ft	#6	RHW	4	£159.99	£140.00
GR2577	9ft	#8	FW+EH	4	£174.99	£150.00
GR2578	9ft6	#6	FW+EH	4	£174.99	£150.00
GR2580	9ft6	#8	FW+EH	4	£174.99	£150.00
GR2581	10ft	#7	FW+EH	4	£174.99	£150.00

SIMMS Tributary Stockingfoot Waders & Boots

Waders with a durable, breathable 3- and 4-layer build for all-day dry, comfortable performance at a great value.

- 3-Layer Waterproof Breathable Polyester in upper,
- 4-Layer Waterproof Breathable Polyester in lower



Waders				Tributary Boots			
Size	Code	Size	Code	Rubber	Size	Felt	Code
S	MM8882	LS	MM8888	MM12710	7	MM12722	
M	MM8883	LK	MM8889	MM12711	8	MM12723	
MS	MM8884	LL	MM8890	MM12712	9	MM12724	
MK	MM8885	XL	MM8891	MM12713	10	MM12725	
ML	MM8886	XLS	MM8892	MM12714	11	MM12726	
L	MM8887	2XL	MM8893	MM12715	12	MM12727	

Waders & Boots Only
RRP: £349.98
£269

Shakespeare Sigma Fly Combs

A complete outfit with fitted fly line to match the balanced rod and reel outfit in a specially designed Rod and Reel Cordura carrier tube. The Sigma range of fly rods provides amazing value and performance at the Sigma price point. They are all four piece and supplied in a quality cordura tube, features that are required in modern fly fishing but un-heard-of at this price!



Code	Length	AFTM	Pcs
SP3913	7ft	#3	4
SP3914	8ft	#4	4
SP3915	9ft	#5	4
SP4006	9ft	#6	4
SP3917	10ft	#7	4

RRP: £99.99
£60

GREYS GX1000 Fly Reel

The GX1000 Fly Reels have had as much material removed as possible, making them incredibly lightweight, but without compromising the strength and robustness of its profile.



Code	Model	Capacity	RRP	Price
GR2747	10/11/12	WF1 + 21lm	£309.99	£155.00

GREYS QRS Cassette Fly Reel

The perfect system for fly anglers who like to swap fly lines to suit the conditions at hand.



Spare Spools				
Code	Model	Capacity	RRP	Price
GR2627	2/3	WF3+45m	£80	£5
GR2631	9/10	WF3+45m	£80	£5
GR2632	11/12	WF3+60m	£80	£5

Fly Reels

Code	Model	Capacity	RRP	Price
GR2558	2/3	WF3+45m	£80	£5
	4/5	WF5+60m	£80	£5

GREYS GTS300 Fly Reels

The Greys GTS300 reel features a strong smooth Rulon disc drag system and the die-cast full aluminium construction results in a great strength to weight ratio. The Greys GTS300 reel offers fantastic value for money.



Code	Model	Capacity	RRP	Price
GR2563	4/5/6	WF6 + 52m	£44.99	£44.99
GR2564	6/7/8	WF8 + 85m	£44.99	£44.99

HARDY Bougle Heritage Fly Reels

The Bougle Heritage Fly Reel is fully designed and hand built right here in the UK, celebrating 110 years since the first Bougle was introduced.



Code	Model	Capacity	RRP	Price
HR1726	2 13/16i	DT2+25m/20lb	£499.99	£300
HR1727	3i	DT2+70m/20lb	£539.99	£320



Angling By Nigel Duncan

Why West Lothian Angling Association offers "best value for money" fishing north of the Border

Scot Muir believes West Lothian Angling Association (WLAA) offers the best "value for money" fishing north of the Border with over 50 miles of water available to permit holders for only £15.

Anglers can now apply online at Fishing Around the Forth and they will soon be able to procure a hard copy at Tangles at 5, East Main Street, Broxburn EH52 5EE, West Lothian Angling, Unit 10, Nasmyth Court, Livingston EH54 5EG or The Edinburgh Angling Centre, Unit E, Granton Retail Park, 65 West Harbour Road, Granton, Edinburgh EH5 1PW and from Pottishaw Fishery.

