



Development Plan 2021

Objectives

The Committee are committed to moving the club forward by offering the members an improved fishing experience and excellent value for money.

Lymm Angling Club's Selling Points.

Let us start with the positives:

- An excellent mix of still waters, canals, and rivers.
- Wrinehill is one of the most consistent specimen carp waters in our area. It is a selling point for the club.
- Nunsmere – an enigmatic water which anglers join to fish specifically.
- Catfish – No other clubs have them in our catchment area, we certainly have the largest specimen.
- Lymmvalle – The finest Tench Fishing in the North West of England combined with specimen carp and special cats.
- Belmont – An exciting plan is coming to fruition to restore it to its former glory.
- Shakerley Mere – A shop window to our club and an excellent fishery.
- Catchpenny - Growing in popularity due to some excellent recent captures.
- Access to excellent Barbel Fishing on the River Severn.
- Looking to expand the offering and add to the portfolio of waters.

The downside

Having received feedback from members, both on the bank and via other sources such as social media, there are key areas that need improvement. Whilst there may be others, the main ones are the number of anglers on the bank and the quality and type of fishing available within some of our waters.

Our open-door membership policy has not only attracted too many anglers at times but has also enabled some "anglers" to join that do not treat our waters, fish stocks and the club with respect. This includes consistent rule breaking and littering. This has often angered and put off our many good members who are the majority. It has made the job of our bailiff team both difficult and not a pleasurable experience for them. It has also attracted complaints from some of our landlords which could ultimately result in us losing access to these venues.

The following is the plan to improve the above to enable the club to move forward and mould it into the organisation the decent angler wants to be a member of.

Improving Bank Space – Membership Cap, Balloting & Overstamps

Membership Cap

In the past 2 years Lymm has attracted an increasing number of members. Whilst from a financial point of view this has been welcomed, it has made it difficult for our members to find pegs on some of our more popular waters. It is proposed therefore that for the 2021 season membership will be capped and reduced by 300 members when compared to this year with a view to reducing by a further 300 members in 2022. This will obviously mean less angling pressure on the bank.

Regardless of the cap all existing members will have the right to join. However, to ensure they fall within the capped membership, existing members must renew prior to the **31st of January** each year. No new memberships will be sold during this period and only renewals will be available.

If the membership cap has been reached (or exceeded) by the 31st of January, then the membership will be closed. A waiting list will then be formed for those wishing to join in the future.

If the cap has not been reached by the 31st of January, then the membership will be open to both existing and new members. It will close as soon as the cap has been reached and a waiting list will then be formed. No further memberships will be sold in that year to either previous or new members.

Existing Members - Joining Fee. No joining fee will be required to be paid by existing members providing they join by the 31st March 2021. However, if the membership cap has been reached (after 31st January) existing members who have not renewed will need to join the waiting list for the following year and pay another joining fee. **From 2022 all existing members must renew by the 31st January to avoid the joining fee.**

Balloted Waters

It has already been decided that Belmont and Serpentine Pools will be balloted waters. Other waters will be added, as necessary. This ensures that travelling anglers are assured of a place to fish on their chosen water. Software has been purchased and is currently being trialled to assess the most effective system to meet our needs.

Overstamp Qualification

Currently the only members that require an Overstamp are Adult Seniors. This appears to be grossly unfair. Under the present rules a new pensioner or concessionary member can have full access to all our waters for £93.00 including a joining fee. A new senior member must pay £214.00, a full £121.00 more. From the 2021 season the **only members** that can fish without the need to purchase (or earn) an Overstamp are those aged 70 plus, the registered disabled and junior members. Seniors, Pensioners under 70, concessionary members (that are not registered disabled) and intermediates will no longer qualify for a free Overstamp.

Portfolio of waters

Every one of our waters needs to have a specific identity. The members need to know what expect to catch when they fish the venue. This needs to be maintained and improved from year to year.

Over the coming months and years each water within our portfolio will be assessed and will be stocked to their full potential in line with the agreed identity. A voluntary stocking fund will be started to assist the financing of this.

As a starting point we will consider each of our still waters and how they should be managed going forward. For now, the document focuses only on still waters as the rivers and canals require little improvement besides ongoing maintenance.

Below is a list of our still waters and the categories they fall under and how they will be managed:

Specimen Anglers

Mixed (Carp, Cat, & Tench)

- **Lymm Vale** – The water has suffered from flooding since the Autumn of 2019. Consideration will be given on how to open more pegs and to improve the venue going forward.

