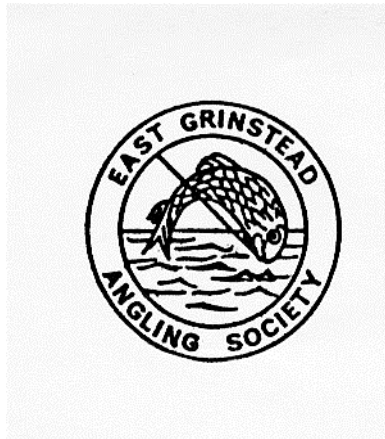


# **East Grinstead Angling Society**

(Established 1955)



## **Information and Rules**

June 2011 Edition

# **Safety**

The Society wants all members to be able to fish safely. With this mind there are regular safety inspections and maintenance work on The Society's waters and we ask you to observe any temporary closure notices.

Please be careful when fishing our waters. Think about your own safety and that of other members. If you see anything that you think may affect the safety of members report it to a bailiff or the Secretary

Thank you

## **Introduction**

It is hoped that this booklet will provide you, the Member, with all the information you need to enjoy The Society's waters. The next few pages include the rules and general information. All members, particularly those who have just joined The Society, should read the rules carefully. Details of the officers, committee and bailiffs will be found in your membership card. Please check the match calendar before visiting a venue, as it will be closed for the duration of the competition to all except competitors. (See your membership card for details).

We would ask you not to use keep nets during the summer months, except in competitions, particularly for Bream, Carp & Tench, as fish may suffer.

## **Information**

- **Please read the rules contained in this booklet before visiting The Society's waters.**
- Members are reminded of the legal obligation to possess a valid Environment Agency Rod Licence. You should produce this when requested by a bailiff or another member
- Members can discuss any subject matter relating to The Society personally with the committee during the first half hour of any committee meeting. (See Rule 6.1).
- **Night fishing, i.e. before dawn or after dusk, is not permitted on any of The Society Lakes or rivers.**
- **Litter will not be tolerated on The Society's waters. Take it home with you or face expulsion. (See Rule 13.3)**
- Guest Tickets and Exchange Permits see Rule 16.
- The Society recommends that barbless hooks should be used on all waters, with the exception of hooks used for Pike. (See pike Code of Practice). This is a mandatory requirement at Readers Lake.

## **The Society**

1.1 The Society shall be known as East Grinstead Angling Society (The Society).

## **2.0 Objects**

2.1 The objects of The Society are to encourage fair angling and to provide the facilities of an angling society for its members including the acquisition and maintenance of fisheries and the promotion of angling.

## **3.0 The Trustees**

3.1 There shall be not less than two and not more than four trustees of The Society. Appointment of the trustees shall be by the Committee.

3.2 Trustees shall hold office until death or resignation or until removed by a resolution of the Committee.

3.3 All property of The Society (except cash, which shall be under the control of the Hon Treasurer) including leases shall be vested in the Trustees to be dealt with by them, as the Committee shall from time to time direct.

3.4 The Trustees shall be indemnified out of the assets of The Society against any risk and expenses incurred by them in pursuance of their office.

## **4.0 President, Vice Presidents & Officers**

4.1 A President and up to ten Vice-Presidents shall be elected annually at the Annual General Meeting after being proposed, seconded and after indicating their consent.

4.2 A Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Maintenance Secretary and Membership Secretary shall be elected annually at the Annual General Meeting after being proposed, seconded and indicating their consent. The Officers shall be members of the Committee.

## **5.0 The Committee**

5.1 The Committee shall consist of the Officers and not less than two or more than seven ordinary members of The Society elected annually at the Annual General Meeting after being proposed, seconded and indicating their consent unless already a member of the Committee.

5.2 Each member standing for election to the Committee shall be required to be a member of The Society and must declare any involvement with the administration of any another angling club, association or society. In

addition a member standing for election shall have been a member for a minimum of two years.