The season opens for migratory fish (salmon and sea trout) on February 1 and for trout on March 15 and Muir revealed that brown trout of over 4lb were hooked in the Almond last season, a reasonable one considering the changeable weather in Central Scotland during that time



Jason Rennie, chairman of West Lothian Angling Association (left) discusses a point with Scot Muir at the club's monthly fly-tying session. Picture Nigel Duncan

Muir, who is secretary of the WLAA, said: "Our fishing permit works out at around nine pence a mile and we believe it is the best bang for buck (in Scotland). We've had people from Troon, Rothsay and Perthshire fishing the river. That's great.

"Fishing was reasonable last year, personally, I did not do too well and did not get out much, but people did well and there were brown trout caught of over 4lb and there were a good many caught between 2lb and 4lb.

"Plus, we had many caught from 1lb to 2lb. Membership ended up with 150 which was down on the year before, possibly some COVID things were related to that and, post-COVID, people found other things to do."

The easiest way to secure a permit is online at Fishing Around the Forth, he said, and an adult can have two under-16 anglers on their ticket free.

West Lothian Angling Association (WLAA) have switched the location for their regular fly-tying nights because they have become so popular.

Previously, they were held in Mid Calder Community Centre on the second Monday of every month but now they have confirmed a move to Howden Park Centre.

The next scheduled night is Monday, April 10 from 18.30 to 21.00 and WLAA bosses say that the nights will remain free for the moment.

Recently, fly tyers from Edinburgh have boosted numbers and a spokesman said: "If you have ever thought about starting fly tying don't keep putting it off. Get along to or next fly-tying night and see what it is all about as well as having some friendly and knowledgeable chat.

"There is always someone who is happy to help, discuss and show you anything you need to know about fishing or fly tying.

"Whether you are a member (of WLAA) or non-member, young or old, everybody is welcome. Bring your own gear if you have it. If not, we have a small selection you can use."

Permits to fish The Almond will be available on the night and Howden Park Centre is off Toronto Avenue, Livingston EH54 6BW.



The weir at Mid Calder on The Almond. By Nigel Duncan

Muir said: "It is all catch and release and we are a Category Three river, barbless hooks and approved techniques only."

He explained that you can spin for salmon and sea trout and he added: "Club rules for salmon and sea trout are one treble hook debarbed and preferably reduced to two points.

"Trout anglers can set off again on March 15 and you may well hook into something even if the water is cold. I would recommend using floating line on the river as it is not particularly deep.

"Sinking lines are not really necessary. Nymphing is great and nymphs will come into their own, but I would suggest letting the water warm-up a little before getting them out of your box.

"If you are making up flies for the river for early season then make up some spiders - black and olive are considered best - and Griffith's gnat. You won't go wrong with these patterns and, to be honest, all the traditional files will work well.



"I occasionally tie up a Griffith's gnat with a yellow dubbed body which represents a dung fly as there are plenty of farms around the area."

Muir said permit holders also receive a £15 voucher to fish Pottishaw, a popular still water run by Fraser Thomson, vice-chair of WLAA, at Torbanehill Mains, Bathgate EH48 2HX.

Members can also fish the nine mile stretch of The Almond downstream of Newbridge which is administered by Cramond Angling Club (CAC). WLAA members receive a £10 discount on the CAC permit fee.

The Almond upstream from the Mid Calder weir.
Picture: Nigel Duncan

Scottish National Stillwater Championship 2023

£40 EACH EVENT

REGISTRATION 8AM • BRIEFING 8.45AM

FISHING 9AM 6x30min Pegs,

LUNCH & AFTERNOON 6 x 30min Pegs

£20 Deposit Required to Secure Your Place (Non Refundable)

S.A.N.A Membership Included (18 YEARS +)

