

# *Bintry Mill Trout Fishery*

## News March 2020

### **2020 Rules**

The Club rules have been revised for this season and can be found as a downloadable PDF in the Members-only area of our website. One notable change is the mandatory use of barbless or de-barbed hooks only. This change has been made as so many more fish are returned on a regular basis. It is easy to de-barb hooks by crushing the barb with a pair of pliers or forceps.

There is also a risk assessment on the website. Please read it and make yourself familiar with the potential hazards and ways of preventing them spoiling a day on the river. Most of it is common sense which tends to be a rare commodity today.

### **Website access**

All members should be able to access the Members' page of our website. To do this go to the relevant page and log-in as instructed with your username and password. If you have any problems please email Bill Emrich [bill@bintrymill.com](mailto:bill@bintrymill.com)

### **River Walk**

We are organising a river walk on **18 April** which is open to all members but preference will be given to those of you who joined this season or last. Please let Richard Nelson know if you will be or want to attend. [rvnelson@freedom255.com](mailto:rvnelson@freedom255.com) Details to follow.

### **River access**

We are very fortunate in that we are not restricted to walking up and down the riverbanks between the river and the fence, where there is a fence. This means that when walking downstream to the bottom of a beat to start fishing, or to return to re-fish a stretch of river, you can walk along the meadow well away from the water. Keeping well back from the river will mean that you will not frighten fish and if there is someone else fishing you will not spook all the fish that he or she is hoping to fish for. As well as being bad manners, there is nothing more frustrating than working your way quietly upstream to try for a fish that you may have seen rising, than to see someone marching down the bank in full sight scaring 'your' fish.

### **Environment Agency Hotline**

You might like to put this number into your 'phone so that you can report any concerns about the state of the river such as a possible pollution incident, poaching or even illegal fishing. The number to ring is 0800-807060.

## Signing-in and out and catch return cards

Since we introduced the system of catch return cards some seasons ago there are members who seem to find using them a serious challenge! For new members and those who still don't understand the system, here is what you have to do at the **start** and **end** of a day on the river.

Date: _____	Name: _____	1
Car reg: _____	Beat: _____	
FINISH TIME: _____		<b>Fish Caught</b>
WILD FISH No. & Length	Stock Fish Tag colour	No. Kept or Returned
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
Comments		

### ***Start of the day***

1. Write your name, date, car registration, start time and the name of the beat that you will be fishing on a card. Leave that card in the ring binder. If you plan to fish more than one beat, write all the same details on a second card with the exception of your start time and leave it in the ring binder. ***See 1 above***

Someone signing-in after you will know which beat or beats you are or will be fishing.

### ***End of the day***

2. At the end of your visit on your return to the signing-in box, list any fish that you have caught and the time that you stopped fishing. If you have fished more than one beat you will need to write the time that you started fishing the second beat on the relevant card as well as your finish time and details of what you caught. ***See 2 above***

3. Please make sure that you measure - preferably in inches - and record the length of all wild fish caught ie fish without a tag. The reason for measuring their length, and not weighing them, is that length is a better guide to a fish's age.

## Stocking and weed cutting dates

When discussing the stocking programme for the coming season, your committee took note of the vote at the AGM to continue stocking the river and to advise the members accordingly. Stocking will be implemented with the least impact on our wild fish population and for the good of the river. The first stocking will be on 30 April and then on 27 May and 24 June. We hope we will be able to keep to these dates but (river) conditions might dictate a change. If a change is needed it will be publicised. Your committee recommends that you do not fish on these days or the next day. This will give the new fish a chance to spread out and start getting used to their new homes. Depending on how the season evolves - weather -

temperature in particular, river conditions, numbers of fish killed etc - another stocking may be arranged. This season's stock fish will have a red tag on the nearside of the dorsal fin.

The main annual weed cut will take place on **Saturday 25** and **Sunday 26 July**. We will be using the punt and electric cutter, and a 360 excavator to remove the cut weed at County School and Yarrow Bridges as in previous years. If you will be able to help please let Richard Nelson know.

### **Closed-season river works**

Our thanks go to our river manager Mark Williams who has put in a phenomenal amount of work on the river over the winter and also to all those members who have helped by joining a number of working parties. More work could have been achieved if the river had not been so high for so much of the winter. The volume of water that has flowed between and often over the banks should have given the river a very good clear-out and washed away a lot of silt.

### **Elmham Tea Post**

The Elmham Tea Post is a very good and welcoming cafe in the middle of North Elmham, on the right-hand side of the road going North, just before the primary school and the doctors' surgery. They are very happy to provide sandwiches and rolls etc to take away if you want something for lunch on the river bank. If you want to make an early start, call-in for a good cooked breakfast.