



LOCH ACHONACHIE ANGLING CLUB NEWSLETTER 37: MAY 2021

SEASON 2021 SO FAR

Starting the trout season earlier than our usual 1 April gave a few chances for members to get out fishing in this second pandemic season but they had to thole some pretty cold weather in April and May. In the meantime, the Winter League competition hadn't even finished in March due to cancellations caused by the Covid 19 restrictions from December onwards.



Keeping our fishings closed to visitor tickets until 1 July made sense in the circumstances of the safety restrictions. We have welcomed many new members to our club over the past two seasons and as I write there are new members joining still. Welcome all!

WINTER LEAGUE 2020- 2021

Postponed from March we travelled to Lagg on the last Saturday in April for the final of a much reduced winter competition. The absolute minimum number of stages would be deciding the competition this year, and those clustered near to top of the table would have no opportunity to discount a previous bad day at the rainbows. It seemed clear that tactics would dictate winners and also rans this time, and so it proved.

First into fish was Davie MacGregor, who'd found Lagg's sweet spot early and was highly successful on the top loch, whilst those on the bottom loch suffered a cold, dour first hour or more. Okain MacLennan however, always one to persevere quietly, finally caught the necessary weight to bring him into pole position. Others close to the top of the league and tipped to win, Ally Hunter and Neal Drummond in particular missed what seemed to be the best tactic of the day – stay put.



On a day when there were more zeros on the weigh in sheet than we normally have at Lagg, Lewis Ross sneaked in to share third place with Ally Hunter. Derek Williamson bagged a cracking 6.5lb fish to take the biggest fish of the Winter League. Davie MacGregor took top spot on the day. However, no-one able to overtake a very pleased club secretary, and Okain was hailed outright winner of the competition.

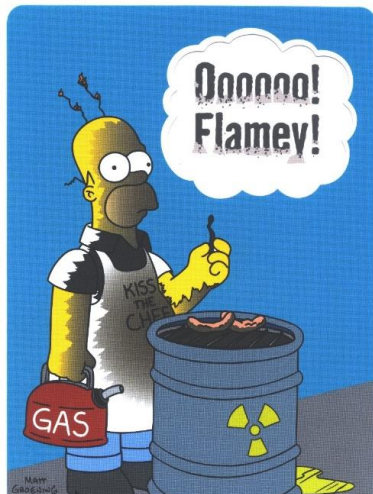
LAAC WINTER LEAGUE 2020-21			
ANGLER	Leg 5 24/04/21		Lagg
	Name	No. Fish	Total Wt.
Andy Downie	2	5.1	9
Stevie Dowds	3	8.6	5
Neal Drummond	1	3.3	10
David Duguid	0	0	12
Ally Hunter	1	2.11	11
Dave Macgregor	3	14	1
Okain MacIennan	3	12.12	2
Ian MacPhail	0	0	12
Neil Macritchie	3	7.4	7
Alex Marks	0	0	12
Gordon Martin	3	8.2	6
Gavin Morton	3	6.12	8
Lewis Ross	3	8.13	4
Jonson Swinton	0	0	12
Derek Williamson	3	12.4	3
Biggest Trout 2021	Derek Williamson 6lb 12oz		
COLOUR KEY			
LEG WINNER			
CURRENT BIGGEST FISH HOLDER			
LEAGUE CHAMPION 2021			

The table for the final leg left: Below our socially distanced prizewinners Davie MacGregor, Okain MacIennan, Lewis Ross, Ally Hunter and Derek Williamson.



The club's socially distanced barbecue expert Iain MacPhail provided another great feast lochside!

Thanks again Iain !



CONGRATULATIONS TO 100 CLUB WINNERS MAY/JULY 2021

The result of the 100 club draw for the month of May is as follows

- 1st Brian Hossack. No.87
- 2nd Heather Groat No.11
- 3rd George Groat No.22

The result of the 100 club draw for the month of June is as follows

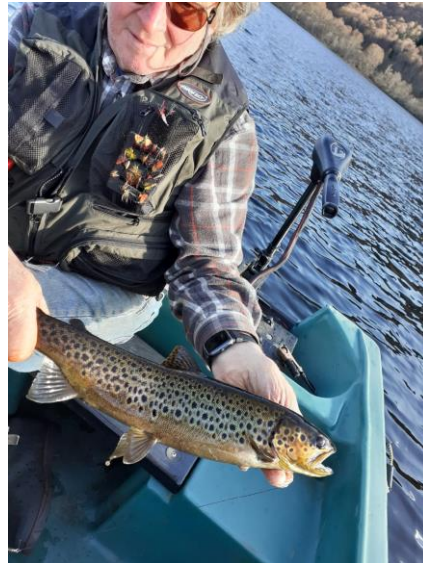
- 1st Steve Phillips No. 29
- 2nd Kenny Groat No. 51
- 3rd Okain MacIennan No. 68