5.3 The Committee may appoint two additional members onto the Committee for the period up to the next AGM.

5.4 Officers and committee members shall be entitled to pro rata free annual membership in recognition of the service they provide to The Society. Any officer or committee member may waive this entitlement when receiving a membership renewal notice.

## **6.0 Powers and Duties of The Committee**

6.1 The Committee shall meet at least once in each calendar month or more frequently as deemed necessary. The first thirty minutes of each meeting is available for members to make personal representation on any subject matter pertaining to The Society. The member(s) shall be required to leave the committee meeting after thirty minutes or as directed by the chairman or acting chairman.

6.2 The Committee meetings shall, except in exceptional circumstances, convene monthly; except bank holidays.

6.3 A quorum shall be at least four committee members.

6.4 The Committee may declare vacant the position of any Committee member absent from three consecutive meetings or four meetings in any year without reasonable excuse. The committee member so expelled will not be eligible for re-election until a period of one year has elapsed.

6.5 Decisions made by The Committee shall be based upon a democratic vote. All Committee members, with the exception of the Chairman, shall be eligible to vote. In the case of a tied vote the Chairman will be entitled to a casting vote.

6.6 The Committee shall be able to elect honorary members for a period of one year on an annual basis.

6.7 The Committee reserve the right to refuse membership to anyone applying to join The Society. The Committee similarly reserve the right to terminate membership of any member during the course of a season should that member have broken the rules of The Society or brought discredit upon The Society. In the case of termination of membership no refund of membership moneys or joining fee will be made.

6.8 No member shall be expelled under Rule 6.7 except at a committee meeting convened especially, if necessary, for the purpose. The member may appear, or be represented, at the meeting if so desired. The member shall be given 14 days notice.

## **7.0 Financial**

7.1 The financial year of The Society shall end on the 30th November in each year.

7.2 The Honorary Treasurer shall prepare a set of accounts at the end of the financial year. An auditor appointed by the committee shall audit these accounts.

## **8.0 Membership**

8.1 The Society shall consist of the following classes of member's:- Senior, Concessionary (State & Disability Pensioners), Junior, Joint - Husband & Wife, Honorary and Life.

8.2 Senior membership is open to any candidate over the age of seventeen as at 1st June.

8.3 Concessionary membership is available to any candidate receiving the State Pension or Disability Pension by the 1st June.

8.4 Junior membership is available to young persons over the age of twelve but under the age of seventeen on the 1st June. Children under the age of twelve can fish The Society's waters free of charge providing they are accompanied by a senior member.

8.5 Honorary and Life Members are elected at the discretion of the committee

8.6 All persons applying for membership must do so using the official application Form.

## **9.0 Subscriptions**

9.1 The Annual Subscription payable shall be such a sum as the Committee shall determine from time to time and to be ratified at the Annual General Meeting.

9.2 Subscription renewals shall become due on or before 1st May prior to commencement of the season and renewals after that date shall be liable for payment of an entrance fee.

## **10.0 Annual General Meeting**

10.1 The Annual General Meeting of The Society shall be held each year to; receive and consider the audited accounts and balance sheet prepared by the Hon Treasurer, to elect a President & Vice-Presidents, to appoint Officers and to fill any vacancies on the Committee, and to decide any resolutions submitted.

10.2 Notice of the date, time and place of the Annual General Meeting shall be sent to each member of The Society at least 14 days before the date of the meeting.

### **11.0 Extraordinary General Meeting**

11.1 An Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) may be convened by The Committee or on a requisition in writing signed by not less than ten members of The Society which states the purpose for which the meeting is desired. No other business other than that for which the meeting was called shall be discussed at the EGM. An EGM is the only occasion (other than the AGM) where rule changes can be made. Such rule changes can only be made provided that a minimum of twenty members are present. In the event of an EGM not less than 14 days notice in writing together with details of the business to be dealt with shall be sent by the secretary to each member of The Society.

### **12.0 General**

12.1 Members shall at all times conduct themselves in a proper manner and refrain from causing any damage whatsoever to property, disturbing game, wildlife or farm animals and shall in no way interfere with another members sport.

