

# Westwater Angling Ltd



Rules

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Information

2010

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**Westwater Angling Ltd**

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**Westwater Angling Ltd**

Westwater Angling Ltd is a fly-fishing club whose policy is to promote the art of fly-fishing and to provide such sport for its members.

We are based at Hallington Reservoir where there is the members lodge, the office, and two extensive lakes totalling 250 acres.

Access is provided for disabled people both to the lodge and to the boats, and Wheely Boats are available for wheelchair users and people with walking difficulties.

The key provided to each member will open the oar lockers and premises to which members need access. Replacement keys are available from the fishery manager.

**Membership**

There are five categories of membership ..

**Ordinary Members.** Persons who, upon application have been proposed and seconded by members, and are accepted by the Directors. Ordinary membership is annual and by invitation.

Ordinary members have full rights and privileges including the right to attend and vote at general meetings of the Company.

**Associate Members.** Persons who have been accepted by the Directors as non-fishing members can enjoy the other facilities of the club.

**Junior Members.** Sons, daughters, grandchildren, nephews or nieces of members, aged from 8 to 16 years, who on application, with proof of age, have been accepted by the Directors. Junior membership is held in the name of their parent or guardian.

**Student Membership.** This applies to Junior Members who are aged 16 years and over, and who are in full-time education.

**Honorary Membership.** A person whom the Directors shall deem suitable for the privilege may be granted Honorary Membership by the Directors on an annual basis.

If the person has served a minimum of 10 years as a director and has rendered outstanding service to the Company the Directors may grant them Honorary Membership for life. Honorary Members enjoy the same full fishing privileges as Ordinary members.

**Subscriptions**

An Annual Subscription, at a rate determined by the Board is payable by all members.

The Subscription is due on the 1st November each year and should be paid promptly to the Fishery Manager upon notification.

By arrangement with the Fishery Manager subscriptions may be paid in instalments. Members whose subscriptions are still outstanding on 1<sup>st</sup> January following will be deemed to have terminated their membership.

Payments in respect of guests are due on demand.

## **Fishing**

**Method of Fishing.** FLY ONLY. All imitations of non-natural fish food, including pellet imitations, egg flies and the like, are banned from our waters.

**Size Limits.** Brown trout under 20cm in length must be returned to the water unharmed. Trout between 20 and 30 cm will not count towards a members catch & keep limit.

**Catch & Keep Limits.** A member may Catch & Keep up to 6 trout a day, 30 in a month, and 120 in a year.

**Catch & Release Limits.** In addition to the above a member may Catch & Release, on Hallington West reservoir 6 trout in a day, 30 in a month, and 120 in a year.

If fishing Catch & Release it is essential that the fish are returned to the water in the best possible condition.

### **Catch & Release**

- Use only barb-less hooks.
- Use hooks no bigger than size 10 long shank.

- Use leaders strong enough to land the fish quickly.
- Leave the fish in the net in the water whilst unhooking it or, if fishing from a boat, in the net on the mat whilst unhooking it.
- Wet hands before handling the fish.
- Remove the hook using forceps if necessary
- Kill the fish if it is bleeding or damaged in any way.
- If the fish is exhausted, keep it in the net in the water and steady it in its natural position before allowing it to swim off.
- Do not use flies that fish tend to swallow e.g. Boobies.
- Do not measure the fish.
- Do not weigh the fish.
- Do not undertake Catch & Release fishing if you have reached your Catch & Keep limit.
- **You need to be able to kill any damaged fish without breaching the Catch & Keep limits.**
- Respect for the fish is paramount.

Catch & Release will be monitored to ensure that the above Good Practice is followed.

Catch & Release fishing may be suspended during and immediately after periods of high water temperature.

**Record sheets.** There are record sheets in the signing-in hut.

Before starting to fish, all anglers must enter their name, membership number, vehicle registration number, time of commencement, and whether they are fishing from bank or boat.

When you've finished fishing the sheets must be completed to show the time of finishing, the details of the fish caught,

and the details of any fish released. Nil returns are important and are required.

**Extra Fish.** Members who take more than the annual limit of 120 fish will be charged for the fish as notified to members in the annual circular.

**Juniors ... Catch Limits.** Members can bring their children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews to Hallington, if they are aged 8 to 16 years old, as follows:

- o As a free guest sharing the member's own rod, and the member's bag limit. This can be done 5 times per year.
- o As a junior paid guest using his own rod with a fee of £12.50 for a 3 fish catch and keep limit, and a 3 fish catch and release limit on Hallington West only.
- o As a junior member with an annual subscription of £70, giving a daily limit of 4 fish, and an annual limit of 35 fish catch and keep, with a 4 fish per day, and a 35 fish annual catch and release limit on Hallington West only.

