



LOCH ACHONACHIE ANGLING CLUB NEWSLETTER 36: MARCH 2021

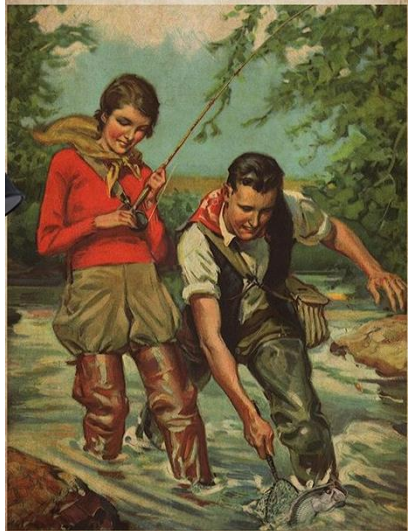
SEASON 2021 OPENING ARRANGEMENTS

Hopefully, and with fingers crossed; and staying safe; and continuing to follow Covid restrictions we are about to open for the new season. So, if you have already renewed your membership or have recently joined our club, you're ready to start trout fishing from the start of the national season for trout on 15 March. Despite the rather chilly weather we thought members would benefit from the chance to get "out for trout" from 15 March even though the season for salmon doesn't start until 1 April. So here are the conditions :- **Staying Safe** – bank fishing only, socially distant and following all current Covid safety measures we can travel to fish our local waters. **Fishing methods** – this is fly only tackle for trout from the bank only – no boats out as yet. No booking in is needed until 1 April then all normal club rules will apply so long as national Covid restrictions allow. There are **no visitor tickets** available and **you must have renewed or joined and have your permit card with you when fishing**. The Cromarty Firth Fishery Board water bailiff service are aware of the above conditions and will apply them. Tight Lines – and warm clothes by the looks of the forecast!

2021 MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

As I send you this newsletter we have processed 152 renewals and new memberships which is great news for the club. We have a considerable income shortfall to make up from last year's curtailed season and both continuing renewals, and recruiting more new members is vital to the club's success.

AND THEY LIVED



HAPPILY EVER AFTER

So how about taking your spouse or partner fishing with you as a new club member. It's never been easier to join and it can all be done by email/internet for non-contact joining up. The 2021 membership form is on the club website and you can complete it on your computer or phone, send it to achonachie.angling@gmail.com and pay by BACS – all the details are on the form.

PLEASE NOTE Until 1 April there is also an "amnesty" for any former members who didn't renew in the unusual circumstances of season 2020 – so you won't have to pay the normal rejoining fee of £40 if you rejoin before 1 April.

So the message to all is – it's time to renew if you haven't already done so and let's all get fishing again!



COMPETITIONS 2021



You'll be aware from the last two club newsletters that our **WINTER LEAGUE** competition has been hit badly by the Covid restrictions and at the time of writing has been unable to finish as normal. We are hoping for a chance to have a final event later in the Spring. Most clubs have not published any competitions for 2021 but the opportunity in the current regulation for up to 15 people to meet up for socially distanced non-contact sport may signal a route to restarting competitions in the summer. Again, we've got fingers crossed for continued progress against the virus. The rules meantime have been redrafted for the **Meig Open** – our annual challenge to other clubs - and it will be for two (2) anglers only per team boat and please note the rules for boat hire in 2021 will be the same – 2 only.

100 CLUB 2021

The 100 Club winners for last month were as follows:-

February : 1st Johnny Niblett : **2nd** Hugh Cushnie : **3rd** Wendy Harpe.

If you are new to the club, please consider taking up a ticket for the **100 Club** – a supportive monthly draw which adds funds for specific developments such as junior angling. The first prize each month is £30 with two other prizes of £10 each. Each number costs £12 for the year (£1 per month) with the proceeds supporting the Club's programme of fishing for junior members. We can process your entry by BACs if that suits you. Contact by email to achonachieangling@gmail.com

The 100 Club provides essential funding for the club's activities and is currently dedicated to promoting youth angling opportunities in 2021. It can make a fine birthday or special occasion gift for someone and we can send those out for you too. On the other hand, if you've forgotten to **renew your 100 Club entry for 2021** please get in touch immediately for renewal

START OF SEASON WORK PARTIES

We'll be needing some willing hands before the start of the season to get the boats lifted into Achonachie, Meig and Scardroy, so please don't be shy at offering to do a wee bit volunteering for your club. Ian MacPhail will be managing the process later in March so please contact Ian directly if you can help ian-macphail@hotmail.com . It will make a difference for sure. If you've enjoyed this newsletter and found it useful please let us know and remember **your contributions in stories and photographs are always very welcome.**

Our Club website <https://highlandfishing.net/> , Facebook page and Instagram site are all available to stay up to date with LAAC activities and news. Email me at achonachie.angling@gmail.com

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stephen Dowds". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Stephen Dowds
LAAC Chairman
12 MARCH 2021