### **13.0 Rules**

13.1 The following rules apply to all The Society's waters:

13.2 Anglers and their guests shall walk only on the banks and not across standing crops. All gates to be kept shut.

13.3 Do not discard any litter at the water. Anglers should remove any existing litter that is found in the immediate vicinity of their swim and take it home. Failure to do so could result in expulsion from The Society.

13.4 No dogs, radios, glass bottles, or metal cans are allowed.

13.5 The unauthorised transfer or removal of fish and plants is strictly prohibited. Any member found breaching this rule will be expelled from The Society.

13.6 Camping and the lighting of fires are not permitted.

13.7 Members are required to carry a valid membership card and rod licence at all times when on The Society's waters. These are to be produced for inspection by a bailiff or another member of The Society. Failure to produce either of these documents will result in the angler being asked to leave the water.

13.8 The use of any unauthorised kind of firearm is strictly prohibited.

13.9 No angler shall occupy more than one swim or fish beyond the confines of the swim or cause annoyance to other members or leave unattended any rod that has been cast out with the intention of catching fish.

13.10 Anglers may have a maximum of two rods in use at any one time.

13.11 All coarse fish to be returned to the water unless stated otherwise herein. Under no circumstances may any fish be transferred from one water to another.

13.12 The use of live bait is **NOT** permitted.

13.13 In order to discourage vermin, bait of any kind is not to be deposited on the banks or discarded into the water.

13.14 All vehicles to be parked in designated parking areas only.

13.15 Night fishing, i.e. before dawn or after dusk on any of The Society lakes is not permitted.

13.16 Any official notice posted on notice boards at individual waters must be adhered to.

#### **14.0 Close Season**

14.1 The close season for coarse fish shall be from the 15th March to 31st May inclusive, except Hedgecourt Lake, and Eden Brook where the statutory close season applies; i.e. 15th March to 15th June inclusive.

14.2 The close season will not apply to any commercial water where The Society has negotiated fishing rights for members for the period 15 March to 15 June inclusive. Members must be in possession of a valid membership card and rod licence at these waters.

14.3 The fishing seasons will be at the discretion of The Committee. Any notification of changes will be given at the annual general meeting.

#### **15.0 Competitions & Trophies**

15.1 All competitions are to rules promulgated by the Angling Trust.

15.2 The competition venue shall be closed, to all anglers except those competing, from two hours before the start of the competition until all competing anglers have cleared the water after the competition.

15.3 The competition secretary or his representatives shall be entitled to change the venue of any competition at short notice.

15.4 All members are eligible to take part in Society matches.

15.5 No person shall take part in a competition or represent The Society in external matches unless the subscription fee has been paid.



15.6 All competitors taking part in matches held on Society Lakes shall use two keep nets. One net shall be used to retain Carp, the other to retain all other species caught

15.7 Disputes must be referred to the match secretary or his designated deputy. The match secretary or his deputy decision shall be final.

15.8 Registration of specimen fish for The Society trophies and for 'Fish of the Month' must be made in writing using the forms included with this booklet within 10 days of the capture to the Competition Secretary or appointed individual with the name and address of one witness. (Not necessarily a Society member). If a member catches 'Specimen Sized' fish (as per Society's Club Record Fish List) report same to Competition Secretary or appointed individual.

15.9 The Knock out Competition

This competition is open to all Society members & is basically a series of matches between pairs of anglers. The organiser (see membership card) will make the draw for each round. A draw is made to determine the "home angler" & who shall be the "away angler". Drawn on a round by round basis with the date [subject to rule (a)], venue, time & duration of match to be mutually agreed. Winners from each round meet in the next round until a final pair meet. The rules are:

(a) The cost of entry is £2 & the closing date for entry is 31st May.

(b) All matches shall take place on Society waters only.

(c) The draw will be made after the closing date & all anglers will receive a card.

(d) The first round must be completed by 31st July. Thereafter one round per month.

