



Well, we all got through the loooonngest month of the year! We had to close for about a week due to the lakes being frozen over and the storms haven't done us any favours either but we expect that this time of year. Last week was very strange. Everyone was catching well until the end of the week. And I just couldn't understand why. I've taken home all my data sheets of what is caught etc that I do a few times a week so that I can keep the stocking levels consistent. No mistakes have been made and there are lots of fish in there according to the returns book. Anyway, it was restocked.

There is no evidence of predators, animal or otherwise! What I don't want is you all to assume that we haven't put fish in. We wouldn't do that to you, as customers can be fickle and go elsewhere, and we have built a customer base whom we now consider friends. Saving a few hundred pounds isn't worth losing people in the long run and we are very aware of this. So just to be aware, I have popped a little note in the kitchen on the board and a reminder for everyone, new and existing to remember to write returns down as I use this to base my stocking levels on, as well as other factors such as the weather, bank holidays, local tourist events etc.

On a similar note; small business like trout fisheries are collapsing all the time at the moment due to poachers, high energy prices, fish stock price rises etc . Please can you bear that in mind when commenting online. Share positive google reviews/ tripadvisor/social media and you will still have a fishery to visit in years to come.

Events

Saturday March 2nd is our first competition of the year. I'll run a raffle as well as breakfast and lunch. Prizes include a stay in the B and B (mole hill still ongoing!) I'm thinking of different ways to run the competition and if you have an ideas you think will work please drop me an email. Last competition was a bit mixed and people weren't moving on the amount of pegs they should and it got all muddled. So I am controlling it a little stricter this time and your peg numbers will be written on a slip of paper from the beginning and then, hopefully, no mistakes will be made. There are comfortably 9 places available. You must tell me via an email as I could forget otherwise. Don't rely on telling me face to face! I have a memory like a sieve.

Food

Please remember that breakfast is available if you notify me the day before. I've put soup and hot chocolate in the anglers kitchen for you over the winter months to warm your cockles. Drop a donation in the jar please. Or you can always drop some cuppa soups/ coffee in instead every now and again.

Breakfast Sandwiches on thick crusty bread available for £5. Full English £10 (inc juices, toast , cereal coffee etc)

Email Emily the day before to order.

Tips to help you catch

All of the following points have been collected from seasoned fly anglers. Just to help if you haven't thought of them before or are new to the game:

- Have you got the right line?
- Move positions!
- Look at your casting, if the fly hits the water too hard, the fish are off!
- Where are they feeding?
- Change the depth
- What's the air pressure like today? Too low? Not great for catching
- Check the returns book, what are people using?
- What is hatching or on the plant life/water currently? Match the hatch
- Just because you caught on that fly once – doesn't mean it will work again today!
- Don't hurry that retrieve. You are mimicking an insect remember. Try figure of 8
- Check your leader length
- Be quiet. Fish are sensitive to noise and vibrations.
- When catching and releasing DO NOT HANDLE the trout. They are not as sturdy as coarse fish. You will cause scale damage and this may lead to a diseased fish. If you say you can't 'not' handle a fish without returning it, ask someone who can to teach you! It is possible.

If you have any other tips, let us know.

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