Juniors must be accompanied by an adult member at all times.

The junior's membership number must be entered immediately following the member's number on the record sheet.

**Fishing Guests.** Members may take a guest fishing with them at a fee of £25 per day.

The guest's name must be entered immediately following the member's on the record sheet and be annotated 'Guest' in the membership number column.

Guests must abide by all rules and the host member is responsible for the guest's conduct.

An individual fishing as a member's Guest may not fish our waters on more than a total of 2 occasions in any one season.

**Non-Fishing Guests.** No charge is made for non-fishing guests, but if the guest accompanies the member while he or she is fishing, the guest's name must be entered in the Non-Fishing Guest Book provided. This also applies to Associate Members who accompany members while fishing.

Non-Fishing Guests and Associate members must not handle rods in the vicinity of the water.

**Environment Agency Licence.** All fishing members must be in a possession of a current Environment Agency Licence.

**Identification.** Members must at all times carry their membership card, wear their Westwater badge, and display the Westwater sticker on their vehicle.

**Westwater Bailiffs.** The Fishery Manager, and members of the Board have authority to inspect catches, tackle, and vehicles and to check record sheets etc.

## **Boats and Equipment**

**Boats are free** of charge for members and are available on both the Hallington lakes. There is no advanced booking system for the boats. They are used on a first come first served basis.

**Wheely Boats** are available, one on each lake, free of charge, for people with walking difficulties or wheelchairs. It is advisable to ring the Fishery Manager prior to your visit to ensure a Wheely Boat is available at the time you wish to fish.

**Life jackets** must be worn, over other clothing, on all occasions when using a boat. If you forget your life jacket you cannot use a boat.

**Boats must be secured** to their correct mooring after use, and the oars returned to the oar lockers.

**Mooring ropes.** To bring a boat ashore first release the rope completely from the mooring post. The mooring rope is a continuous loop, one side of the loop going directly to the boat ... use this side to pull the boat in. The other side of the loop goes via the mooring ... use this side to pull the boat out. When the boat is back out secure the rope firmly round the mooring post.

**Oars** are available for each boat in the lockers at the top of each ramp. Boats should not be taken out without oars on board. Please return the oars to the oar locker after use.

**Boats should not be pulled ashore and left**, even for a short time. Please use the offshore mooring facilities as this greatly reduces wear and tear on the hulls.

**Not more than 3 persons** shall be in a boat at one time.

**Junior members and junior guests** must not use boats unless accompanied by an adult member.

**Anchors and/or drogues** may be used but are not provided.

**Trolling** from boats is permitted so long as it does not interfere with other anglers, and the boat is being manually propelled. A motor can be used when trolling for those unable to row.

**Boats should be left clean** and litter free after use.

**Damage to boats**, or the need for urgent maintenance, must be recorded in the remarks column on the record sheet. Please handle the boats with great care as they are quite costly to repair.

### Hygiene

The Kitchen and its equipment must be left clean, and litter and uneaten food deposited in dustbins or taken away. Fish must not be placed in refrigerators.

**Members must use the toilet facilities** provided in the lodge. Northumbrian Water will insist that anyone polluting the reservoirs or their surrounds be banned from their waters.

Members must not allow anything to enter the reservoirs, or their feeder streams, which could have a deleterious effect on water quality.

### Opening and Closing Dates

**Rainbow Trout** from the 1st of April to the 31st of October.

**Brown Trout** from the 1st of May to the 31st of October, any browns caught in April must be returned.

### Times

**Time Fishing Commences.** Fishing starts at 08:00 hrs. However members are not allowed to enter the environs of the Hallington reservoirs before 07:45 hrs

**Time Fishing Terminates.** This varies with the time of year and is as shown at the booking-in site. This is the time by

which all angling must have ceased, all boats connected to their proper moorings, and all members booked out on the records sheets. Anglers must have left the premises fifteen minutes after this time.

### **Nets**

**At each visit, you must disinfect your net in the tub where you sign in to prevent the spread of infections or parasites from one water to another.**

Your net should be large enough to cope with the large trout you will probably land each year. Fish must be netted, not beached.

### **Restrictions**

**Bank fishing** may be restricted in any area by the Board and notices will be displayed should this arise. Certain areas may be closed to boats. A map of any such area will be displayed in the signing-in hut, or lodge.

