

Dear Competitor,

**SEFFF Rivers Qualifier 2021 Lower Itchen Fishery, Gaters Mill, West End, Southampton
Sunday 10th October**

Thank you for your entry. This year we will continue to use our standard format, where each person fishes for half the competition and controls for the other half. The timetable for the day is as follows:

07.15-07.40 Registration and briefing at fishery car park by Hut near Four Hatches

07.40 Walk off

08.00-11.30 Morning Session

11.30-12.40 Return promptly to the start point to hand in score cards, Lunch

12.40 Walk off

13.00-16.30 Afternoon Session

16.30-17.45 Return promptly to the start point to hand in score cards

17.45 Calculate and announce results

So you need to aim at getting to the fishery around 7.00 am

(...This year we will be fishing both banks...)

Occasionally over the years, the river has been high and coloured. Should the same happen again, we will fish this event regardless. (Organising an alternative date suitable to all at short notice would be difficult.) As this is a chalk stream, once the rain stops, the river can be back to normal within a day or two, with grayling ready to take flies, especially anything with a bit of pink or orange in it.

I enclose the rules for the event, as ratified by the SEFFF committee on 18th April 2005. Here are some of the most important points:

- (1) Everyone draws a number, then pairs up – 1 with 2, 3 with 4 etc. Odd numbers fish the Morning Session (lowest numbers move off first) with their even-numbered partner controlling. Even numbers fish the Afternoon Session (highest numbers off first) with odd-numbered partner controlling.
- (2) Artificial flies on barbless or debarbed hooks only, not more than five-eighths of an inch long overall including the eye, with an overall length or width of the fly of not more than fifteen-sixteenths of an inch. These can be weighted, with lead wire, brass or tungsten beads etc.
- (3) One rod in use only, maximum rod length 12ft, with a spare mounted rod if wished. Floating lines only. Any braided or furled leaders must be floating only, and a maximum length of 5ft. Coloured sleeving may be used at the end of the fly line to improve visibility but no other bite indicators are permitted. NB: this refers to separate non-fly 'Yarn', 'Fish Pimp', 'Buoyant Putty', 'Foam Stick-on' or 'Drop' style indicators, and does not rule out dyed or coloured leader sections (nylon or floating braid) – 'French Nymphing' style, or 'sacrificial' floating flies – for the 'duo' or 'trio' – as long as they fit in with (2). but mini-loops tied as part of the leader are fine.
- (4) No fishing within 30 metres of another competitor. A competitor may fish in the same spot for up to 30 minutes. After that they may continue to fish in the same spot unless another angler wishes to fish there. If so, they must move at least 30 metres and may not return to the same spot for at least 30 minutes.
- (5) The map shows the extent of the fishery. The stretch from the "Beat Boundary" down to the Country Park Bridge above "Broomfields" will be reserved for our exclusive use on both the Saturday (as a practice day) and the Sunday (match day). Fishing will be both banks, fishing will be from the Country Park Bridge upstream to "Penny's Pool". From there upstream to just before "Howard's Run" fishing can be anywhere on the 'Island'. From "Howard's Run" to the "Beat Boundary" fishing will be on the East bank.

(6) Only grayling count, and are the only fish to be measured before being returned. Minimum size = 20cms. For speed, all measurements to be rounded up to the next full cm. Therefore, a 19.9cms grayling does not count. A 20 cms fish should be marked down on the scorecard as 20cms. While any fish of 20.1cms-21.00cms should be marked down as 21cms, and so on. Each fish of 20cms or larger will count as 20 points plus 1 point per cm. For example, a fish recorded as 31cms will score 20 plus 31 = 51 points.

I have also attached Directions to the Lower Itchen, and a Map of the fishery.

Anyone who wishes to practise for this event on days before our Official Practice Day on Saturday 9th October should know that the grayling fishing does not officially start on the Lower Itchen until 8th October. You can book practise tickets by contacting the Lower Itchen Fishery by email: info@itchen-fishing.net, tel/fax: 02380 814389 or mobile: 07885 175540. Mention that you're practising for the SEFFF Qualifier, and you'll get the SEFFF discounted rate of £37. NB: Although the fishery has an online booking system, to get your SEFFF discount it's best to email or phone your booking.

Accommodation: Most of us who are practising on the Saturday will also be staying at the local Premier Inn, Eastleigh, close to junction 13 of the M3.

All the Best,

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