

# *The Scottish Flyfisher*

## *Quarterly Magazine*

*October 2023*



Scotland Claim Autumn International Fishing Title

Assynt Crofters Trust

Working Out Which Set Up to Use

Best Trout Flies to Use in October



Robin Lambert editor  
[www.scottish-flyfisher.co.uk](http://www.scottish-flyfisher.co.uk)

Welcome to the Scottish Flyfisher Magazine's quarterly October 2023 issue.

- Page 4: Scotland Claim Autumn International Fishing Title
- Page 5: Linlithgow Loch Spring Competition
- Page 6: Assynt Crofters Trust
- Page 8: Derek Pozzi Scotland's National Champion
- Page 10: Working Out Which Set Up to Use
- Page 11: Best Trout Flies to Use in October
- Page 12: How to Construct Your Own Bamboo Fly Fishing Rods
- Page 16: Staycation Time
- Page 18: Linlithgow Loch 2024 Boat League

If you would like to advertise your fly-fishing business or holiday accommodation within either the magazine or the parent website, please contact me directly at [editor.scottishflyfisher@gmail.com](mailto:editor.scottishflyfisher@gmail.com) for an advertisement rates card.

Hi everyone, yet again my apologies for the shorter version of the magazine this issue.

Due to the ongoing health issues, I have been unable to get out and about as much as I was hoping for the last couple of months, I've only managed to get out twice since beginning of June when I had the mini stroke, and that was for only 4 hours each time and that was a bit of a toil even to last that long. I've also been in and out of hospital since then with various other complications.

Plus, to cap it all, the website provider I was previous using for my website decided to close down at the end of August so I had to spend all my time at the computer rebuilding a new website from scratch. The new website I'm happy to say is now fully up and operational. Also, the name has changed due to complications and issues with the Domain Name Provider not transferring the old Domain Name over to me. Hope the new website meets your requirements.

[www.scottish-flyfisher.co.uk](http://www.scottish-flyfisher.co.uk)



## 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 advise 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.

Send the questions or your story to [editor.scottishflyfisher@gmail.com](mailto:editor.scottishflyfisher@gmail.com)



# SCOTTISHFLIES

## Flies to catch trout on

We founded Scottish Flyfisher Flies with one goal in mind: providing a high-quality, smart, and reliable online store.

Our passion for excellence has driven us from the beginning and continues to drive us into the future.

We know that every product counts, and strive to make the entire shopping experience as rewarding as possible.

All products are tied to the highest standard using quality products from Fly Tying Scotland, Iona Allan and other great fly-tying suppliers.

Check it out for yourself at [www.scottishflies.com](http://www.scottishflies.com)



## Scotland Claim Autumn International Fishing Title By Nigel Duncan

Tom MacTaggart, secretary of Scottish Anglers National Association Competition Clubs (SANACC) claimed that Scotland's triumph in the Autumn International at the Lake of Menteith, winning by the largest margin by numbers of fish since 1938, was an outstanding team effort.

The 14 Scotland anglers boated a total of 158 trout with a weight of 336lb 2.7oz which was 54 trout clear of second placed England with 104. Ireland was third with 100 trout and Wales fourth with 72.

Each angler killed their first three trout and then went on to catch and release with an allowance of 2lb given for each returned fish.

MacTaggart from Penicuik confirmed that Scottish rods were in four of the top five individual positions in addition to filling ten of the top 15 places. The leading individual and winner of the Brown Bowl and the Silver Salver was Scotland's Ronnie Gilbert from Ayrshire who had 20 trout for 40lb 4.5oz.

In addition to being Scotland's National Champion in 2008 and 2014, Gilbert won the Brown Bowl and Silver Salver in the Autumn International in 2022. Close behind in second was Scott Aitken from the Falkirk area who also had 20 trout but with a smaller weight of 39lb .6oz.

Darren Maguire was Ireland's top rod and finished in third place with 19 fish for 38lb 15.9oz while Scotland's Chris McAllister was fourth with 15 trout and his team-mate Martin McCafferty was fifth with 12 fish.

England's top rod was Philip Thompson who was seventh overall with 12 fish and top rod for Wales in 19th place was Darren Williams with eight fish.

Local anglers involved were Kevin McCabe from Haddington, Derek Marklow from Penicuik, Stuart Barclay from Pathhead and Keith Renton, the captain, from the Borders.

PICTURE: Scotland's winning team pictured at the Lake of Menteith.



Back row (left-right: Michael Callaghan (International Fly-Fishing Association secretary), George Mackenzie (international secretary), Derek Keenan (team manager), Derek Hessett, Brian Mackenzie, Mark Stephen, Allan McLachlan, Chris McAllister, Martin McCafferty and Paul Sharman (International Fly-Fishing Association president). Front row: Kevin McCabe, Derek Marklow, Scott Henderson, Scott Aitken, Keith Renton (captain), Stuart Barclay, Gregor Fleming and Ronnie Gilbert.