Carp Only

- **Wrinehill** – The biomass needs to be reduced to provide the space for the specimen carp to grow on. However, only Silvers, Tench and Cats will be removed. No carp will be removed, although over time the smaller fish could be removed and replaced with a lesser number of larger specimen fish purchased from the stocking fund (see later). We have a quality product that Carp Anglers enjoy. We should ensure that they continue to catch specimen carp in a venue that improves year on year.
- **Catchpenny** – This water has grown in popularity and has produced some stunning fish recently. Despite the many rumours Lymm Angling Club members will have continued access to this water in 2021 and beyond.
- **Belmont Pool and Serpentine** – As per previous notifications. These will be low (lower) stocked large carp balloted waters. The committee have ordered new stock for the Belmont Main Pool from VS Fisheries who arguably supply the finest carp in England.

Carp & Cats

- **Founders** – will continue to be managed as a Cat & Carp water but requires further improvement.
- **Top Pool** - As it is now
- **Spring Pool** – Will also be managed as a Carp & Cat water and will therefore require a restocking of both cats and larger carp.

Carp & Bream

- **Shakerley Mere** – As a day ticket venue, it is a shop window for Lymm AC. Where permitted, we should manage it to ensure anglers have an excellent experience and want to join the club.

Specialist Anglers

- **Nunsmere**
- **Tabley Moat & Tabley Mere**

The above are low stock enigmatic venues. Great work has been done on both by a few dedicated club officials. Further plans will be developed to improve these waters further.

All anglers

- **Micklewrights** – one of our most consistent waters. No action except maintenance is required.

Pleasure Anglers

- **Woodside Pool**
- **New Pool**
- **Farm Pool**
- **Hadley Pool**
- **Village Pool**

All the above will continue to be mixed fisheries and after they have been assessed will be stocked to the optimum, including small to medium sized carp, tench, bream and roach etc.

Oasis – An excellent water managed by Hampton Springs Fishery.

Oak, Willow, Rowan & Yew Tree – Part of the Belmont Development Plan. These will contain mostly match size but cormorant proof carp. These waters will be stocked to their optimum levels and will be ready for the 2021 season.

Tench, Bream & Crucians

Grimsditch – To be reassessed and managed to its optimum level of Tench, Bream and Crucians.

Portfolio - Summary

Lymm AC has many fine waters with lots of potential. The committee will agree a strategy for the improvement of our whole portfolio which includes:

- **The water's identity?**
- **Optimum Stocking Level?**
- **What other work is required to be done on each venue which will assist in the organising work parties and nettings.**

Following on from the Belmont Development Group, a Lymm Portfolio Development Group will be established to oversee the improvement of our portfolio of waters. The aim is to ensure that our members have the quality of sport they desire.

Portfolio Improvement - New Waters

Lymm Angling Club is always looking for opportunities to rent, lease or buy appropriate waters to compliment and improve our current portfolio. Any member that finds a water that is subsequently taken on will receive a free membership card with overstamp for the following year.

The committee will consider and agree what type of water should be added to the portfolio. The acquisition of additional waters to the portfolio will enable the membership cap to be raised without detriment to the members.

Portfolio Improvement - Stocking

Stocking Fund

At present, when joining, members are asked if they would like to make a voluntary contribution to charity of £1. The charity fund currently stands at over £2,000. Whilst this money must go to its intended destination in the current year, going forward any donation of £1 (or greater if you wish) will go to the Lymm Stocking Fund to improve the stocks within our waters.

For example, £2,000 could buy 6 x 19lb C5 VS Carp. These could be added to our key waters to offer our members stunning specimen fish to target in the coming years. Alternatively, it could buy 38, 7lb fish if a water needed a greater level of stocking.

Nettings & Electro gear.

The club has recently purchased Electro Fishing Gear. Five members have been trained and authorised to use the equipment.

Along with the management of our own portfolio, it is intended that the club will offer their services to other clubs and outside organisations. An appropriate fee for this will be charged. Any fees earned will go into the club's account to be used for the improvement of the club for the benefit of its members.

Any fish obtained from nettings will be stocked into Lymm AC's portfolio in line with agreed stocking requirements. Any fish that Lymm AC do not immediately require maybe held in our stock ponds for future addition to the portfolio, as necessary.

With the consent of the committee any fish that are clearly not required may be sold on to other organisations with the money raised being invested into the club's **stocking fund** to purchase fish we do want in line with the stocking policy for each water.

Membership Administration

PayPal

Due to misuse by some, from 2021 Members will no longer be able to fish with PayPal receipts. Members must wait for the membership card to arrive in the post (7-10 working days). **Without exception**, this gives plenty of time to get your passport size photograph ready to be inserted into the card. If the membership card is not received within the above timescale members can contact a club official who will send them an email granting them permission to fish for a period of 10 working days whilst the situation can be resolved.

