

ESSEX FLY FISHERS' CLUB RULES - 2009

Rules 6 to 24 inclusive apply to all Anglers whether members of the Club or not.

1. NAME OF CLUB

The club is known as the "Essex Fly Fishers' Club".

2. MEMBERSHIP AND SUBSCRIPTIONS.

- a. The number of members shall not exceed 130 rods, exclusive of Committee Members.
- b. The annual subscriptions for the following year are as notified to members at the Annual General Meeting of the Club which is held in the latter part of November each year. Charges for boat hire, guest tickets and daily tickets for juniors will be notified at the same time.
- c. A person joining after the start of the season shall pay a pro-rata subscription for that season, plus the entrance fee.
- d. **Subscriptions are due on first joining and thereafter by the 1st January prior to each season.** It is permissible **when renewing** to pay with two, simultaneously presented cheques for equal amounts. One cheque to be dated the 1st January and a second post dated cheque dated the 1st April for the balance.
- e. Any member who has not sent their completed renewal form together with their **subscription to the Club Secretary by the 1st January** will be deemed to have resigned. If subsequently wishing to rejoin the Club, **a further entrance fee will be required.** Subject to a vacancy existing after this date.
- f. The Committee reserve the right not to renew any membership, and to cancel any existing membership at any time. The reason for dismissal, findings and decisions of the committee will be for the subject member only, and may not be generally broadcast.
- g. The Club is affiliated to the Bairnsdale Fly Fishers' Club and the Victoria Fly Fishers' Association in Australia, whose facilities are available to members visiting Australia. Further details may be obtained from the Secretary. Reciprocal arrangements exist for B.F.F.C. and V.F.F.A. members visiting Essex.

3. SUBSTITUTION TICKETS.

These tickets may be used during the normal fishing season for which they have been issued in substitution for the days on which, for any reason, the member has been unable to fish. No substitution tickets may be used on a day upon which fish are stocked into the lake or on any of the 6 days thereafter. Substitution tickets are not transferable between members or lakes and may not be used in advance of a member's anticipated inability to fish on any particular day.

4. SELF GUEST

A member may 'Self Guest' for an additional days sport if desired upon payment of charges and conditions detailed on the 'Charge Rate' sheet posted in the clubhouse.

5. JUNIORS.

Special concessions exist to enable member's children, or grandchildren, under the age of 16 to fish. Daily tickets enable the holder to take one brace of fish per day. Details for reservations and payments are displayed in the Clubhouse.

6. OUT OF COUNTY MEMBERSHIP

Open only to established members having served a minimum of two years as a member, and having moved out of County. A member may make presentation to the Committee of the Club to become an 'Out of County Member'.

Upon acceptance by the Club Committee, payment of 60% of the applicable membership fee for the current season will be applied. The 'Out of County Member' will be issued with 12 day tickets entitling the fishing of Club waters during the extended season.

In all other respects the 'Out of County Member' will be considered a full member

7. CLUB WATERS

The 'Lodge Lake' and the 'Lavender Lake', together known as Leez Lakes, are situated in private property just east of Leez Priory and each is approximately 16 acres in extent.

Entry to and exit from the Leez Lakes is allowed only by the approach road from the Great Leighs - Felsted Road. No other means of entry is permitted. The access gate must be closed and locked behind a member on entering or leaving the site. Only persons authorised to fish, or accompanying authorised anglers, are allowed in the fishing area.

8. THE SEASON.

The season opens on the 1st March and closes on the 31st of October of the same year. Except that the last Saturday of October and the preceding Friday are none fishing days, and when the first of November falls on a Saturday the preceding Friday is also a none

fishing day. The committee reserve the right to change the season in exceptional extenuating circumstances.
(Such as the occurrence with the 'Foot and Mouth' crisis of 2001)

There is however an effective extension to this season extending into the winter months of November to February. Due to necessary activities taking place on and around our lakes, a limitation to the "Winter Season" dictates that we do not have access to the lakes on Fridays or Saturdays. All other days of the week in these months we do have the normal access.

9. TIMES OF FISHING.

Fishing may commence at 4.30a.m. or one hour before sunrise whichever is the later and will close one hour after sunset or 10p.m. whichever is the earlier. No member shall remain on the site after 10.30p.m.

Member's only 'Evening Ticket' sessions commence at 5p.m. until the above stated finishing time. Current charge rates are posted in the Clubhouse.

10. FISHING RULES.

- a. Fishing shall be by one rod and line with artificial flies not exceeding No.6 (old scale).
- b. A team of not to exceed three flies may be used on each line.
- c. Dapping and the use of nymphs are allowed.
- d. Trolling is not permitted.
- e. Use of electronic (sub water radar) Fish finders not permitted.

11. ANIMALS.

Dogs are not allowed in the grounds.

12. WADING.

Thigh and knee waders only are permitted, and wading is entirely at the member's own risk. Great care is necessary and extreme caution must be exercised at all times.

13. MOTOR VEHICLES.

- a. Motor Vehicles must be parked in the car parks reserved for that purpose and not on any access roads.
- b. Vehicles are to keep to the hard surfaced roadways and parking areas, and not driven onto grassed areas of the lake banks.