## LINLITHGOW LOCH SPRING COMPETITION 2024

The inaugural Linlithgow Loch Spring Competition was held on Sunday 14 May 2023 and was a great success, so the association has decided to hold it on an annual basis. Next years event will be held on Sunday 12 May 2024.

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 GAC Voucher

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.

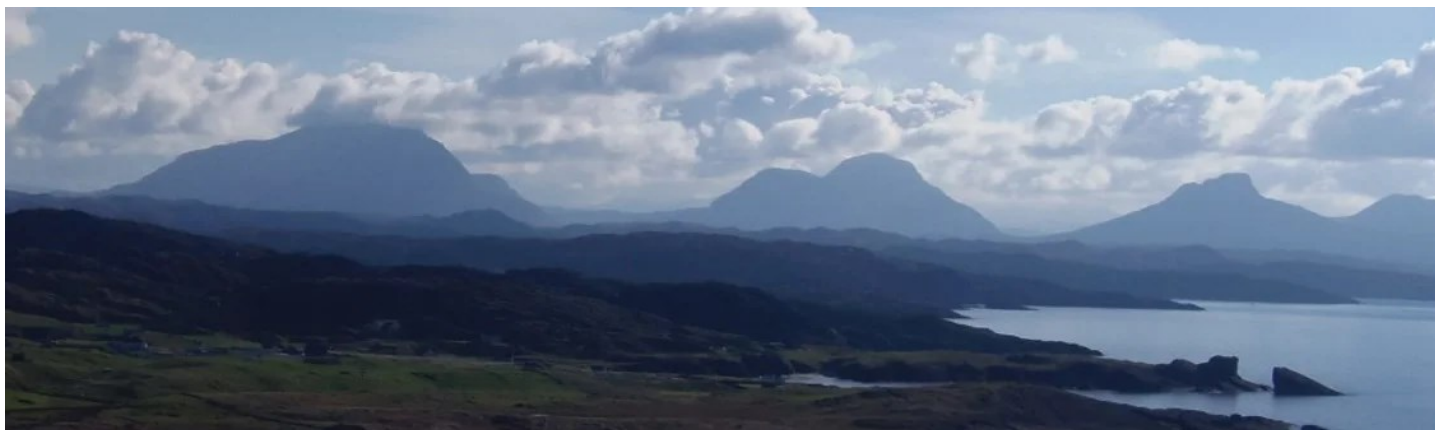
There will also be a raffle on the day with some cracking prizes to be won, tickets are £5.00 per strip.

If you are interested in entering the competition, please contact the federation through our email account at [linlithgowlochlodge@hotmail.com](mailto:linlithgowlochlodge@hotmail.com)

A £10.00 deposit is required when booking your place and full entry payment must be made by Saturday 13 April 2024, 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.



## [Assynt Crofters Trust](#)

### WILD BROWN TROUT FISHING IN THE NORTH ASSYNT ESTATE

Explore the Unknown Lochs

The Assynt Crofters made History in 1993, by buying the North Assynt Estate.

Over 100 Crofters set out on the first-ever Crofting Community Buy-Out of their land, and with enormous popular support, donations, and grant aid, they succeeded. The Estate, which extends to some 22,000 acres of hill and croft land, has around 200 Freshwater Lochs all containing natural wild Brown Trout: some of which also have Salmon and Seatrout runs.

The Loch Fishings is a very valuable resource to the Crofters' Trust, and all of the income from Angling is used to assist with the further development of the Fishings and the Estate in general.

Since the purchase of the land, the trust has carried out a restocking Programme, under guidance from the West of Sutherland Fisheries Trust, of the Manse/Tuirc Loch Water System. Two Hundred Thousand Seatrout Fry have been released into the feeder streams and lochs in this network, over a four-year period.

The trust welcomes all anglers to the area and they offer you some of the finest and most interesting Wild Brown Trout fishing in the Highlands of Scotland. All they ask of you is to purchase a permit as a gesture of goodwill before you fish. By so doing you will be contributing to the long-term development of the North Assynt Estate, which will make it a better place for you and for the people who live here, alike.

The permits to fish the Loch's and rivers are not expensive and can be purchased from several different outlets in the area. Children fish FREE of charge.

### **The Lochs**

Two hundred or so; some of which have Salmon & Seatrout runs, all containing natural wild Brown Trout, and some with the occasional Char. The fish vary in size from very small to very large, but on average they weigh in around 3 pounds. The great fun and challenge of fishing here is that you have to find the lochs where the big fish are.

Fish one loch, go over the hillock and fish the next one, there are lochs around every corner, and behind every mound, it is truly a Fisherman's Paradise.