Heat 1	Wormit	Sun 19th Feb	07709 235 088
Heat 2	Drumtassie	Sun 4th Mar	07939 24 9481
Heat 3	Loch Inch	Sat 11th Mar	07398 054 287
Heat 4	Allandale Tarn	Sun 19th Mar	01506 873073
Heat 5	Burnhouse	Sun 26th Mar	07889 603 160
Heat 6	Waterfront	Sun 2nd April	01292 571268
Semi 1	Kingennie	Sat 22nd April	01382 350213
Semi 2	Kinross	Sat 29th April	07376 762057
Final	New Haylie	Sun 14th May	01475676005



Iona & Ian stocking the water ahead of the big day at Allandale Tarn Fishery for the 4th heat

THE SCOTTISH NATIONAL STILLWATER CHAMPIONSHIP 2023



I've been fly-fishing for well over 55 years and this year I had entered for the first time ever the Scottish National Stillwater Championship heats competition. I've never ever fished events like this, maybe some small local fishery fun event, but never anything major. So, Hey Ho at turning 70 in July this year, I thought why not.

Heat three of the Scottish Bank Stillwater Championship was held at Allandale Tarn near West Calder.

There was almost a full house for the event in calm conditions with the thermometer around 8C.

When I turned up for the registration at 8am I noticed quite a few familiar faces on the fly-fishing circuit and some top-notch fly-fishers. Several international anglers in the field along with last year's winner, Greg Hogan.

Straight away I thought, just turn around and go home as I wouldn't have a chance against any of them. But I decided to just stick it out.

I started off using a floating line set up with a nymph on the point and 2 buzzers on the droppers, I got quite a few tugs but nothing solid enough to land them.

My other rod was set up with a 10ft midge tip with a gold head damsel on the point and a Dennis the Menace on the first dropper and an emerger buzzer on the top dropper. Same again whenever I used this rod, the fish just seemed to nip and tug at it.

It was like that all morning every time I moved 5 pegs every 30 minutes up until lunch time.

Fish were being hooked within minutes of the start of the whistle and trout taking all over the pond next to the Zoo.

There was a great lunch laid on for the competitors by Iona & Ian, soup, bacon or slice sausage rolls and plenty of biscuits and cakes to go with your tea or coffee. Many thanks to them both for a great spread, it filled up the belly just nicely for the afternoon's session.



After lunch I started off on the left-hand bank from the cabin and the fish seemed to be rising along that edge, so I changed to a single dry fly on the floater, and behold the fish either came up and sipped it, drowned it or sipped it in then spat it out again, no luck again. When I moved to the next peg I changed it back to buzzers, on the point a Dennis the Menace, first dropper a Red Neck Vicar and the top dropper a Gold Neck Vicar (seeing as how it was a Sunday why not go a wee bit churchy), first cast in and just I was straightening the line bang I finally caught a fish on the Gold Neck Vicar and netted it YIPPEE!!!

I persevered with this set up even on the next peg, I had yet again some nips and tugs but once more the fish just weren't playing ball with me.

Most of the other anglers were on the Bung and hitting into the fish no problem at all, unfortunately I'm the old-fashioned fly-fisher who uses traditional methods, so maybe that's why it just wasn't my day but there is always next year.

I was right should have went home as only managed one to the net, despite many nips and tugs the fish just weren't playing for me today.



The event was adjudicated by Brian Quinn who laid out the rules and regulations before the event started so that everyone knew what was to be expected on the day.

He constantly went around the fishery all day speaking to everyone and ensuring they were all okay.



Photos by Nigel Duncan Media



Heat Results

TOP ROD 🏆 KEVIN ANDREWS 🏆
18 PTS 11 FISH 🐟 🐟

1st K. Andrews	18pts
2nd M Ward	14pts
3rd D. Evans	13pts
4th S Plank	13pts
5th K Courtney	11pts
6th K Hunter	10pts
7th G. Baird	10pts
8th D Kefferty	6pts



SCOTTISH NATIONAL STILLWATER BANK COMPETITION 2023



PLEASE HELP & DONATE

Recently, we heard the tragic news about a fellow angler and fishery staff member dying from a heart attack. Unfortunately, this sad event occurred at Kinross Fishery (which already has a defibrillator), one of this year's participating bank championship venues. Because of this, we decided to hold a raffle at all remaining events to raise funds to buy a defibrillator. All monies raised will go into the fund.