The result of the 100 club draw for the month of July is as follows

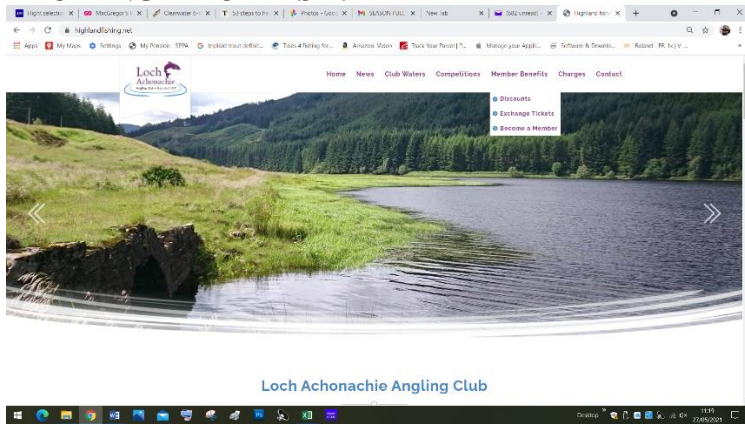
- 1st Johnny Niblett No.14
- 2nd Donald Mackintosh No.9
- 3rd John Urquhart No.69

TAKE YOUR FAMILY FISHING

Some highlights below of a cracking day's fishing for the Ross family, early season on Loch Garve, expert ghillie Kenny at the helm! Well done all. We're delighted that our dip in junior membership in recent years is over. The future is really looking up with 25 juniors now in membership in 2021.



EXCHANGE TICKETS 2021



We are now able to operate Exchange Tickets to our partner clubs this season – all details have been posted on the club website on our **Member Benefits** page including the website links for the 12 clubs that we exchange permits with this season. Check the web page for information. This season until further notice they are **only bookable at least 24 hours in advance** by email to achonachie.angling@gmail.com

VOLUNTEER WORK PARTIES

The club relies on our membership to offer their services to help with repairs, new developments and annual maintenance. Notable again this summer have been our painting and joinery crew of Albert Hoare, Graham Hoare, Trevor Bell, John Mackay and Ian Menzies. All seen below helping to paint the club's fishing huts and repairing the fishing hut on South 1 Upper Conon beat.

Many thanks guys, superb work!




Your voluntary contribution to helping your club would be most welcome too – just get in touch.