(e) If round one has an odd number entries will be adjusted with byes to ensure an even number go forward to the next round.

(f) "Home" angler is responsible for informing the "away" angler of the match & venue also for retuning the result card to the Match Secretary, although a telephone confirmation of the result is acceptable.

The "away" angler has the choice of swim.

(g) If the result has not been communicated as given in (f) at the start of the next round the "home" angler shall be disqualified & the "away" angler will enter the next round.

(h) The entry fee will be divided 60% to the winner & 40% to the loser.

## **16.0 Guest Tickets & Exchange Permits**

16.1 A member is allowed to take up to two guests on The Society's waters in any one day. The member shall be responsible for the guest's behaviour and their compliance with the rules of The Society.

16.2 Guest tickets must be bought in advance. They are available from Agent(s) approved by the committee. See membership card.

16.3 Exchange permits are available to allow **members** to fish other approved club waters. Exchange Permits are available from 1<sup>st</sup> July. They can be obtained from an individual appointed by the Committee. See your Membership card for details.

**These following rules are in addition to all other Society rules.**

### **17.0 Rules Pertaining to Hedgecourt Lake and Feeder Stream**

Hedgecourt Lake and its feeder stream and the areas of wetland that border the site have been declared a 'Site of Special Scientific Interest'. Angling is listed as an activity that may be detrimental to the habitat of the various plants, insect and birds that can be found there. The Society therefore has to ensure that certain conditions are met in order to secure continued use of the water. The following rules form the basis of our agreement with the landowners, Crawley Mariners Yacht Club, and as such can only be altered or added to at the time of renewal when the terms of the agreement will be discussed and agreed by both parties.

17.1 Members of The Society or anyone fishing with the authority of The Society shall not remove any fish from or introduce any fish to the waters

17.2 Members of The Society or anyone fishing with the authority of The Society shall not fish from any spot other than the swims provided.

17.3 The banks and adjoining land must not be dug for bait nor disturbed for any other reason. Cutting of trees, bushes, or foliage is not allowed and flowers and shrubs are to remain untouched.

17.4 All Society members, and anyone fishing with the authority of The Society shall be responsible for clearing away all litter whether introduced by them or not at the position at which they are fishing. Such litter is to be removed from the area of the lake or deposited in the litterbins provided.

17.5 Camping is not allowed and no fires to be lit.

17.6 Members of The Society or anyone fishing with the authority of The Society shall not take or permit to be taken any animal, radio, air gun, air pistol, or firearm onto the lake or its surrounds.

17.7 All hooks, line traces in any form shall be removed from in or around the surrounds of the lake.

17.8 Swimming in the Lake is not allowed.

17.9 All Society members or persons fishing with the authority of The Society shall keep to the footpaths, roads, and way provided or failing this will keep close to the bank. Public rights of way are not to be obstructed.

17.10 Fishing **before 5 am** at any time or before dawn and after dusk is not permitted.

17.11 Glass, plastic, tins or metal containers, other than vacuum flasks, are **not** to be taken to the venue. Any person found contravening this Rule shall be expelled from The Society.

17.12 Parking of motorcycles, motorcars and any other vehicles is restricted to those places indicated on the map.

17.13. Any Society member or persons fishing with the authority of The Society shall not unreasonably interfere with the sailing of any member of Crawley Mariners Yacht Club or any persons sailing with the authority of the club or with any person on any adjacent property or land to which the public or others have lawful access.

17.14. Any member of The Society or persons fishing with the authority of The Society, upon being challenged and failing to produce a current membership card or valid permit to fish, will be required to give their name and address and leave the water unless they can prove their authority to fish.

17.15. Casting beyond the limits of the marker buoys is not permitted.

## **18.0 Rules Pertaining Kidbrooke Lake (Michael Hall School)**

18.1 Members may fish at weekends and school holidays between dawn and dusk.

18.2 On Mon- Fri during the term time of Michael Hall School members may only fish from 4:00 pm and dusk

## **19.0 Rules pertaining to Readers Lake**

19.1 Entrance to the lake is by a locked gate on Hophurst Hill.

19.2 The combination number for the lock on the gate is **given in your membership card**, the gate must remain locked at all times.