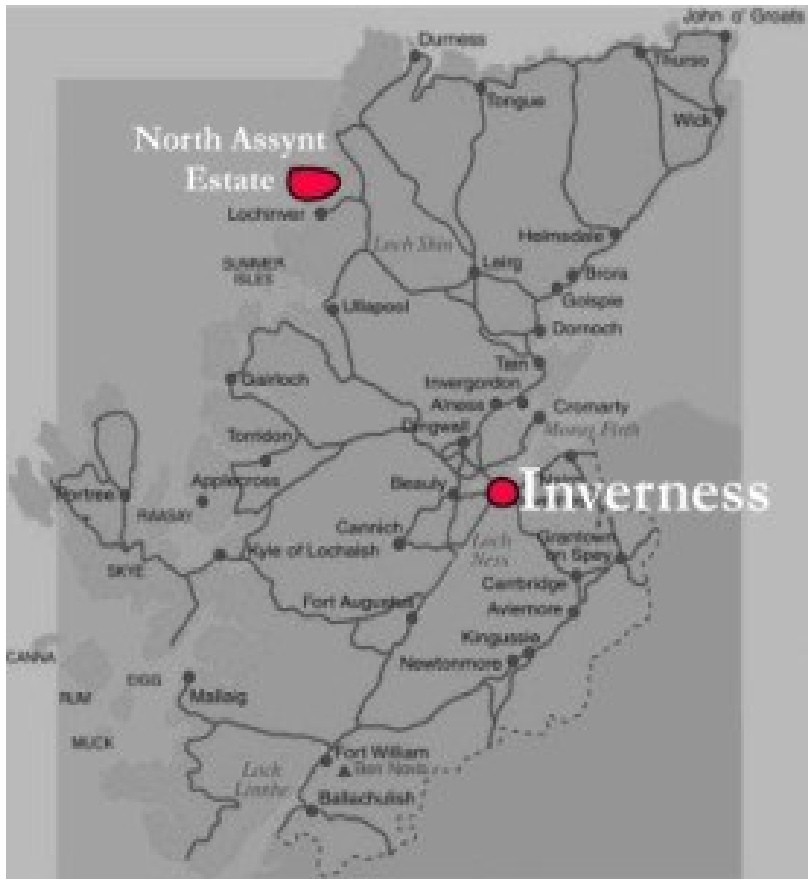
Fishing on the North Assynt Estate cannot be compared with fishing the Rainbow Fisheries of Central and Southern Scotland, where large stocked fish are the norm. If your expectations are not of large fish all of the time, then the trust can assure you that you will not leave here disappointed. There are plenty of big fish lurking in the depths, in many of our waters, but they are not easy to catch.

Apply patience, stealth, and skill, and you may be rewarded by landing, one or two, or maybe more of those elusive, Leviathan fish.

The charges for fishing are £10/day for bank fishing. £30 per week or £45 season. Children fish free

Boat hire is £15 per day

Contact details: To book phone 01571 855298, office open 9 - 2 every weekday, Easter to October. Outside these times leave a message and trust will get back to you.



Assynt Crofters' Trust

North Assynt Estate  
Stoer  
Lairg  
IV27 4JE

Tel: 01571 855298

E-mail: [jcm1701@aol.com](mailto:jcm1701@aol.com)

The North Assynt Estate is located in the Parish of Assynt approximately 100 miles North-West of Inverness. The nearest village is Lochinver.

The drive from Inverness to Lochinver is one of the most spectacular runs in Scotland - once seen never forgotten.

Once here, the coastal run on the B869 from Lochinver to Kylesku is a scenic bonus. This road runs for about 14 miles through the estate and, with a small diversion, visits all the Townships.

The Trust's office is located alongside Rhu Stoer Village Hall about a mile north of the township of Stoer.

From April to September the office is open 9am-2pm Monday-Friday, with knowledgeable local staff providing visitor information, fishing permits and boat hire.



Loch Fionn

#### Assynt Crofters' Trust

ACT Permit Prices

Daily Permit: £10

Weekly: £30

Season: £45

Boat hire: £15 per day

Children fish free

#### ACT Permit outlets

ACT Office, Stoer (Mon-Fri 9am-2pm) Tel:01571 855298.

Drumbeg Stores Drumbeg (01571 833235)

Clachtoll Beach Campsite, Clachtoll, IV27 4JD

Flossie's Beach Store, Clachtoll IV27 4JD

Lochinver Landscapes, Main St, Lochinver, IV27 4JY

Mackay's Hardware, Culag Gardens, Lochinver IV27 4JR

ACT Boat permits:

Boat permits are available from the ACT Office, STOER (Tel. 01571 855298).

Office hours are 9am-2pm Mon-Fri. There is more information on Assynt Crofter's Trust website.

## Derek Pozzi Scotland's National Champion By Nigel Duncan



Derek Pozzi underlined his consistency and made history in becoming Scotland's National Champion for the third time after previous wins in 2018 and 2021, and he tempted trout in an area of the Lake of Menteith which he rarely fishes.

