**SPRING OPEN COMPETITION 20th April 2024**

**Information & Rules**

**Car Parking:** Free when parked in the Anglers Car Park. Vehicle registration must be logged at reception.

Please ensure that you have given the correct registration details as non payment of parking notices are being issued.

**Times:**

* Check in at reception from 08.00 am.
* Briefing – A briefing will take place outside the fishery building at 8.45am.
* **Fishing 9.00am until 5.00pm**

**Weigh in:**

* Weigh in at the Fishery Lodge any time during the day, by Fishery Staff.
* Weigh in ends at **5.15pm**
* **Please Note**: If you must leave early for any reason please let them know at the fishery office so they can weigh and record your catch.

 **Rules and Fish Limit:**

* Please respect distance between other competitors. Tackle up by your vehicle or on the boat once afloat.
* Boats to leave the pontoon prior to 9.00am and remain within the ‘Yellow Buoys’ until the sounding of a whistle, which will start and end the competition.
* 4 Fish Bag Limit per Angler. Each boat / pair are fishing for a total of 8 fish, when this has been reached, you must return to the fishery lodge to weigh in.
* Due to the change in rules regarding browns. NO browns must be taken therefor browns will not count as caught fish for the weigh in. All browns must be return carefully to the water.
* A ‘Time Bonus’ will then apply of 1lb for each complete hour of fishing remaining until 5.00pm. This will be added to the total pairs bag weight, not each individual bag.
* You must weigh in as individual bags as this will put you in the running for the ‘**Heaviest individual Bag**’ prize.
* Barbless hooks to be used after weigh in. Then ‘Catch and Release’ only.
* No lines are to be in the Water when the ‘Engine is Running.
* No Trolling with oars or ‘Rudder’. ‘Back Drifting’ is allowed.

**Safety:**

* Life Jackets must always be worn **on top of your clothing**. This includes when on the pontoon.
* The ‘Kill Cord’ should be attached to the person in charge of the engine when in motion.
* Exercise extreme caution when standing or moving in the boat. Do not fish whilst standing.
* In the event of a ‘Thunder Storm’ place all rods and landing nets at one end of the boat, sit away from them and return to the ‘pontoon’.
* If the Anchor becomes stuck contact the Water Sports office on **01629 540444 (Emergencies only!)**. A replacement will be brought to you.
* Possible High Wind Information – Directed by the Fishery Staff.

**Engines**: Avoid using the choke. Use a ‘small turn on the throttle’.

**Emergency Number**: Any problems with the Boat or Engine call **01629 540444 (Emergencies Only!)**. This Number is displayed on your Fishing permit. If you experience a lack of ‘Signal’, indicate you need assistance by waving an Oar. Anyone seeing this please contact the fishery on the above number.

**Restricted Areas**

* No Fishing within the areas marked with White and Yellow Marker Buoys or within the Sailing Club Bay.
* No fishing in the Water Sports Bay indicated by the line of Yellow Buoys.

**Prizes**

There will be a prize giving once results are calculated. There will be prizes for,

* The Best Overall ‘Pairs Weight’ including ‘time bonus’. (Names to be entered on the Honours Boards & Prize).
* Top Individual Bag Weight. (Prize)
* The Biggest Fish caught. (Name to be engraved on ‘John Wilson Memorial Cup’ & Prize & Cup).