



LOCH ACHONACHIE ANGLING CLUB NEWSLETTER 41: SUMMER 2022

MEIG PONTOONS NOW FULLY MOORED UP

We are more than happy to give a major thanks to Ian MacPhail for completing the work need to get all four Meig based Linder boats (boats 3,4,5 & 6) onto the pontoons from last week. It is important that members and visitors follow the instructions for safe use of the moorings and so we're repeating in shortened form the initial advice given out when the pontoons came into use. Thanks too, to Keith Brill for repairs to the ties on the chained sign at the top of the bridge.



7 ESSENTIAL PONTOON RULES

- 1 Take care using the pontoons
- 2 One angler to unlock the boat and row to the slipway
- 3 Load up and fix on any outboards etc. at the slip way **not on the mooring**
- 4 Take care of the keys – they have a floatation key fob attached but keep them safe please
- 5 Return your boat securely as above
- 6 Fasten the chain at the top of the bridge
- 7 **RETURN THE KEYS TO CONTIN AND HAND IN YOUR CATCH RETURN**

MANAGING NON-ANGLING USES

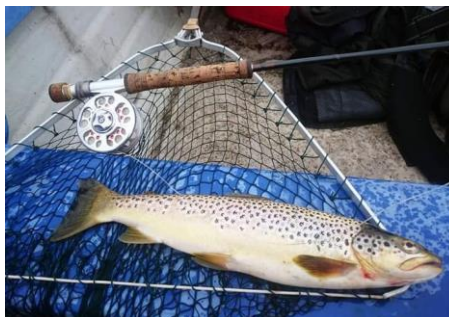
With the last newsletter we sent out to all a consultation paper relating to managing the increased range of users on our waters and covering canoe/tube fishing permits for members and visitors. We have heard from a good number of members already. **This is a final call for your views by email by return.** Our intention is to find a consensus and a workable way forward for all respectful users of our waters.

CLUB COMPETITIONS AND OUTINGS 2022

We are booked up return to coach trip fishing outings this season so I invite you to register your interest for an outing to **Badanlochs** on the first Saturday in September. Costs are necessarily a bit raised due mainly to higher fuel costs for coach companies but still a very good value day out at around **£35** for your transport, permit and fish supper on the way home. Wilderness highlands, good company, and hard fighting wild brownies await. **Please contact the club by email to express a firm commitment at this time and book your seat.**

WINNING WAYS AT WATTEN

Four teams of two anglers competed for LAAC in Beaulay AC's annual Loch Watten competition in May. Neil MacRitchie & Lewis Ross; Ally Hunter & Dave MacGregor; Neal Drummond & Archie Prentice and Ian MacPhail & George Eccleson. It was pleasing to see the trophies heading back to LAAC - on a wet and windy day **George Eccleson** took top rod and **Neal Drummond** biggest fish!



SHIN OPEN

Lairg Angling Club got back to interclub competitions this season and a number of LAAC members made their way up to Loch Shin for a challenging day on the loch. It was a lucrative day for Lewis Ross as he came away with the top prize for biggest bag 13 fish for 7lb – 21 fish in total to the boat he shared with Ian MacPhail who came in 4th with 8 fish for 4lb 10oz. Well done Ian & Lewis!



CATCH NEWS – WATER NEEDED

Latest Easter Ross river levels

The heights shown are those **above normal summer lows**. The rising/falling state is determined by a movement greater than 1/2 inch over the two hours prior to the last reading.

Collected 4:45:AM Fri 29 Jul

Conon at Moy Bridge	0' 3"	S
Alness at Alness	0' 6"	S

Though the rivers have been typically low throughout July, and on the lochs the winds have been high, many club members and visitors have enjoyed successes. Some great days on Scardroy, Meig and Achonachie with fish in top condition. Top reported salmon so far was a 16lb+ fresh fish from the Upper Conon caught and returned by Graham Hoare, and in recent days grilse giving some excitement on the Upper Blackwater. Just a wee reminder that in Augusts & September you have to pay your half day/whole day discounted members' ticket for the rivers and book in advance at Contin Filling Station, go in and pay cash and pick up your ticket. **Please report all salmon caught on the ticket and if possible by e-mail to the club – only takes a minute!**

LAAC MEIG OPEN 2022

Our annual inter club competition on Loch Meig was back to its normal 3-Angler Team mode this year and was oversubscribed with teams from around the Highlands including Beauly AC, Lairg AC, Portree, Dingwall.