19.3 Keep strictly to the path provided, do not walk on grass.

19.4 Fishing is allowed from numbered swims only.

19.5 Between 1 June and 30 September, inclusive, of each year keepnets shall not be used except for matches, when two keepnets shall be used. One keepnet will retain carp and the second all other species. At other times of the year one keepnet may be used for both match and pleasure angling

19.6 The use of barbed or micro-barbed hooks is **not** permitted

**Important**

Pollution kills not only fish but also your fishing

If you see pollution on any of our fisheries or surrounding waters **act immediately**. Failure to do so could result in death of thousands of fish and barren water.

**Follow these guidelines:**

**First & foremost ring the Environment Agency Pollution Control Department on 0800 80 70 60. This is a 24-hour number. If you find the number engaged keep trying until you get through.**

If practicable obtain a clean plastic mineral water bottle and rinse twice with water at the scene then fill the bottle with a sample of water. Mark the bottle with the time, date and place where the sample was taken. Include your name address and telephone number. If possible take some photographs, particularly if there are any dead or dying fish.

Contact **The Society's Head Bailiff (address & telephone number are given on your membership card), as soon as possible & hand over the sample.**

**Pike Code of Practice**

- If you wish to catch and return Pike please be aware that the species is not tolerant of bad handling.
- Renew your line regularly and use a minimum main line breaking strain of 12 lbs (lure fishing 15 lbs is recommended).
- A wire trace must be used of minimum length 18 inches, minimum breaking strain 20 lbs (lure fishing 15 inches & 30 lbs b.s.).

- No more than two treble hooks per trace should be used, which should be micro-barbed or barbless except for one bait holding barb per treble.
- Gaffs are forbidden.
- Anglers should have long forceps, unhooking mat, wire cutters, and a large landing net ( recommended minimum size 36 inches). A leather glove is also recommended.
- Try to avoid deep hooking a fish with the use of effective bite indicators and by tightening instantly when a bait is taken. Never wait for a second run.
- Pike should only be retained in a sack/tube for a maximum of 30 minutes whilst a camera is arranged.
- All Pike must be returned alive.

### ***BOATS & PUNTS ON HEDGE COURT***

MEMBERS ARE ALLOWED TO USE THEIR OWN BOATS OR PUNTS ON THE LAKE. **Only four boats/ punts** are allowed on the water at any one time and the following sub-rules shall apply.

- i) Not more than two people are allowed in any boat or punt. Each person shall wear a flotation aid.
- ii) When not in use all boats or punts are to be removed from the lake.
- iii) Boats or punts can only be used in the areas designated on the map. Fishing should be kept as near as is practical to the banks and fringes of the waters and not to be **more than five metres** from the bank.
- iv) Except in an emergency, no landing is allowed on property not owned by the Yacht Club. Launching and landing is to be at the points designated on the map.
- v) Fishing from the boats or punts in the designated areas at the Western end of the lake is not permitted after 1700 hours on Wednesdays, nor at any time on a Saturdays or a Public Holiday.
- vi) A person under the age of sixteen shall not be permitted in a boat unless accompanied by a senior member.
- vii) The use of boats or punts is not permitted at time of racing or at other times, which the Yacht Club may reasonably require. It has been agreed

that no Society member shall fish one hour prior to a race or until one hour after the first boat to finish the race.

ix) Wading is not permitted except in an emergency or when launching or landing a boat or punt.

x) Except with the prior agreement of the Yacht Club, there shall be no disturbance or damage to reed beds, flora, fauna or wild life habitat or environment within or around the fishery or within the boundary of the Yacht Clubs property.

xi) No work or maintenance shall be carried out by or on behalf of The Society on any part of the fishery without the prior agreement of the Yacht Club. The Society has no authority to carry out any works or other activity on behalf of other parties.