The Glenrothes-based plumber boated 14 trout for 28lb 4.3oz and they were all caught at the area known as The Cages. Pozzi, a regular at the 700-acre fishery, had practiced on two days ahead of the final and noted that the area had been producing.

So, the Thalassa member and his boat partner headed straight there and reaped the benefit with Pozzi hooking into a trout with his first cast.

Mid-way through the day the pair went for a drive around the lake and noted that nobody was really catching anywhere else so they headed back there.

Pozzi from Glenrothes, who is a member at The Ballo Fishery near the town, said: "I fish at Menteith every Saturday and The Cages is not my favourite part of the water, but in two days of practice ahead of the final people were catching there.

"They were using bobbies and so I picked two boobies with a Diawl Bach in the middle on a fast glass line. Later, as the fish were rising, I picked out a daddy and that worked too."

His boat partner, Sandy McConnachie of Aurora Orkney FF, finished with seven trout for 15lb 1oz which out him in 17th position and earned him a place in the 2024 international teams who travel to Ireland in the Spring and Wales in the Autumn.

Overall, Sean McCaffrey of North Shetland FF hooked 12 trout for 27lb 11oz to come second and Michael Low of Menteith Ospreys was third with 11 trout for 22lb 15.5oz.

Conditions were overcast skies and a light ripple or flat calm until late afternoon when a chilly breeze sprung up.



Derek Pozzi (right) with Quint Glen, manager of the Lake of Menteith Fishery, at the trophy presentation.





## New UNI-Mohair (2-Plies) Camel

UNI-Products, a world leader in the supply of spooled fly-tying materials, announces the addition of UNI-Mohair (2-Plies) Camel. The mohair fibres do not absorb water. It has long fibres and the twenty-nine colours offered by UNI Products make it possible to create the perfect body: Beige, Black, Brown, Camel, Charcoal, Cream, Dark Brown, Dark Olive, Fl. Green, Fl. Orange, Fl. Red, Fuchsia, Golden Brown, Gold, Green Highlander, Gray, Kelly Green, Light Blue, Light Cahill, Light Gray, Maroon, Olive, Orange, Purple, Red, Rusty Brown, Tan, White and Wine. Making realistic dubbed bodies in a single step or combing out a few fibres at the back to simulate a trailing shuck are just two of the many possible uses. In addition to regular single-color packaging, UNI-Mohair (2-Plies) is available in a combo package of 20 spools.

Ask your local fly-shop for UNI-Mohair (2-Plies) and visit our website for information about all our products.

Look to UNI-Products for the best in spooled fly-tying materials and accessories.

[www.uniproducts.com](http://www.uniproducts.com)

## Working Out Which Set Up to Use???

No matter what stage you are at in your fly-fishing journey, you can always try something new.

We all enjoy talking with and helping other fly anglers - from beginners to really experienced anglers. Or even trying to obtain some useful information yourself to help you out on the day.

I hope you can benefit from my thoughts on which set up to use whatever level you are at.

### Double Fly Set Up



If fish are feeding on very small flies, then I would normally tie on a big, bushy fly like a Klinkhammer and then have the smaller fly/buzzer on an 18 - 24-inch dropper.

The big Klinkhammer fly serves as a locator and a strike indicator!

As a fish hits the tiny fly, as expected the good old Klinkhammer will disappear as well.

It is possible to have the Klinkhammer to be hit occasionally also by a greedy trout.

Once you know the exact pattern the fish are taking you can use two of the same flies, increasing the odds of getting a fish - simply watch the line and rough area the flies are floating in.

You can test twice as many patterns this way to find what is being hit when trying out a water to find out what they are taking. It also allows you to vary sizes to see which size of a fly i.e., a Black Gnat is being taken!

### Dry Fly & Emerger Rig

When there is a hatch on, fish will focus on a specific stage of the hatch cycle - say the dry sitting on the surface ready to take off.

So, when uncertain you should be casting a dun or an emerger, or fish both! That way you can see which one works.

When trout are preoccupied eating dries, greedy trout can't pass up a crippled-looking emerger. It is still food and easy pickings for them.

### Attractor Dry Fly and Nymph

When you have no idea what the fish are eating and you want to cover a lot of water, try this set up.

Use a large attractor-pattern dry fly, like the Klinkhammer mentioned above or using a Muddler pattern with a real attractor nymph or buzzer on the dropper.

You can present with the two options of flies. The dry fly acts as a strike indicator for the nymph/buzzer in that this system allows you to fish the nymph/buzzer at a very specific depth. You can then vary the depth of the nymph/buzzer to suit the conditions.

You can never go wrong with nymphs or buzzers on the droppers and if you have the right ones on your laughing.

### Washing Line Rig

The Washing Line is a fantastic stillwater set up and will catch trout in Stillwater's when many other options fail. The team of flies use the buoyancy of a booby to lift the remaining nymphs above the bed of the fishery or loch.