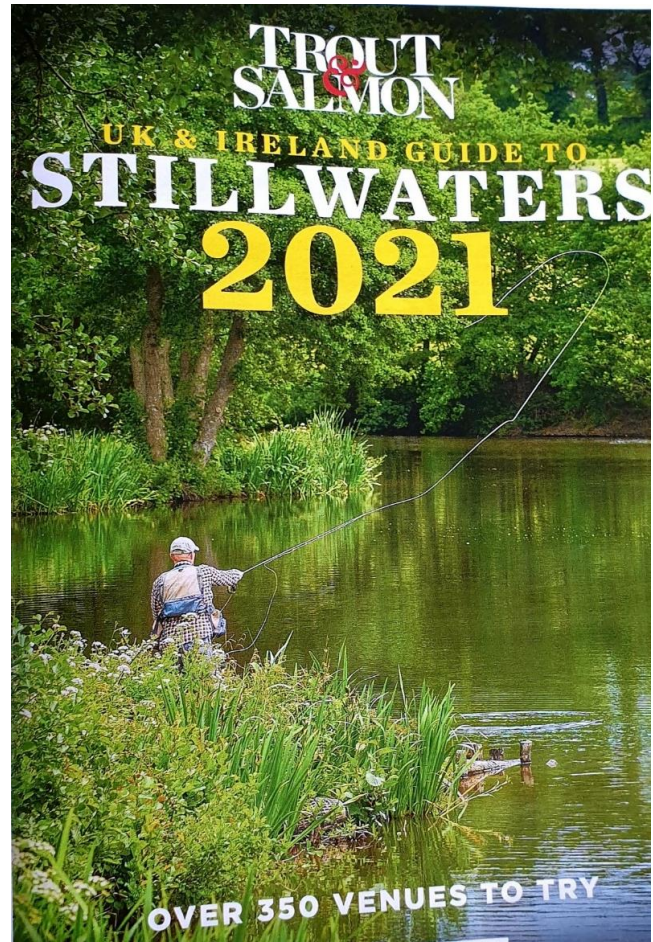
TROUT & SALMON MAGAZINE INSERT

in the

Loch Achonachie Angling Club



Loch Achonachie Angling Club, Strathconon (also Lochs Meig & Scardro & Rivers Conon & Blackwater)
Contact: Stephen Dowds
Tel: 01997 421948 (Contin Filling Station - Booking Agents)
 achonachie.angling@gmail.com
 www.highlandfishing.net / @LochAchonachieAnglingClub
Season: 1 April to 30 September
Location: Within highly scenic Strathconon valley in central Ross-shire 20 miles west of Inverness.
Description: Three productive lochs set in truly wild highland territory and beautiful stretches of two rivers Conon and Blackwater – double bank river fishing on 4 beats/12 rods and 15 beats/11 rods respectively. All easily accessible.
Stock: Wild Brown trout, sea trout and salmon. Two of our lochs stocked annually with 200+ high quality brown trout 1lb to 4lbs approx
Fishery Records: In 2020, a total of 24 salmon were caught, 8 kept & 16 returned, with the majority of 15 coming off the River Blackwater – mainly in September. The biggest fish of 8lbs was caught on the Upper Conon in August and duly returned. Compared to an overall total of 2 salmon caught in 2019, this was a very good result given the shortened season. Trout numbers were equally buoyant with a total of 771 fish caught, 289 kept and 482 returned. Against a total of 943 fish caught 2019. The biggest trout recorded weighed in at 3 ½ lbs.
Natural Insect Life: Sedges, chironomids, caddis larvae and damselfly
Recommended Flies: Any well-fished trout flies, traditional or modern Bibio variants, Dabblers etc. highly effective on Meig. Ace of Spades good on Scardro.
Prices: Club membership at exceptional value £65 adults, £45 senior over 65, day tickets £10 lochs and variable during season on rivers. Boat prices etc available via website www.highlandfishing.net/charter
Facilities: Linder boats available for hire on the lochs; fishing huts on most beats of the rivers; disabled access ramp on river Conon and wheelchair on Loch Meig.

PONTOONS FINAL WORKS 2021

The pandemic restrictions hampered - remaining construction work on the Meig Pontoons but low water - when another level of restrictions was lifted and allowed us to get these improvements - two “fingers” running at right angles for easier mooring and ease of entry into the boat & wheels on rails to adjust the angle of the bridge better during the often extreme rise and fall of the water in the loch.



LOST AND FOUND

A modern gas cylinder life jacket was found on the banks of Loch Meig last month – if you lost one please contact the club by email.

STOCKING 2021

Our stocking currently has to be done after the smolt run though we're hopeful with the projected smolt trapping & transporting project that we'll be able stock brownies earlier next season. Meantime more than a thousand cracking fish have been added to our waters. In what was very warm weather for stocking these very healthy fish went off from the shore like torpedoes and are now well distributed, and taking a range of flies.

MEIG OPEN 2021

Much reduced in numbers due to Covid circumstances and boat availability we held the Meig Open in June again with teams from Beaully and Skye able to join us for a tricky day's fishing as ever for this competition. Neil MacRitchie hit gold early on and "bagged up" early and though his partner Lewis Ross only completed his bag limit of 5 very late in the completion (drawing a loud "hallelujah" from Mr Ross to be heard across the top of Loch Meig)



Neal Drummond at the helm – planning tactics on a day when the fish were often chasing & lunging but missing by miles! Below the happy best boat & biggest bag winners laden with the trophies!

The winning boat just before late success saw them win the day.



CURRENT PROSPECTS

Lochs Scardroy & Achonachie have been fishing well of late and though Loch Meig has been desperately high recently due to SSE works and non-generation (one angler commenting that the fish were feeding in the grass) the overall position has been poor on the rivers due to low water and restricted flows. However as I write it's raining heavily and long, so late July and early August may be just the time to **GET OUT AND FISH – TIGHT LINES.**

Stephen Dowds
LAAC Chairman