



Mid Northants Trout Fishers'
Association

WINTER NEWSLETTER 2021

Hello, we hope that you are all staying safe and well in these strange and difficult times.

This is just a quick newsletter to let you know that things are still happening behind the scenes, if not on the water.

As you are no doubt aware there have been no fishing competitions arranged by the club due to dreaded Covid 19 however plans are being made for the 2021 programme. Details are given below.

AGM

The annual general meeting of MNTFA was due to held in March, the committee had thought of using "Zoom" to hold the meeting. Committee meetings have taken place using "Zoom" and, whilst zoom is a very useful way of chatting to a few people, managing to get ten or more committee members online at the same time has proven to be difficult. The likelihood of getting 50+ members online together seemed beyond possibility.

The decision has been taken to postpone the 2021 AGM until a suitable date in June which can be decided when the Covid situation allows.

The committee would always welcome new members so, if you feel that you could contribute to the future direction of the club, please let the Secretary, John Clarke know.

2021 Fishing Programme 2021 COMPETITION SCHEDULE

March 14th	Hector Woolnough Bank Shield	Pitsford
March 28th	President's Cup	Ravensthorpe
April 18th	Bruce Richardson Trophy	Pitsford
May 16th	Ashley Cooper Trophy	Eyebrook
June 6th	Jim Collins Trophy	Grafham
June 20th	Julian Davies Pairs Trophy	Pitsford
August 8th	Social Event	Rutland
Sept 19th	Ian Pow Trophy	Draycote
October 3rd	Fur and Feather Shield	Pitsford
October 17th	Bob Church Trophy	Ravensthorpe

The entry form will be on the website shortly

A few interesting changes are planned for the 2021 season.

Often, after matches, a lot of fish are left in the waste bins. To try and avoid this we will be trialling one catch and release competition during the 2021 season. The details are still being finalised. We plan to use length measuring gutters which have a stop end and a tape measure affixed. These have been donated to the club. The length of each fish caught will be recorded in the boat before the fish is released. If you wish to keep your fish then you are quite welcome to. Dave Anderson (finbardave@gmail.com) will finalise and publish the details prior to the selected match.

The committee is also aware that it can be difficult for new members to meet and fish with other members as most match pairings for boat partners are well established. For this reason 2 of the competitions will be arranged where boat partners are drawn on the day.

In 2020 between lockdowns a number of club members took part in social fishing Tuesdays. These were very popular with those who took part. Members booked boats independently, and organised boat partners where required through the club FaceBook page; with some choosing to fish alone due to COVID. We all arrived independently at a time that suited, and finished when we had had enough. The highlight of the day though was meeting up to have lunch together and share what was working and where. On our busiest day there were 6 boats, anchored up together in a quiet corner at Pitsford, swapping stories, fish locations and donating successful flies. A list of dates and locations will be published on our web site and by email. This will include the Anglian Water reservoirs plus others within a reasonable distance.

In previous years several members have enjoyed trips to the Test at Wherwell for grayling fishing in October and February. Other members have made trips to the Dee at Llangollen for trout and grayling and to the Derbyshire Wye for brown and wild rainbow trout. We hope to organise a few river trips as travel and fishing are opened up. Typically these will involve an overnight stay the night before fishing (or an early start) as accessible day ticket river destinations tend to be 2-3 hours away. Day tickets are generally around £30-£50. If you would like to suggest or recommend any river destinations, please contact Derek Walker (mkchapuk@gmail.com).

Don't forget, please add any pictures or articles, new or old, to the MNTFA Facebook page, more members are using it but more are would make it even more interesting. It is a great way of getting quick, up to date information about the fishing on our local waters or to make arrangements to meet friends on the bank.

All competitions etc are on the [MNTFA](#) web page

Coaching

We intend to reintroduce coaching again this season with enhanced risk assessment and control measures to keep people safe. We obtained a grant of £495 from the Angling Trust to help with costs (PPE etc), club advertising and kit. We will be following the latest Government COVID-19 rules and Angling Trust (AT) guidance. The dates for Pitsford sessions will soon be posted on the website.

Pitsford Sessions – Dates to Follow

- Will be limited to outdoor coaching activities until further notice (fly casting, tackle set up etc.; no fly tying unfortunately).
- Numbers attending are limited because of COVID restrictions.
- Available to club members and the public – but all need to book in advance online (details to follow on website) rather than dropping by.

One to One Tuition is also available for fly casting, boat handling / half day boat session (members only), as and when rules allow.

Fly Tying – beginners to advanced - remote support is available by video. We can also supply a vice, tools and materials for anyone who wants to try before they buy.

For more information please contact coaching@mntfa.co.uk

Seumas Halliday 07794465607