The new 2023 Scottish national champion will randomly pick one of the remaining eight participating fisheries to receive the defibrillator following this year's final. The draw will occur at New Haylie Fishery on Sunday, the 14th of May, 2023.

Participants can donate old or new fishing tackle, vouchers, cinema tickets, cash or anything suitable for a raffle. Donated items will be gratefully received and should be dropped off at participating fisheries. Alternatively, please get in touch with the organiser for an uplift.



Bung Fishing

As I said previously about bung fishing it's something I wouldn't try as I feel it's just like sitting there on a bait pond watching your float bobbing about. However, it seems to have recently taken the fly-fishing scene by storm as even some of the major competition fly anglers have moved over to the dark side and are now using it even in competitions.



What is a fly-fishing Bung?

A fly-fishing bung is a strike indicator that attaches to your leader and serves as a bobber. In fly fishing we call it a 'strike indicator' or 'bung'. The purpose of a bung is to indicate a strike on your subsurface fly.

Bungs come in many different forms. They can be large dry flies, hard rubber balloons, foam, poly yarn, Styrofoam.

Bungs can also conceal a hook, in the odd event that a fish eats your bung instead of your fly. Stocked trout tend to eat the bung more often than wild trout because the bung shape and colour are similar to shape and colour of feed pellets that stocked trout are fed before being released into the local fisheries.

Bung Fly Fishing Setup

The bung is attached to your leader between your point fly and the beginning of your fly line.

Most bung packaging includes directions for attaching your bung to your leader. If you are using a large dry fly, attach your tippet to your dry fly using an improved clinch knot tied around the bend of your dry fly hook.

In order to know where to place your bung on your leader, you have to take the speed of any current on the fishery water due to wind velocity and the depth of the water into consideration.

Having spoken to some anglers using the bung method, they have advised that a tapered leader works well for fly fishing with a bung. They would normally use between 4 feet and 8 feet of leader to find out the depth the fish are feeding at and adjust the bung accordingly, so that they are always in the feeding area.

What Type of Leader and Tippet Should I Use While Fishing with a Bung

You can use either monofilament or fluorocarbon while fishing a bung, but it is recommended using fluorocarbon for several reasons. Monofilament leaders and tippet tend to float, whereas fluorocarbon sinks.

Since a bung is only used while using bung flies, using fluorocarbon in your bung setup will help get your flies down to the right depth quicker with less slack in the line.

There are various different types of bung flies out there as there are fly fishing flies and lures, so it is the individual's own choice on what he prefers to use whilst fishing the Bung.



RETIRALS FROM MALLENY ANGLING

Long-standing chairman Jim McComb has stepped down after six years at Malleny Angling Ltd. McComb has also spent four years as a director and more than a decade in official duties, including that of head bailiff.

Edinburgh-based McComb, a retired electrical engineer, who worked off-shore for many years, was encouraged to become a bailiff by former secretary Alan Holbrook and he will continue as a committee member this year, buying fish for the water, but will hand that duty over next year.

He said: "It has been a privilege to serve as chairman and it is comforting to know that I leave my official role with Malleny Angling in a financially sound position and, for the future, in very capable hands."



Jim McComb with his Honorary Membership certificate. Picture by Nigel Duncan

McComb becomes an honorary member of the club and he was presented with that accolade by incoming chairperson Nigel Duncan at the well-attended annual meeting in Balerno which heard that the club faces a number of challenges in 2023.

Robert Ross also retires as a director but will remain as company secretary and a committee member until the 2024 annual meeting when he plans

to fully retire. Ross has been an official of the club for 15 years.

Rob Horsfield remains as treasurer and a director for this year before he retires in 2024.



Incoming directors are Paul Kenny and Alastair Lyndon and they will be supported by Steven Oliver, who is head bailiff.

He was presented with the Chairman's Trophy which recognises a member who has provided a special service to Malleny Angling.

McComb said Oliver was well worthy of recognition and added: "Steven who has taken over in challenging times and run the seven-day operation well."

Oliver told the annual meeting that being a bailiff is a fundamental and necessary task undertaken by a few for the good of many and he added: "We owe a great debt to those who come forward."