**Vehicles.** Members' vehicles may only be parked in the car park in front of the lodge. Particular care must be taken when driving on private roads serving the reservoirs because of the narrow width, poor sight lines and scarcity of passing places. Speed limits must be observed.

**Dogs.** This is a sensitive issue. Many members prefer that dogs not be allowed around the club premises, car park, and the environs of the lakes. So, if you do wish to bring your dog along, please ensure at all times that it is under control, that wildlife is not disturbed, and that your fellow members are not annoyed or alarmed in any way by your dog.

- Dogs are not allowed to accompany you whilst you are actually fishing.
- Do take care your dog is not left to suffer in an inadequately ventilated/sun heated vehicle.
- Do clean up after your dog and take the droppings away with you for disposal.

### **Day Tickets**

A small number of day-ticket anglers are permitted to fish Hallington, from Bank or boat, each day during the season. The fee is £30 per day per person, plus £10 per day for the use of a boat.

The following conditions apply to those anglers:

- They may Catch & Keep up to 6 fish.
- In addition they may Catch & Release up to 6 fish from Hallington West reservoir.
- Anglers must be in possession of a properly authorised Day Ticket whilst on Westwater premises.
- All Westwater rules must be strictly observed.
- An individual fishing on a Day Ticket may not fish our waters on more than a total of two occasions in any one season.

### **Riparian Owners**

Four Riparian Owner's rods are permitted each day. These rods must book in and out on the record sheets. They may use our boats.

## **General Items**

**Poaching.** Please ask to see the credentials of any angler who is not known to you and who is not wearing a Westwater badge. Members should not mind being approached and should be only too willing to co-operate. The Board will continue with its policy of securing the prosecution of poachers.

**Trespassers.** Westwater Members and personnel can only challenge non-members if they are fishing or interfering with the fishing or interfering with our property.

**Ground Baiting.** Ground Baiting is not allowed. Fish food pellets are included in this ban.

**Electronic Fish Locators.** This type of equipment is not permitted.

**Publicity.** The general policy of Westwater Angling Ltd is that publicity of any aspect of our activities should only come from an official Board statement. Members should not make any claims for 'records' to outside sources or supply any material which could identify our waters.

If a member feels that there is a matter of sufficient interest to warrant publicity he should inform the Secretary in writing giving sufficient relevant details for the Board to be able to consider the matter.

## **A Few Important Reminders**

- Individuals who are ex-Members because they did not receive an invitation to rejoin, may not fish our waters.
- Any dead fish found on any of our waters must be reported to the

Fishery Manager or Secretary. Such fish must not be sent to any outside agency without permission from the Board.

- Boat anglers must keep well clear of bank anglers. The bank angler always has priority. All anglers are expected to adhere to the general rules of fishing etiquette.
- Do not leave any litter, in particular do not leave discarded nylon where it can be a hazard to wildlife. If you brought it please take it away.
- If you injure any farm animals on estate roads, see the farmer concerned and report the incident to the Secretary as soon as possible.
- When completing the Catch & Keep record sheets please enter the length of each fish (in inches) with the notation 'R' for Rainbow and 'B' for Brown, 'Bl' for Blue in the column provided.
- NO fires, close all gates, and follow the country code.

## **New Members**

Membership has increased in recent years, but Hallington is an extensive venue, and we are delighted to welcome new members.

The incentive scheme for introducing new members will continue in 2010. See the Fishery Manager for details.

## **Anglers Safety Rules**

All anglers should be aware of these dangers, not only to themselves but also to others. Westwater Angling Ltd shall not be liable for accidents to persons or their property, howsoever they are caused. Please observe the following :

- Take care when wading. Use a wading stick. Wading beyond thigh depth is not allowed.
- Take care when back-casting. Look behind you first.
- When boat fishing, always wear a life jacket which must be worn on top of all other clothing.
- Wear head and eye protection, particularly when casting in windy conditions.
- Keep rods and lines away from overhead power lines.
- In a thunder storm cease fishing, put your rod down, and move away from it.
- Be familiar with the location and use of lifesaving equipment provided at the fishery.
- Be prepared to help anyone in difficulty, but do not put your own safety at risk.
- Northumbrian Water requires members to be aware of the risks associated with fishing from the dam walls at Hallington such as uneven and/slippery surfaces, tripping hazards and holes, particularly when water levels are low.

To contact the Fishery Manager at the lodge at Hallington ...

**Westwater Angling Ltd  
The Fishing Lodge  
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