Club Rules

A new booklet of the club rules is to be produced which will contain all the club rules including the water specific rules. This will replace the current card and separate rules leaflet. **All members must take the time to read this prior to fishing.**

Club Locks

As it has been a good number of years since the locks to our waters have been changed. Too many ex-members and non-members have keys to access our venues. It is not possible to have bailiffs on every one of our waters every day, therefore this increases footfall and unauthorised fishing. It is not fair on

our existing membership looking for more space on the bank. To reduce the occurrence of this it has been decided to proceed with the purchase of new high security locks for the club waters.

The cost to **lease** a key for a current member will be £10.00 and £15.00 for new members, **£10.00 of this will be refundable when a member leaves the club, upon return of the key and club card.**

Bailiff Teams.

A team of new Bailiffs is currently being recruited. Each Bailiff will be designated specific waters and will also take on the water keepers' role. They will also be expected to attend work parties on their waters when they take place. Please get in touch if you would like to be considered for this role.

Memberships

To facilitate the improvements to the club the following changes to our membership categories and pricing structure is proposed:

Pensioner & Concessionary Memberships

A pensioner is a member that has reached **State Pension Age (66)**. **To reduce numbers on the bank, from 2021 whilst renewing pensioners can re-join, no NEW pensioners will be accepted into the club.**

To qualify for a pensioner card going forward the member must first join the club as a SENIOR member and upon completion of **THREE** consecutive years of membership the reduced fee will be applied at the pensioner rate at that time. From 2021, **only pensioners aged over 70 will receive a free Overstamp. This applies to both existing pensioners and future qualifiers.**

The concessionary class is to be removed from 2021. Concessionary memberships may be renewed or awarded to existing members ONLY at their request and at the Committee's discretion.

Membership Renewal

All classes of membership must renew before 31st January each year. Failure to do so may result in an existing member being unable to join if the membership cap has been reached. They will then need to join the waiting list for the following year and re-join as a new member. **From 2022 a joining fee will be payable after the 31st of January (31st March in the 2021 membership year).**

Restricted Membership

Anglers who join the club in the following classes will do so as a **RESTRICTED** member and as such have no voting rights within the club:

BRIDGEWATER CANAL, HADLEY FARM POOL, INTERMEDIATE & JUNIOR MEMBERS

Points of sale

Outlets such as Baileys and Widnes Angling Centre will no longer take cash payment and will only issue application forms.

Membership Classes

The existing wide variety of membership classes is far too large and complicated and needs to be reduced in number to no more than FIVE classes.

For 2021 the following is proposed:

BAND A - ALL RIVERS & CANALS

The cost of this for 2021 is to be **£55.00** rising to **£67.50** in 2022

BAND B – PENSIONER and CONCESSION – See notes above re Pensioner & Concessionary memberships.

The cost of this for 2021 is to be **£75.00** rising to **£90.00** in 2022

BAND C – PENSIONER WITH OVERSTAMP and CONCESSION WITH OVERSTAMP

The cost of this for 2021 is to be **£125.00** rising to **£160.00** in 2022 – See notes on Overstamps

BAND D - SENIOR

The cost of this for 2021 is to be **£115.00** rising to **£120.00** in 2022 (in 2022 max 2 rods & 24hrs stay)

BAND E - SENIOR WITH OVERSTAMP

The cost of this for 2021 is to be **£165.00** rising to **£200.00** in 2022 (in 2022 max 3 rods where permitted & 48hrs stay to include bait boat and dog licence)

BAND F - OVERSTAMP

The cost of this for 2021 is to be **£80.00** rising to **£87.50** in 2022. Members will have more opportunities to earn an Overstamp throughout the year if they do not wish to pay the additional costs.

Restricted Classes

BWC/HADLEY FARM POOL

FOR 2021 & 2022 **£30.00**

INTERMEDIATE

FOR 2021 **£75.00** FOR 2022 **£90.00** – Overstamp not included.

JUNIOR

FOR 2021 **£28.00** FOR 2022 **£30.00**

JOINING FEE

The Joining fee is to remain at **£35.00** for 2021 rising to **£45.00** in 2022.

All classes A to E are subject to paying the joining fee.

Summary

The above aims to make Lymm AC the most sought-after fishing card in its catchment area. We also need to ensure we attract the right type of member. These improvements do not come without additional cost, or reduced revenue hence the proposed price increases. We believe that the proposals

will offer better value for the serious angler. The aim is to make Lymm feel like a syndicate but with various quality waters available to fish.