



LOCH ACHONACHIE ANGLING CLUB NEWSLETTER 52 : AUGUST 2026

WELCOME all to our late summer newsletter – in this edition we have news of members' catches; club members' activities including Moy Game Fair, exchange ticket explorations & competitions, and committee plans for the future. Your comments and contributions to our newsletters are always welcome – please just send them in – **your** news makes good reading!

Stephen Dowds, Secretary

MEIG OPEN JUNE 2026

Unusually this year there was a weather postponement for our normally May/June competition as hefty gales blew down the loch but all was well for the new late date of Saturday 20 June. We were very pleased this year to have a team from **Glenurquhart Angling Club** join teams from **Beaulie AC & Portree AC** along with four **LAAC** teams for this all day event. These iconic trophies up for grabs again and the promise of a decent day ahead the teams set out at 9.30am fishing until the 4.30pm weigh in. The wind however played a big part and not a fish was seen at the surface. Ian MacPhail's team did well early though several anglers returned fishless to the weigh in.



The weigh in was nip & tuck and the lead changed several times and better bags appeared. **Mike Cameron & Stuart MacKintosh** from Glenurquhart had fish over the 1lb mark, **Lewis Ross & Neil MacRitchie** too. So with Lewis and Stuart tied for biggest trout at 1lb 4oz we waited for **Neal Drummond** to weigh in a fine 1lb 7oz brownie to win biggest fish. The Best Boat was Lewis, Neil, and Ally Hunter colloquially known as **LAAC Bogtrotters**, and Lewis was just one ounce above Neal for best brace. Tied for 2nd best boat were MacPhail & MacGregor and the Black Islers – Dowds & Drummond - both boats fishing as only a pair due to late call offs by their third team members. Thanks to all participants for a fine day out and Ian MacPhail for boat preparation



MEIG OPEN JUNE 2026 - CONTINUES OVER LEAF



LARGEST TROUT
NEAL DRUMMOND →
Strathconon Estate Trophy

BEST BRACE
← LEWIS ROSS Meig Cup

TOP TEAM ↑
LAAC BOG TROTTERS William
Bartlett Trophy



LAAC MEMBERS' COMPETITION - FINAL ONE OF 2026 : SATURDAY 26 SEPTEMBER

The so-called LAAC Members' Competition on Loch Meig will be fished again this year near the very close of the season with everyone involved committed to playing a part in getting the boats off the water and into our winter storage facility. Firstly though, the chance to have a last cast from the boats on Loch Meig with a trophy and prizes up for grabs and reputations to be kept, made or lost! It had been the committee's intention to try running this competition in August this year but late call offs and holiday escapees meant we had to postpone and put it back to its usual slot, linked to getting the boats off the water. So we have a few places available for **teams of two members** fishing 9.00am until 3pm – bag limit two fish and awards for best brace, heaviest fish and best boat overall. **Contact me ASAP** for a place. If you're new to the club it's a great way to meet other members and share tips & knowledge – **FIRST COME FIRST SERVED.**

MOY COUNTRY FAIR

Behind the scenes at this famed annual event, organising the angling side of the fair is club member Neal Drummond. This year Neal approached the enthusiastic and hugely energetic team at River Spey Anglers Association to front the show. As anticipated they did not disappoint ! Here are a few pics of the activities and participants in the two day fair and you can spot another LAAC member Allan Liddle in a prestigious fly tying team too.





WELL DONE ALL FOR AN EXCELLENT SHOW

SO HOW'S THE FISHING BEEN? DOES THIS SUM IT UP?



Despite low and warm water for much of the summer, catches have been good on the lochs and a few salmon & grilse have been caught and returned in August. A flurry of river bookings came in to Contin Filling Station during a big spate on the Upper Backwater – many of the fish running straight through into Loch na Croich.

Thanks to those who notified their catches on the day as per our rules. Thanks to Ron Wynton for providing these *Penwill* cartoons which seemed to sum up both reality and hopes

NEEDING MORE OF THIS?



WINTER LEAGUE 2026-27

The club's Winter League operates from October to March, visiting rainbow fisheries around the Highlands & North East every three to four weeks. Between 12 and 20 members regularly fish this 7 leg competition – it's keenly competitive but hugely supportive especially for beginners to the craft. If you fancy a try get in touch – keep your fly fishing skills honed throughout the close season on our waters and enjoy the craic with club stalwarts.