Getting ready to go on Loch Meig – not a sign of a fish as yet but plenty craic and cheery reunions with anglers from the other clubs competing. Lots of tactical thoughts shared– would they be in vain?

The wind just getting up as the boats head out on the loch, most heading for the west end - clear already that drogues will be essential, aye maybe an anchor! The wind was to be the most challenging factor on the day.



A great day, though one of those when it was really good to stop! The camaraderie was as lively as the waves. And so well done to all and especially those who travelled long distances to compete for their clubs. Thanks to all who got all our boats onto Meig for it then back again to Scardroy & Achonachie on the Saturday evening and Sunday – the Ross family were exceptional!

There were only two Likely Lads in the TV series but these three were likely favourites at the off and so it turned out at the weigh in.

Fish had been as scarce as the wind was strong and gusty – a day for the hardy angler.

Nine teams fishing hard from 9.30pm to 4.30pm caught 22 trout with 15 anglers coming in empty handed. Only one angler managed to catch the bag limit of 5 for the competition– that was George Eccleson.

The **best boat** (4 fish for 6lb 5oz), **top rod** and **biggest fish** trophies all went to the **Bog Trotters** team (pictured left to right - Neil MacRitchie, Lewis Ross & Ally Hunter) with a telling contribution of 3 trout for 5lbs 3oz by Lewis – his best 2lb 2oz.

100 CLUB

The draws for three months are shown below. More 100 Club news in the autumn newsletter.

April

1st Brian Hossack
2nd Kenny MacKintosh
3rd Ally Hunter

May

1st Sandy Innes
2nd Jonny Niblett
3rd TBC

June

1st Stephen Dowds
2nd Richard Dudek
3rd John Ford



Kerri McEwan Marketing Assistant at Gael Force Marine has been in touch with discount offer for **LAAC** members. Here are the details of the August discount code that can be used by your club members [online](#) or via our telesales desk (01463 229 400) from 1st to 31st August. Code to be entered at checkout: **OP6QHV** This gives you **10% off** your order with a minimum spend of £30. It excludes outboard engines, inflatable boats, kayaks, marine electronics, and gift vouchers.

OUTBOARD FUEL ADVICE

Club member Keith Brill has been in touch about outboard fuel advice and writes :-

Hi Stephen,

Thanks for the informative newsletter; as you know I'm no spring chicken, but if you are needing a hand with things, please let me know. For general information to our members, the question of outboard fuel is a current topic. I have spoken to John Quick, the outboard mechanic, who advised that **E5** is the preferred petrol. He explained that the new compound petrols are very aggressive towards small engines, be they 2stroke or 4stroke. The petrol tends to form a coating inside the carburettor, and also makes the diaphragm brittle if left in the carb. This can be a costly problem to fix.

His advice for both types of outboard, at the end of the day, is to switch off the fuel, and run the motor till it eventually stops, thus emptying the carburettor. This is something a lot of us do anyway to preclude petrol leakage in the car on the way home. The petrol tank should be emptied at the end of the season.

I believe his advice to be sound.

Kind regards, Keith

Many thanks Keith, and the club committee discussed this recently and would echo that advice. It may be that future outboards on hydro dams would be restricted to electric. In the meantime just a reminder that we **do not have outboards on hire on our lochs**.

PERMITS FOR THE FUTURE

As set out in the last newsletter we are currently trialling an e-permit scheme with a view to replacing the plastic credit card type membership card. All views returned have been positive, as has their use for all new members & late renewals since spring. Any more views by return please. Thanks, your views are important to the club.

If you've enjoyed this newsletter and found it useful please let us know and **please remember your contributions in stories and photographs are always very welcome!** We are keen to restart a junior competition, so again any ideas and expression of interest and help would be welcome anytime. Our Club website <https://highlandfishing.net/>, our Facebook page and Instagram site are all available to stay up to date with LAAC activities and news. Email the club at achonachie.angling@gmail.com

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S Dowds'.

Stephen Dowds
LAAC Chairman/Acting Secretary
3 AUGUST 2022