

Millan Waters

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Dear Member,

Welcome to our latest Newsletter. Another season has finished and a new season looms ahead. We reopen on SATURDAY 27th MARCH from 8.00AM ONWARDS for the 2004 / 2005 Season. We have only closed for 2 weeks this year to hopefully avoid the poaching problems we encountered last season.

The initial stocking of the season has been completed and has included some brown and tiger trout to compliment our range of rainbows. Please remember ALL BROWNS and TIGERS (inc ANY BLUES LEFT) are **CATCH & RELEASE ONLY**. Some sizeable rainbows have gone in so remember don't fish too light!

A summary of last season will follow but first a warm welcome to all our new members. Once again for the third year in succession I have had to start a waiting list for the 2005 / 2006 season! To the existing membership many thanks for your continued support and as always I will strive to give you the best fishing I possibly can. The figures up to 29/02/04 (attached) prove we had a truly remarkable season, bearing in mind the extreme temperatures we encountered in July & August. Fish caught at the end of February were 6685, with 1815 visits to the fishery producing an average of 3.68. Given last season's totals were 6323, 1705 and 3.70 respectively I defy anyone to say we have not had a great season!

This year all the locks have been replaced and a key which opens everything (car park, entrance gate, returns hut and container) is enclosed together with your name badge. Badges should be prominently worn on each occasion to the fishery. We police ourselves so if you don't wear your badge, please don't be offended if someone asks who you are! Should you lose your key or badge, please let me know as replacements can be obtained at a cost of £2.50 each. A windscreen badge is also enclosed so please make use of it.

It is possible we will purchase a second-hand container this season for additional shelter. If this occurs your key will also unlock it. If you see a

second container appear, any old tables, chairs etc you don't need they would be gratefully accepted.

Everyone should have a copy of our rules. However just in case I have enclosed a copy for everyone's reference. As I stressed at the AGM there have been some rumblings this season about some breaches of the rules. I do not feel our rules are particularly onerous and most are there for your and everyone's advantage and safety. Signing in and out is mandatory. If someone was to unfortunately get injured or worse, by not knowing who they are, contact details etc we have a problem. Also it assists in the stocking programme having **accurate** returns to work from.

As I mentioned at the AGM any breach of the rules will result in the member receiving a pro-rata refund of his membership fee and membership cancelled for life. Taking extra fish in addition to the limits will be looked upon as theft and reported to the police if necessary (If any extra fish is taken due to being badly hooked, as long as it is recorded in the returns book, there is no problem).

One thing that I am asked frequently by some members relates to the number of fish killed \ taken each year. As long as it is within the rules there is no issue and although I do monitor who takes fish each year, I do not feel it necessary to produce a table of names each season. I am pleased to advise that the vast majority of the members take only what they clearly need for their own personal consumption which I would generously estimate at say 20 fish in a season (Given the size of our "average" rainbow, I do not feel 20 is an over exaggeration). Only nine members took over 20 fish this season and they can be summarised as follows:

Between 21 and 30	4 members
Between 31 and 35	1 member
Between 36 and 40	3 members
Between 40 and 55	0 members
Between 55 and 60	1 member

March 2004

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Inside this
issue:

Brown Trout Roll of Honour

Tiger & Blue Trout Roll of Honour

Syndicate Returns 2000 to 2003 / 2004 Season

7lb + Roll of Honour

Windscreen Badge & Key

Blank Visits + Monthly Brown, Tigers & Browns

Rules

All I would say is that if everyone took these levels we would be unable to continue at the current cost. It is not compulsory to take 2 fish on a visit, 4 in a week. If you don't need the fish put it back for others to enjoy. For those of you not in the above list (you know which list you apply to) my grateful thanks. It is members like you who allow us to continue at the current membership subscription.

Please remember you must have a new fishing licence which commences 1st April 2004. The bailiffs have visited the fishery before – you have been warned. Fishing without a licence carries a substantial fine and they **always** prosecute.

Each member is entitled to take a guest to the fishery (maximum 6 guests or visits in any one season). The guest must be accompanied by the member and signed into the Returns Book. All guests will be charged £15.00 for the first 2 fish and can catch and release thereafter. Please note guests can only be taken onto the water subject to PRIOR AGREEMENT with myself. Cheques payable to Millan Waters as usual please. As agreed at our AGM no guest ticket will be allowed during April and May when the fishing is open strictly to members only. No day tickets are allowed other than to members guests as detailed above.

Just a reminder to all our new members. A knotless landing net must be used on all occasions (the net must be knotless to comply with the law). The practice of catch and release is looked upon as a concession. Your assistance in treating all fish with the utmost care is greatly appreciated. Use barbless hooks or flatten the barbs whenever possible. If you have any doubts that a fish may not survive its return, please dispatch it, even if it's one over your limit. Merely note it in the returns book and take a fish less on your next visit. We are very lucky to possess the water quality we have and dead fish can be avoided, as this causes deterioration to the water quality.

Time to wrap up the loose ends on the 2003 / 2004 season. Seven stockings took place during last season. This produces a summary for the past four seasons as follows :-

Season 2001/2001	3535lbs 1.44 tonnes
Season 2001/2002	4595lbs 1.8758 tonnes
Season 2002/2003	4805lbs 1.96 tonnes
Season 2003/2004	5300lbs 2.16 tonnes

Not surprisingly P. Haynes came top with the most brown trout caught this season with 24. The trophy will be presented at this years AGM. Mal Pratt's 13lb Rainbow on 29/03/04 was never beaten (just as well as he received the trophy at December's AGM!) Congratulations to you both and the other trophy winners for the 2003 / 2004 season. Usual trophies up for grabs this season.

An amazing 60 fish 7lb and over were caught last season and they can be summarised as follows:-

7lb and over	62	
8lb and over	32	(including 2 browns)
9lb and over	15	
10lb and over	8	
11lb and over	4	
12lb and over	2	
13lb and over	1	

Usual returns for Browns, Tigers and Blue Trout are attached. It is unlikely we will stock any Blue Trout this season. Also attached are monthly returns, visits vs blanks and the monthly returns on Browns, Blues and Tigers.

Well that's about it for now. Any queries / problems, please do not hesitate to contact me. All my contact numbers and e-mail address are shown on page one. All those who gave me their e-mail address will receive their other Newsletters this season by e-mail. If this is not convenient let me know. Please also ensure you let me know of any address or e-mail changes.

Finally the thanks list:-

- To you all for your continued support
- To Roy Seeley who has overseen the stockings all season and his help with the car park & locks.
- To Tony Russell, Daran Guy & Ken Robson who assisted with the stockings
- Mal Pratt & Bill Francis for dispensing Clarosan
- Phil Haynes for additional platforms, grass cutting and shelter
- Tony Russell again for boat repairs and platform repairs

All your assistance is much appreciated.

Look forward to seeing you all during the new season.

Tight lines to you all!

Gordon Dickson
Manager & Secretary