This is ideal when the buzzers on the droppers are working where other tactics are not. In a reverse to normal trout tactics / set ups the point fly is a booby, buoyant lifting the leader in the air. The heaviest buzzer is set at the other end of the set up. The effect is that when using an Intermediate, slow sinking or sinking line that they angle down in the water, off the horizontal leader.

## Best Trout Flies to Use in October

The hatches of most insects start to slow down during end of September and beginning of October with only a few smaller buzzer hatches occurring as water temperatures begin to cool. These lower temperatures don't deter the trout though as water temperatures usually sit between a steady 8-10 degrees, it's the perfect habitat for trout activity.

### Best trout flies for October



During this month, trout start to feed up heavily for the winter months ahead.

The best trout flies to use in October are pin fry imitations, such as snakes, humongous, booby and fry patterns. These flies cover imitative patterns to suggestive patterns.

### Focusing On Fry Feeding Fish

Continuing on from the end of September, trout will be primarily targeting baitfish/fry as it provides them with a rich protein-based diet.

This rich diet allows fish to feed up and put on enough weight to see them through the winter months as their metabolism starts to slow down. The great thing about targeting October fry feeding trout is that it increases your chances of hooking into a specimen sized trout.

### Location Is Key!

With water temperatures cooling down, features such as margins and solid structure like rocks etc tend to warm up a lot quicker and provide a safe habitat, making these key areas the best place to initially target.

locating fry feeders

Other key areas to focus your efforts on are weed beds, buoys, jetties and moored boats. All these areas provide sanctuary and cover for fry. Trout will patrol these structured areas throughout the month. Look for surface activity as it's not uncommon to see the water boil as fry show off their acrobatic display to evade capture. If there is no surface activity, start working your way down through the water column.

**Top tip:** Try to identify the species of fry/bait fish within the local water. Spooning the fish safely if Catch & Release to match the naturals is a sure way to match what the fish are taking.

The below patterns are some great ones to use at this time of year. Use the Candy Booby and Floating Fry on the point with buzzers on the droppers, and bring them back with slow jerks and a great tip is to hang the fly on the water for a few seconds before casting again as most of the trout will follow them and take them at the last moment just as your ready to cast again.

If you're fishing deeper to find out what depth the fish are at, another great fly at this time of year is the Snake, fished at depth and with fast jerky movements is a great way also to attract and catch the fish, I normally use mini snakes on my cast in various colours as they imitate the smaller fry patterns in the water and are a great fish catcher.



Candy Booby



Floating Fry



Black Snake

Some other great patterns all year round but especially at this time of year are the following: - Yellow Dancer; Flash Damselfs; Squiggly Worms and Black Hothead Damselfs. I'm never short of these and if I am I just tie more up.

## How to Construct Your Own Bamboo Fly Fishing Rods



A split bamboo fly fishing rod is the Holy Grail for the dedicated fly fishermen all over the world.

A well-crafted custom-made bamboo fly rod is a functional piece of art that can take more than 100 hours to complete.

It is prized for its beauty, flexibility, sensitivity and durability. Antique rods made by past masters now sell for thousands of dollars.

With patience, skill, the right tools and attention to detail, you can build your own.

Select a Tonkin culm that is relatively straight and free of blemishes with nodes 18 to 24 inches apart. Split the culm with the splitting knife down the middle to get two halves. Flame the inside of each half carefully to strengthen and temper the bamboo fibre. Keep water handy to put out any flames quickly. Split the two culm halves into 18 blank sections for a two-piece rod and two tips.

Clamp each section, one at a time, into the vice. Rasp and file the raised interior nodule dams and exterior nodule lips down.

Use the heat gun and vice to press the dams flat and even with the rest of the rest of the surfaces, straightening the blank sections as you go.

Set each section into the rough planing form; set for a 60-degree equilateral triangle. Use the rough planer to take material off the raw sections of the blank sections. Never plane the glossy outer side. This is where the strongest bamboo fibres grow.

Be patient and work slowly, taking a few thousandths of an inch off at a time. The goal is to plane each section into a uniform equilateral triangle a quarter inch wide on each. Check the width and uniformity of the sections with the callipers and the machinist's gauge. When each section is rough planed to the required dimensions, bind six sections together into three pieces to form three hexagonal rod blanks.

Place the blanks on a flat surface and gently roll them back and forth to straighten them. Place the bound blanks into the curing oven. You can use a length of iron pipe and heat it with a blow torch, or you can make or buy one. Bake the blanks at 375 degrees for 7 minutes, turning each blank over after 3 1/2 minutes. This relaxes the bamboo, drives out moisture and stiffens the blank. Remove the blanks after they are cured, cut the cord and separate the sections. Place each section in the tapering form, and plane and scrape the full lengths to the desired taper for the butt section and the tip sections.

Match the smaller diameter of the butt section to the larger diameter of each tip section. Fit the sections together again after the final planing and scraping.