14. LITTER.

- a. No litter of any kind may be left in the grounds or boats, or thrown overboard from boats. This is particularly important in the case of leader material, which can cause serious injury or death to wildlife.
- b. Litterbins are provided both in the Clubhouse, and between the two sheds on 'Lavender Lake' used as the Toilet and to house the boat equipment. However it is preferable if members take their litter home with them.
- c. The lighting of fires is prohibited.

15. TRESPASS.

The taking or disturbance of birds, or their nests or eggs and all shooting is prohibited.
Entry into any areas newly planted with trees or shrubs is expressly forbidden, whether these are wire fenced or not.

16. BIRD WATCHING.

Permits have been, or will be issued for this purpose and every facility is to be given to holders to enable them to carry out their activities.

17. SANITATION.

Toilets are provided close to each lake and members and their guests are requested to leave these facilities, in a clean and tidy condition, as they would wish to find them.

18. LICENCES.

All members and their fishing guests must be in position of a valid fishing licence issued by the Environment Agency. These may be obtained from most Post Offices within the County, or "On Line".

19. RECORDS.

- a. **Before starting to fish. - All members must submit a valid fishing ticket.**
Unless – i) Partaking in an evening session (Rule 8)
ii) 'Self Guesting' themselves as described in Rule 4.
iii) Fishing during the Winter months.
- b. Members, their guests, and anyone else authorised to fish, are to enter the following in the daily fishing register sheets located in the Clubhouse.-
 - i. Register name, on the appropriate section of the sheet, for the lake to be fished.
 - ii. Members Guests are to be signed in the Guest Book, entering both the name of guest and name of host member.

- iii. Enter the starting time for the Lake of choice.
- c. It is not permissible to change lakes during the day of fishing.
- d. Upon ceasing to fish for the day, every angler must sign out on the same daily fishing register sheet.
 - i. State time of departure.
 - ii. Enter full details of his/her catch. All fish taken must be weighed individually and recorded on the register. Members are requested to be particularly careful in recording the details of any tagged fish caught.

20. BOATS.

- (a) Boats are available on each lake, but no boatmen.
- (b) Each boat is available for hire on a daily or half-daily basis, the change over time for half day being 1:30 p.m. (13:30hrs) as exhibited in the Clubhouse. The use of a boat is restricted to the hirer and is not transferable to another member. A boat hired only for the morning session must be returned to its mooring by the changeover time or, if still available for hire, rebooked by the hirer before the changeover time.
- (c) Pre-booking of a boat for the afternoon session may be done on day of hire, or prior to this date upon payment of the hire charge and concurred with the Warden.
- (d) Up to three persons are allowed in a boat, only two of whom may fish at any one time and then only if authorised so to do.
- (e) Full details for the booking of, and paying for the hire of boats are displayed in the Clubhouse.
- (f) All boats must be secured to their moorings and the seat cushions returned after use. Anchor ropes must be left in a neat and seaman-like condition and the boats free from mud and debris.
- (g) Boat anglers are to exercise due care to limit wear and tear on the boats and any damage to the boats, oars or equipment must be reported to the Warden immediately.

- (h) Members and their guests fishing from boats must obey the convention that boat anglers give way to bank anglers. However in the event of a boat being on station consideration must be extended to allow the boat angler to remain in position. Once vacated the boat angler is not to return to that station again, unless free of bank anglers.
- i) The use of quiet Electric outboard motors is acceptable for use on the lakes. However use of petrol propelled outboard motors are prohibited.

21. FISHING DATES.

Members on a flexi-rod basis may fish on any 3 days of their choice each month of the season, except that only one of those days may be fished on a day when fish are stocked into the lake or any of the 6 days thereafter.

22. BAG LIMITS.

The limit to the number of fish taken shall be as follows:

- (a) Members 5 fish per day.
- (b) Guest ticket holder 4 fish per day.
- (c) Juniors 2 fish per day.
- (d) Evening Ticket 2 fish per day.

All fish caught must be killed and counted towards the daily limit, Member and/or Guest must cease fishing on catching their individual limit.

Gentle but very Very Important Reminder

It is only the Rainbow Trout that has a year round open season. All Brown Trout caught out of season (31st October to 1st April inclusive) must be returned to the water unharmed.

23. GUESTS.

Guest tickets are available on each lake, for the use of a member's guests or for members wishing to take advantage of an extra day's fishing.

Every guest or junior must be accompanied by his member host whilst fishing and members are reminded that they are wholly responsible for the conduct of and the observance of these rules by their guests and juniors whilst they are on the Club's premises. Failure of guests to comply will result in action being taken against the host member.

A non-member may not fish the Club's waters more than 6 times in any season.

24. DISEASE.

All anglers who have fished in any suspect waters in Great Britain or Eire must ensure that their boots, lines, nets etc. are disinfected before fishing in the Club's waters.

25. FOR THE AVOIDANCE OF DOUBT:-

Neither the owner/occupier, nor the 'Essex Fly Fishers' Club' (its Officers & Employees included) hold themselves responsible for any accident, loss or damage to persons or property howsoever caused.

N.B. These rules are made to protect the interest of the members and observation of them will ensure the continued enjoyment by all of the peace and tranquillity, which we are so fortunate to enjoy and share. Unfortunately, however, it has to be stated for the record that the Committee is minded to determine the membership of any member of the club found to be in breach of these rules.