Well-known octogenarian angler, Ronnie Robinson, continues to administer catch returns, a vital role for the club who have also confirmed prices for the season which opens on April 1.

A day ticket on which an anglers can kill three fish will cost £28, an increase of £3, and a day ticket on a catch and release basis is £23. Evening permits have been discontinued. McComb argued that the increase is in the face of a significant increase in fish costs plus price increases for insurance among other cost rises.

Fishing times for members are from 6am with a finishing time of 10pm in April, September and October and 10.30pm during May, June, July and August.

Day ticket anglers can start fishing at 8am and anyone interested in fishing the water should note that bailiffs cannot issue permits. They must be bought online at the club's website: <https://mallenyangling.com/> and any angler arriving without a permit will be turned away.

The not-for-profit club, which is run by volunteers, also runs a busy Facebook site called Malleny Angling with weather reports, information and pictures plus instructional videos and all relevant information is posted.

Tackle Reviews

All tackle reviews are impartial and honest reviews undertaken by the editor.

If you want an honest and frank review of your fly-fishing tackle please email me at editor.scottishflyfisher@gmail.com

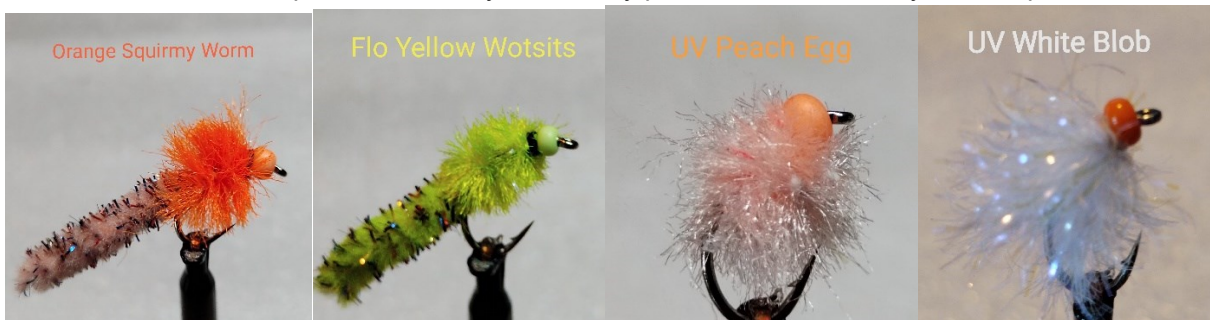
I got some fly-tying material sent to me from Fly Tying Scotland to undertake a review on them.

I must say the material is excellent quality and what you get in the bag is unbelievable, for example I measured the bag of Fritz and Egg material and they were 2 meters long, plenty to tie up as many flies/lures that you want.

I really loved the various chenille material that they sent it was perfect for the bodies on numerous styles of lures, and at £3.75 a pack very good value for your money.



All their other products are very reasonably priced as well from only £3.00 a pack.





All the egg officials out there will love the new UV Egg Chenille for tying up the eggs, great colour choice.

Below just some of the flies I've tied up so far with the material, got plenty more to do.



As a small Scottish business, Fly-Tying Scotland sells all kinds of products and materials related to fly-tying and fishing flies. Using raw materials that are derived only from the highest quality source, engineered with the highest level of craftsmanship. The founders of Fly-Tying Scotland are expert fishermen themselves.

So, I would recommend supporting the small Scottish businesses out there to ensure that they keep going.



I also received fly tying stuff from Semperfli to try out. Some Semperseal Subs dubbing in Medium Claret, Sooty Olive, plus some Semperflash in Krinkle Fluorescent Green and Mirror Orange along with a reel of Chartreuse 0.2mm wire.



The Semperseal Subs dubbing, is not like your usual seal fur and rabbit dubbing. When using it you don't lose some of the dubbing onto the fly-tying desk or the floor as it is robust as all you need to do is just to pull a few strands from the pack and wrap it around your thread.

The dubbing is really soft and has a nice finish to it, it also seems to have a nice little sheen to it, which should appeal to the trout.