Once the strips are evenly matched up, tape each section together with a wrap at each end and one in the middle. Then slit the tape along one joint so you can lay each section out flat again to expose the sections' interior surfaces. The tape keeps the sections together on the flat surface.

Apply glue to the interior surfaces. Roll the sections back together to form the hexagonal blank sections and bind the full lengths with twine. Wipe off excess glue and gently roll the sections on a flat surface for the final straightening. Work quickly. You only have about 20 minutes before the epoxy sets up. Hang the blanks to dry for 8 hours in a dust-free area. Remove the binding twine,

gently sand off excess glue, then rebind the sections by hand and hang them for another 8 hours until the resin is completely dry. Cut the binding off and complete the final sanding.

Measure and cut each section blank to the finished length, making sure the diameters of the cut ends of the butt and both tips match exactly.

Measure and fit the female ferrule onto the tapered end of the butt section and each male ferrule onto the butt end of each tip section. Once they are properly fitted, remove the ferrules.

Find the rod's spine. This is a line along the natural curve the rod will take when casting or fighting a fish. Hold a section with one hand on each end. Bend the section and turn it in your hands. You'll feel the natural bend as you turn it, because the section will try to twist back to its natural curve as you turn it away from that point. Mark the top of spine on each section.

Later, you will set all the guides on the underside of this curve.

Finish the rod by attaching and gluing the ferrules in place, attaching the reel seat and cork grip, and attaching a rod guide 1 foot apart along each section. Measure and fit the tiptop to the end of each tip section.

Wrap the ferrule ends, each end of the rod guides and the tiptop ends with fine silk thread, then Spar varnish the rod.

Homemade bamboo fly rods are a valuable asset on several levels.

The process of making your own personal rod is rewarding in itself, particularly during that first catch on your homemade rod.

There are numerous books and downloads available showing the full process in the construction and making of your own bamboo rods, you will find them all from reputable fly-fishing book outlets or on line.

Selling top grade hand-crafted bamboo fly rods can also be lucrative. If you are a beginner, you might want to research fly-fishing clubs and organizations in your area. Many offer rod building classes that provide a solid foundation in rod design.

Building a bamboo fly rod requires many materials; here are a few of the most important tools: -

**Planing Forms:** Accurate tapering is essential for successful bamboo rod performance.

Bamboo wood must be tapered at a precise rate in order for the rod to work. The tapered bamboo pieces are then glued together to create a blank, which is the base for the fishing rod. In order to taper the bamboo, rod makers use planing forms, which strip away excess cane from the bamboo.

Planing forms resemble large blocks of steel with a triangular groove in the middle. The bamboo is run repeatedly across the groove to create an equilateral triangle, which is then combined with other cane strips (usually six) to create a circle or a blank.

**Quality Glue** is essential for making a strong, dependable blank.

Boyd Rod Company online recommends using epoxy glue, which has a long drying period to allow for any necessary adjustments. Epoxy glue can also be used to attach the bamboo blank to the ferrule or rod handle. Use a toothbrush or other small brush to ensure precision and cleanliness during application.

Once the glue has dried; sand off any excess that may have oozed out of the sides.

**Heating Tools** Once the blank has been glued, it is time to ensure that it is straight. In order to check for straightness, you need a heating tool.

Heating the blank will make it pliable, which will allow you to manipulate it until it is straight.

According to Wagner Rods online, some rod makers use a stove or alcohol lamp. You can also use a hot air gun. Do not overheat the blank, as this can cause the glue to disintegrate.

The blank should be cool enough to handle without gloves.

Making your own bamboo fly fishing rod in your spare time is a fly fisherman's dream.

If done correctly it will cast smoothly over the water and is ultra lightweight.

A bamboo fly fishing rod is not easy to make.

They require a lot of time, patience and most of all, practice.

Typical equipment required for making your own bamboo fly rod:- Tonkin bamboo culm Leather gloves Splitting knife (froe) Propane torch Water Rasp Vice A set of rough and finish planes Finishing scraper Plane sharpening jig Planing forms Dial calipers 60-degree machinist's gauge Digital depth gauge Nylon binding twine Heat gun Curing oven Sandpaper Scotch tape Glue 2 male and 1 female ferrules Wire line guides and 2 tip tops Custom reel seat Cork grip material Lathe Silk thread Spar varnish All methods of making a bamboo rod are based on the same principal, however some people prefer to use their own methods and after a while develop their own technique in making their rods.