Provisional dates and venues for the forthcoming competition are here:-

- 1 Lagg Trout Fishery 31 October
- 2 Forgue Fishery 14 November
- 3 Geddes Trout Fishery 5 December
- 4 Glen of Rothes Trout Fishery 9 January
- 5 Geddes Trout Fishery 30 January
- 6 Forgue Trout Fishery 27 February
- 7 Lagg Trout Fishery 20 March

EXCHANGE TICKET EXPLORATIONS ARE GREAT

LAAC member Des McGinnes, a member from the “central belt” who often fishes the upper reaches of the famous River Clyde near his home in Hamilton, tells the story of an adventure in Moray

RIVER LOSSIE EXTRAGANZA 23 JULY 2026

Always one for a river walk with a Fly Rod I jumped at the chance to use the reciprocal arrangement the club has with Elgin and District Angling Association fishings on the River Lossie for a day out ostensibly to try for a Salmon. The omens were not good, clear blue skies, high temperatures both in & out of the water - low river levels.

Undaunted, it was a recce after all for a future full hearted outing on the river, I set off to meet Desmond at the Angling Centre on Moss Street not far from the town Centre. I have to admit I think I was more excited about meeting my only second face to face “Desmond” than I was about the fishing to follow. To put it in context at 65 years of age this Desmond has only ever met one other to that point. On meeting my namesake and a couple of local fishers

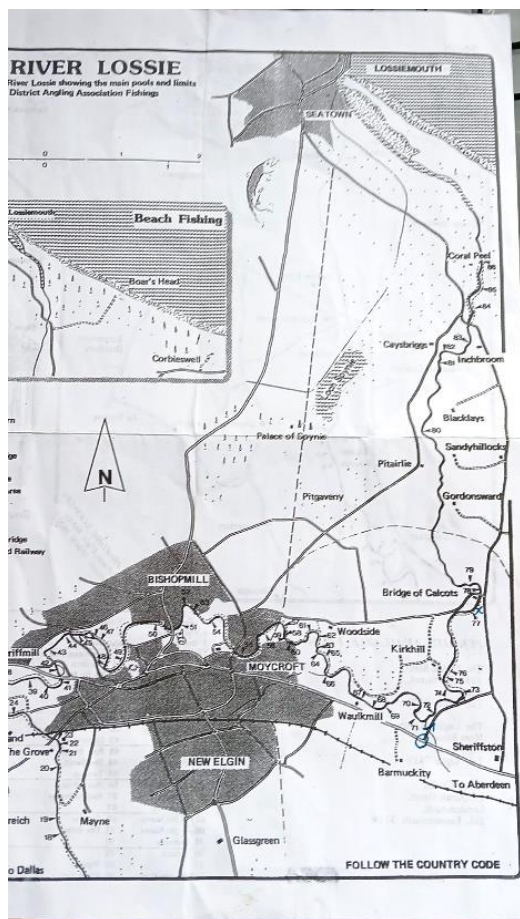
I left the shop armed with a map of the fishings and some pointers on where to go. I got the feeling that the river is not seriously fished in a legal manner and in common with neighbouring rivers the Lossie’s glory days are long gone. Anyhow to the days fishing. By the time I stood on the riverbank at Bridge of Calcots, Parking with permission in the yard of Calcotts farm, it was just before 10:30am. The day was Bright, warming up and a gentle breeze was developing. I had rigged up an 8wt 9ft single Fly rod and had a selection of size 10 and 12 singles of the usual Spey Favourites and a few “Hail Marys” of my own tying.



I fished my way down stream from Calcotts to the road crossing after Inchbroom pool till around 3pm whilst the river was low it still held water in some interesting places and offered up a good number of interesting runs, lies and pool tails. On the day my 9 footer was plenty big enough and made casting under trees and into promising riffles much fun. Alas, no fish were encountered apart for a spirited Brownie, another reason I tend to favour fishing singles.

The later part of the afternoon found me exploring the recommended spots on the river in the Town itself. I have to say I found this section of the river challenging to say the least. Assess where there was any was difficult, limited and “manhandled” lots of mini Weirs and embankments.





My advice to anyone planning on fishing this area would be to do it with a local who can guide you to the best bits. In spate I could see those who like to spin winkling out some decent fishing. By the time I got to the river bank nearest the Abbey I had had enough.

According to the web page www.Trout-salmon-fishing.com/Scotland-river-lossie the river was once a prolific wee river with around 100 salmon and up to 400 seatrout caught in a year when conditions are in the fishers favour.

The river is described as “a small spate river, sluggish in parts and overgrown in places which I would say is a fair description of its current condition. I would also add that in the section I fished the river had cut deeply into the soft fields on both banks making it tricky to work your way along the river without the odd retreat to an out ramp cut by the livestock.

The same web site suggest one should go to The Tackle Shop on High Street for general enquiries.