See the fly-tying page below for the fly-tying pattern for the Olive & Claret nymph.

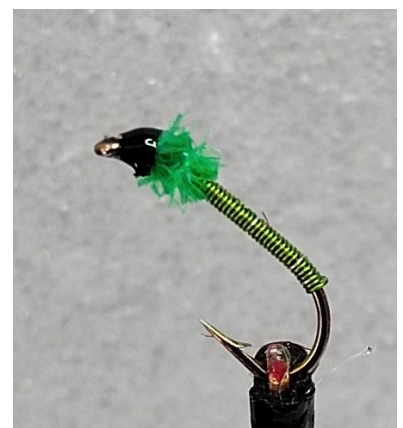
I also tied up just a plain olive PTN as you can see below.

The Chartreuse wire I used to tie up some Brassie Nymphs for my fly box as the wire is really fine and gives off a great shine under the water.



I've been using the Semperflash Mirror Orange and Krinkle Flouro Green as tails on some of the lures like the Orange Blob as seen below. The Semperflash in either colour gives off a great shine and is ideal as a target point for attracting the fish. The Semperflash can also be used as breathers on emerging buzzers or as a trigger point under the thorax.

You can get the above-mentioned materials and plenty more quality Semperfli products from any good fly-tying shop.



Fly Tying Time



Olive & Claret Nymph

Hook: - Stillwater Spiker in Size 10, 12, 14

Thread: - Uni-Thread 0/6 Thread in Black

Body: - Semperfli Semperséal Subs Sooty Olive

Rib: - Semperfli Chartreuse 0.2mm Wire

Thorax: - Semperfli Semperséal Subs Medium Claret

Tying Pattern

1. Tie on thread in touching turns to just before the bend of the hook.
2. Tie in some Pheasant Tail fibres
3. Tie in the wire
4. Tie in the rest of the pheasant tail feathers to $\frac{3}{4}$ of the hook length
5. Take a few strips of dubbing and wrap around the thread.
6. Tie in the dubbing to just behind the pheasant tail feathers near the eye.
7. Bring the wire up the hook securing the dubbing in evenly spaced out turns, continue to just before the eye and tie off with the thread.
8. Add the claret dubbing to the thread and make a few turns around the hook to build up a neat thorax.
9. Bring the pheasant tail fibres over the thorax and secure with a few turns of the thread.
10. Trim off any excess dubbing and pheasant tail fibres.
11. Build up a neat head and then once secure and thread cut off, give the head a coating of varnish.

OPENING DAY OF LAKE OF MENTEITH



Quint Glen, manager at Lake of Menteith Fishery, with his wife Rosie (second left) plus, refugees from Ukraine Olena and Darya Zakharchenko who officially opened the season at Lake of Menteith

Keeping with tradition, bosses at popular Lake of Menteith ask local ladies and or VIPs to open the fishing season at lake and two Ukrainian women refugees, mother Olena and daughter Darya Zakharchenko, from Bakhmut, who now live locally, imparted good luck to anglers as they officially opened their 58th season.

The duo was presented with flowers to mark the occasion before anglers were piped aboard their boats by Quint Glen, manager of the fishery near Aberfoyle.

Reports indicated that one boat reported 42 fish and the average catch per boat was around ten with reports that there was plenty of fish feeding activity focused on a prolific buzzer hatch. The weather was wetter than had been forecast with showers and a fickle wind. This affected catches for some, but all 30 boats were out.

Glen said the lake has a good stock of overwintered fish as well as 1,200 stockies inserted last week and hot spots over the winter have been the Eastern Basin with bung and bug, buzzer snakes and dries.

Boat maintenance has been undertaken over the winter and engines have been repaired along with life jackets being tested. New fish pens have been built as the fishery rear their own trout. Fish are delivered from 50grammes upwards and they are bedded in.

He added: "A fishery managers job is never done with a lot of administration undertaken and we have developed a new membership deal which has been passed by the board.

"It took some time to do that. The membership deal is basically a fishing discount card and to get involved is easy. You get a percentage off items in the shop and early access to bookings.

"It is open to everybody and if you fish here more than six times you make savings."