### **Method:**

1. Purchase a bale of Tonkin bamboo cane. It's available in 12-foot lengths in bales of 20 culms. You can purchase them singly but it's more expensive.
2. Split the bamboo using an old, thick bladed knife and a mallet. It's easiest to start with a natural split in the bamboo. Make sure to wear leather gloves as you're at a high risk to cut yourself. Split the rod in half, each half in thirds and each third in quarters to yield 24 strips.
3. Keep the same orientation as they were in the culm, and separate the bamboo into 6 pieces for the butt section and 12 pieces for the tip sections of the bamboo rod.
4. Plane the bamboo rod so that they are equilateral triangles. Use a centre gauge to check the accuracy of the angles. They should be at 60-degree angles.
5. Bind the bamboo strips together in hexagons and tie them using string. Make sure the side facing out is the side that still has the original enamel layer. Heat the strips in a 6-foot-long oven to dry out excess moisture, straighten the rods and stiffen the cane. Remove the string.
6. Glue the strips then bind them together tightly with string in 3 hexagonal bundles. Allow them to dry then sand them. Taper the bamboo fly-fishing rod so that the tip is 74 thousandths of an inch thick.

Good luck if you decide to undertake the task of building your own rod.



**CLICK SPECIAL  
OFFERS FOR BIG  
DISCOUNTS**

## **PROVIDING THE BEST FLY TYING MATERIALS FOR YEARS**

**PRODUCTS: FLY LINES \* CHENILLE \* FLEXI FLOSS \* FLY BOXES \*  
FLY REELS \* FLY TYING BEADS \* FLY TYING DUBBING \* FLY TYING  
FEATHERS \* FLY TYING FRITZ \* HOOKS \* FLY TYING TINSEL \*  
OUTDOOR SUPPLIES \* TROUT FLIES \* ZONKER STRIPS \*  
BEHR PRODUCTS \* VENIARD PRODUCTS**



**Shop Now**

**[www.flytyingscotland.co.uk](http://www.flytyingscotland.co.uk)**



[flytyingscotland@outlook.com](mailto:flytyingscotland@outlook.com)

## Staycation Time

### Thurston Manor Leisure Park, Innerwick, Dunbar EH42 1SA



Despite my health issues, I decided to get myself another caravan, this time a lot smaller than my previous one so that it would be easier for me to handle when I start travelling about Scotland and hopefully maybe even further south like Rutland Water that I haven't been to in years.

My first staycation with the caravan was to Thurston Manor Leisure Park in Dunbar.

I went there from Monday 2 to Friday 6 October, just me and my wee buddy Jura. And of course, my fly-fishing gear.

The park has their own fly-fishing lake which is about 6 acres. And the costs for a day's fishing is really reasonable: -

Full Day with 3 fish limit is only £14.00  
Catch & Release 4 hours is £6.00 and full day £12.00

Unfortunately, due to the adverse weather conditions gusting to 40mph plus, each day I only managed to fish for four hours catch & release on the Tuesday morning.

Due to the fact that you are not allowed to fish in front of the static caravans, you could only fish just about half of the lake.

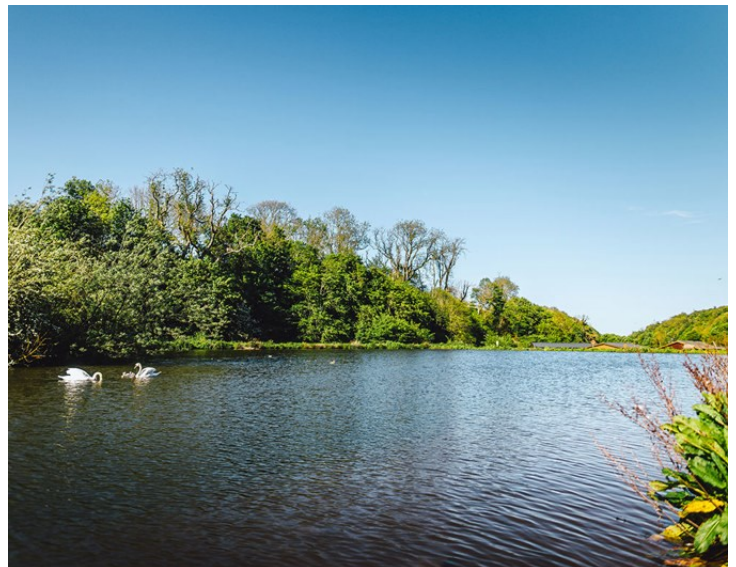
And of course, the wind was blowing straight into me, so my line was going everywhere else bar the part I was wanting my line to go.

I did manage quite a few nips and tugs, but no solid takes to land in the net.

I would definitely go back again when the weather is better next year, as the location is lovely and the facilities are brilliant. They have a nice restaurant and lovely food on offer at reasonable prices. Also, the cabaret lounge where there is good entertainment for the whole family during the day and at night.

Next door to this is the swimming pool, gym and sauna for everyone to enjoy. Outside there is plenty of playing areas for the kids.

Dogs are allowed on the park, but they must be kept on the lead at all times.





RICHARD WHEATLEY



OF ENGLAND

# THE ORIGINAL DRY FLY COMPARTMENT BOX BY RICHARD WHEATLEY

AVAILABLE IN A VARIETY OF WINDOW  
COMPARTMENTS TO SUIT YOUR NEEDS WITH  
A CHOICE OF FOAMS OR CLIPS FOR THE LID.