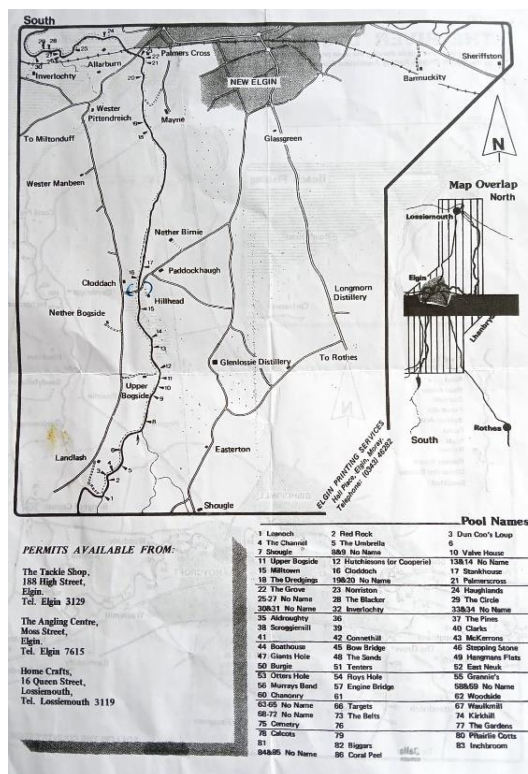
For what they are worth here are my thoughts

The Lossie for the more intrepid club member is well worth a go especially with the Flea. I would suggest you try to catch it after a spate or a prolonged wet spell. With some decent water flowing I think it would fish very well.

Personally I think when I do it again I will probably have another recce along the river to the south of Elgin during the day before a concerted effort at some seatrout on any likely sections discovered and on those already identified on this outing.

Without a local in tow, I would avoid the Town. **Note:** road access and parking can be a bit of a test in places. All things considered I do think this river has the makings of a good seatrout river – but what do I know? Regardless, it’s certainly a great day out with a wee rod. **Tight lines, Des**

Many thanks to Des for the words and pictures. Exchange tickets are available at Contin Filling Station – to be sure of accessing them **book ahead by phoning the Filling Station 01997 421948**



CONSERVATION STATUS ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR 2027

We were pleased to see the continuing strength of recruitment of salmon to our river system. Many more rivers in Scotland are being reduced in status to restricted or total catch & release but the Conon System will stay at Category 1 level for next season.

Conservation of salmon – Assessment for the 2027 fishing season

I am writing to let you know that the Scottish Ministers propose to continue to regulate the killing of salmon in Scotland, including the prohibition on retaining any salmon caught in coastal waters, by means of conservation regulations made under section 38 of the Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries (Consolidation) (Scotland) Act 2003.

Marine Directorate has undertaken an assessment of the conservation statuses of Scottish salmon stocks for the 2027 fishing season. The outcome of that assessment, including proposed statuses for stocks in 2027, is available on the [Scottish Government website](#).

Ministers are required, under the terms of section 38 and schedule 1 of the Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries (Consolidation) (Scotland) Act 2003, to publish notice of the proposals allowing a minimum 28 day period for representations or objections to be made. **Notice is hereby given that the consultation will be advertised and commence on Wednesday 5th August 2026.**

If you wish to submit a view on the proposed conservation statuses, you can do so online through our [consultation hub](#).

You can save and return to your responses while the consultation is still open. **Please ensure that consultation responses are submitted before the closing date of Friday 4th September 2026.**

Conon	River Conon	NH	G	G	G	G	G	Good	No
		5616							change
		5788							

IN THE SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER NEWSLETTER

We'll be advertising outboards for sale as we finally dispenish all our motors – do indicate an interest early by contacting us; we are setting up a broader based LAAC Volunteer Group to tackle some of the maintenance and bank access tasks we want to overtake – volunteer help is very much appreciated; and seeking your views in more detail about improving our fishings for 2027 and beyond. If you have a picture of you with your first salmon or trout please send it in for a wee gallery competition.

Our Club website <https://highlandfishing.net/> and Facebook page and Instagram site are all available to stay up to date with LAAC activities and news. Remember to get a record of your fishing tidied up so as to make it easy for you to complete your **mandatory catch return in October**. Your stories and photos are always welcome too so please keep them coming!

Early notice below for you of this year's **AGM** as we'd really appreciate a good turnout of members.

LAAC AGM 2026 THURSDAY 10 DECEMBER: COTTAGE BAR & RESTAURANT

Email us anytime at achonachie.angling@gmail.com

Tight Lines when you are out fishing the final weeks of the season!

Stephen Dowds
LAAC Chairman/Secretary
August 2026