The 700-acre fishery, situated in Scotland's only natural lake and claimed to be the best known in Scotland, operates seven days a week, opening at 8am and closing depending on darkness falling.

Six major competitions are scheduled for this year including the seniors international and the Scottish Anglers National Association Competition Clubs (SANACC) Championships plus the Fario Boat League and he added: "Almost every club who comes here fishes a competition."

Meanwhile, Glen has been presented with an engraved glass jug by the fishery directors to mark his 25th season as manager and a culinary note for anglers. If ham hock soup is on offer grab it. It is wonderful and the Taste of Trossachs pies, particularly the steak ones, are ones to savour and they are provided from a multi-award-winning company based in Central Region.



Sam Hayhurst from Edinburgh with a cracking fish on opening day

Gary Hamilton with a pike captured on a small fly on opening day.

All pictures by Paul Barr



Kailzie Fishery Re-opens



Keen salmon fisher Connor Alexander Newcombe always wanted a fishing pond, now he has one and it is bigger than he ever dreamed of.

Popular Kailzie Fishery at Peebles is set to re-open soon under his management after being shut for over a year.

The self-employed, 26-year-old aimed to open in April once he re-stocked the water and he is "buzzing" at the prospect of running Kailzie.

There are two ponds at the fishery, a previously popular bait pond, which catered for young anglers and those with an emotional and physical disability, and the two-acre fly pond, one of the locations where young Newcombe was introduced to the sport.

The former Peebles High School pupil, who also runs a Peebles-based carpet fitting business, admitted both ponds looked a bit tired on take-over day and needed a tidy up as well as the hut.

Newcombe will also have around a mile of the nearby Tweed to administer and he added: "We're working on getting trout supplies right now and we will be taking a step at a time.

"Looking back, it was my great, great grandfather who was a really keen fisherman and my uncle took me out and I loved it. I'm not a competition angler, only a leisure one, and I love to salmon fish, but I also enjoy trout fishing.

"I want people who come here to enjoy the experience and to catch fish as I did as a youngster. I used to come here with the school and loved it and we want to bring the youngsters back.

"We also want to bring back fishing for people with an emotional and physical disability as it was really popular with people from all over, including people from Midlothian, before the fishery closed."

Newcombe stressed that he wants the whole area around the fishery to be well-maintained like a garden and he will be reinstalling the putting green.

Hosting corporate days is a distance away, but he added: "We're working on the hut now and will be offering hot drinks, sweets, crisps and even pies from a local supplier when we re-open.

"We're also in touch with Fishers tackle shop in Penicuik to provide goods for our small tackle outlet"

And he added: "I always wanted a (fishing) pond just never thought it would be as big as this.



LINLITHGOW LOCH SPRING COMPETITION

SUNDAY 14TH MAY 2023

The Forth Area Federation of Anglers will be holding an Open Individuals Fly Fishing Competition on Sunday 14th May 2023.

The competition is open to all keen fly fishers, and the entry fee is only £30.00.

1st Prize £100.00 GAC Voucher Plus Trophy
2nd Prize £75.00 GAC Voucher
3rd Prize £50.00 Voucher (Donated by Richard Wheatly Ltd)
Heaviest Fish £25.00 GAC Voucher

The competition will run from 9am till 4pm, all boats must be docked or be ready to dock by 4pm. Any boats not docked by 4.15pm will be disqualified unless mitigating circumstances deem otherwise.

Competitors must arrive by 8am and set up, there will be a competition briefing at 8.30am

You may be allowed 2 rods to be set up during the competition, but only one rod must be used at any one time and lines removed from the water before using the other rod.

Only fishery landing nets are allowed to be used during the competition.

All competitors must be on their allocated boat and ready to leave the dock at 9am once the horn has sounded.

There will also be a raffle on the day with some cracking prizes to be won, tickets are £5.00 per strip.

If you are interested in entering the competition, please contact the federation through our email account at linlithgowlochlodge@hotmail.com

A £10.00 deposit is required when booking your place and full entry payment must be made by Saturday 15 April 2023, or your place will be allocated to the next person on the waiting list for a space.