- 3" - 6 COMPARTMENTS
- 4" - 8, 10 OR 12 COMPARTMENTS
- 6" - 10, 13 OR 16 COMPARTMENTS

Full  
engraving  
service  
available on all  
aluminium  
boxes!



Tel: 01246 792019

Email: [sales@richardwheatley.co.uk](mailto:sales@richardwheatley.co.uk)

Connect with us   



Made in the UK

[www.richardwheatley.co.uk](http://www.richardwheatley.co.uk)



## LINLITHGOW LOCH 2024 BOAT LEAGUE

The Linlithgow Loch Fishery committee had their monthly meeting to and it was agreed that if enough people entered, we would hold a Tuesday Evening night boat league starting in May 2024.

Please see below the details of the event. If you are interested in entering, please PM me to get your name down.

### Linlithgow Loch 2024 BOAT LEAGUE

The 2024 LINLITHGOW LOCH BOAT LEAGUE commences on Tuesday 7th May and runs every Tuesday until 27th August.

The Linlithgow Loch Boat League is a friendly competition and the main aim for most is to get some fishing in the beautiful environment of Linlithgow Loch.

The fishing is all by boat (which limits angling pressure) and your boat and partner is randomly allocated each night of the League.

The details of the rules are below but the main aim is to enjoy your sport, the long summer evenings, and the fun of the organized fishing.

Fishing commences at 6pm and is till 10pm - every Tuesday until the 27th Aug which is the final night.

At the beginning of the night, you take your boat partner's score card and mark in THEIR catch including the time of the first fish as you go. At the end, you BOTH NEED TO SIGN IT.

The competition is catch and release and all flies must be debarbed – shouldn't snag a garment.

The final positions are based on the angler's top 12 heats out of 17, commencing Tuesday 7th May. The final heat and presentation are on Tuesday 27th August.

Entry to the League is £20. 100% of this subscription money will go towards monetary prizes for first, second, and third places. The cost for the 4 hours evening session would be £20 for each evening fished.

There will be two prizes awarded at each heat – 36 mixed flies and a free heat voucher (a day's fishing on the loch Catch & Release Basis which can be used within the next season) for the top competitor on the night. Competitors can only receive each prize once; prizes then being awarded to the next best angler who hasn't reached a prize limit.

### League Rules

In the event of a tie in the number of fish released the winner is decided on the basis of the time of the first fish caught (also recorded by your boat partner).

Boat pairings are randomly selected on the night.

The command of the boat changes halfway through the shift and competitors can change ends or as may be mutually agreed.

Any complaint arising during the course of the heat must be notified to the person in charge within 20 minutes of the end of the heat.

The committee reserves the right to disqualify any angler from the competition.

**If you would like to enter the 2024 Linlithgow Loch Boat League, then please email your interest to the fishery email address on their website.**

## The Fly Fishermans Trout and Salmon Cookbook

100 Recipes For the Discerning Fly Fisherman



By  
Robin Lambert

100 delicious trout and salmon recipes  
for the discerning fly fisherman/woman

Only £7.50 from [Lulu.com](http://Lulu.com)

## To Smoke or Not To Smoke

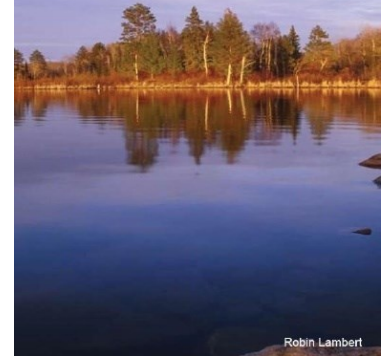
A guide to smoking fish, beef, game and poultry

Robin Lambert

How to smoke fish, beef, game and  
poultry at home using a home smoker

Only £7.50 from [Lulu.com](http://Lulu.com)

## Cast the first fly Flyfishing for Beginners



Robin Lambert

Ideal fly-fishing book for beginners  
giving advice on all aspects of fly  
fishing. Fly fishing advice in laymen's  
terms so that the beginner can under-  
stand the book and advice given.

Only £7.50 from [Lulu.com](http://Lulu.com)

## A Delicate Taste Bud

75 Delicious Venison Recipes

Robin Lambert



75 delicious venison recipes to enjoy

Only £7.50 from [Lulu.com](http://Lulu.com)

## Pocket Book History of Fly Rods Reels & Lines

Robin Lambert



A brief history of fly rods, reels and lines

Only £7.50 from [Lulu.com](http://Lulu.com)



**£5 - £1000**

Choose what you want... WHEN you  
want! - Spend in any of our stores or  
online!

More convenient than gift vouchers,  
these handy credit card sized gift cards  
can be loaded with any amount you  
want. Then the recipient can spend as  
much or as little as they want until it's  
done!