Competition Rules

1. Each individual will be randomly paired up with another boat angler.
2. 2 Fish Limit, first two fish must be kept, timings of first fish caught must be recorded on catch sheet in case of a draw on weights of the fish; timings will decide the winners where necessary. The timings must be witnessed by other boat partner. 2lb will be added to total weight score for fish caught after the bag limit.
3. If first or second fish caught and netted is a Brown Trout it must be returned safely to the water, it will count towards the points total and must be recorded on catch sheet. You may keep the next rainbow trout caught towards your bag limit.
4. After first 2 fish caught catch and release will follow, all fish caught must be recorded on catch sheet and witnessed by boat partner. All fish must be landed in the net to count towards points.
5. All hooks must be barbless or de-barbed during the competition.
6. If there is a complaint against another competitor, it must be reported immediately to the officials on duty when returning to the lodge and a decision will be made and announced accordingly.

BOOKS BOOKS BOOKS BOOKS

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BOOKS BOOKS

BOOKS BOOKS

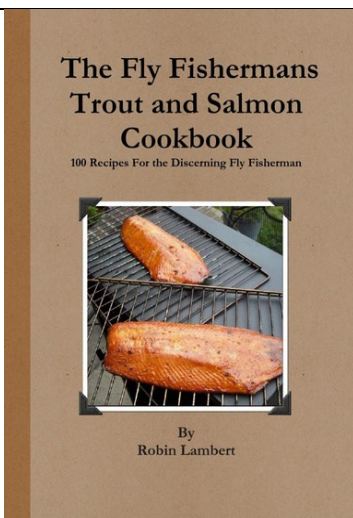
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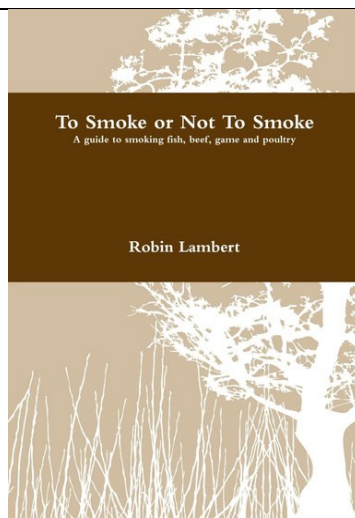
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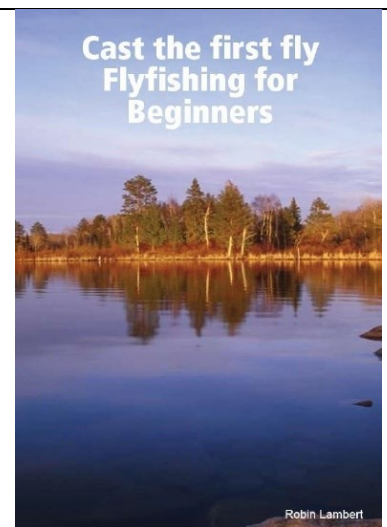
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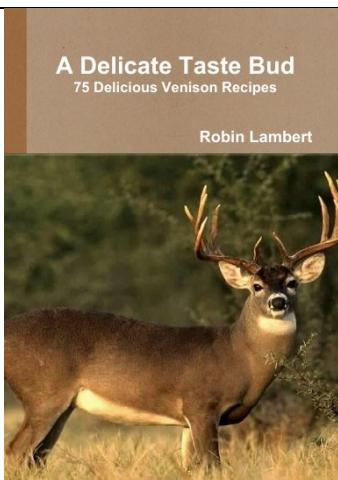
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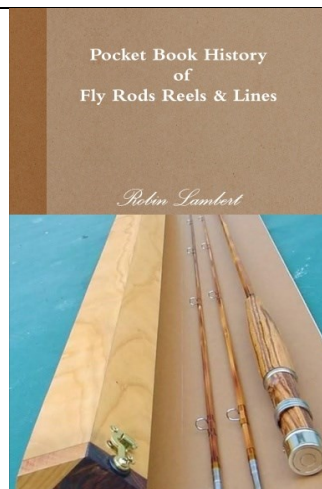
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