



ANGLING
TRUST

INDIVIDUAL

NATIONAL
CHAMPIONSHIP



2024

Angling Trust Individual National Championship



The Leeds & Liverpool Canal, Wigan DAA (Martin Crombie)

Leeds & Liverpool Canal, Wigan DAA Waters

Saturday 3rd August 2024

Welcome

A very warm welcome to every angler fishing in the 2024 Individual National Championship. In this match booklet, you'll find all the relevant details for this year's event – from rules and regulations to practice and parking.

The Individual National not only presents the single best practice opportunity in the build-up to team fishing's top flight event, but it gives any angler the chance to become a National Champion. With no shortage of 'flyer' pegs in the bag, anyone and everyone has a chance! Our gratitude goes out to Wigan & District Angling Association for all their efforts in the build up to this match, which promises to be a great springboard for the team event to come.

-Steve Fitzpatrick, Head of Competitions, Angling Trust



A winning catch of skimmers, Saracens Head (May 2024)

Our thanks to the Angling Trust for the opportunity to host this year's Division 1 and Individual National Championship, alongside everyone involved at the club for making it happen. Wigan & District Angling Association is a proud club with a long history of match fishing – traditionally hosting one of the biggest Winter Leagues in the country, and more recently, our club-sponsored King of the Cut championship. We hope that visiting anglers will be pleasantly surprised by the sport our canal has to offer, and join us again in future at one of the many matches we run each year. With numerous big events pencilled in leading up to the National, this year promises to be a truly great one for match fishing on the Leeds & Liverpool.

-Trevor Smith, Match Secretary, on behalf of the Wigan & District Angling Association Committee



A feeder caught tench

**The Angling Trust would like pay a special thanks to Ian Fewtrell for his work on maps/ access arrangements, and Martin Crombie for the use of his pictures.*

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General Information

Headquarters	The Slipway Bar & Restaurant, Crabtree Lane, Burscough L40 0RN
Draw Parking	Parking on the large car park opposite the Slipway (W3W - ///feuds.object.stuffing) or up the lane. <u>If parking on the car park, you must enter your car reg on one of the screens in the pub.</u> Please park sensibly and do not block residents.
Refreshments	Breakfasts, food and drink available at the Slipway
Draw	Rolling draw from 08:30am
Pools	£10 optional pools can be paid at the draw (£5 individual, £5 section)
Fishing	11:00am-4:00pm (duration 5 hours)
Sections	Saracens Head to Ring O Bells (Bridges 25-34)
Licences	All competitors must be in possession of a valid Environment Agency Fishing Licence. Any competitor reported by the Environment Agency to the resulting team on the day of the match will be disqualified.
Nets	All keepnets and landing nets must comply with National Environment Agency Byelaws.
Bait Bans	No Bloodworm & Joker
Eligible Fish	All fish coarse fish are eligible for weighing, <u>except Pike</u> , which do not count. Game fish (salmonids, including grayling) do not count. Ineligible fish should be returned to the water unharmed.
Facebook Group	Further information: <u>Wigan DAA Division 1 National</u>

The Team

Event Manager: Steve Fitzpatrick | steve.fitzpatrick@anglingtrust.net | 07944 984365

Lead Organiser: Trevor Smith | trevorsmithy@blueyonder.co.uk | 07906 847226

Angling Trust Competitions Team:

Kelly Latimer | kelly.latimer@anglingtrust.net | 07984 173175

James Lewis | james.lewis@anglingtrust.net | 07854 239725

Alex Clegg | alex.clegg@anglingtrust.net | 07495 433613

A big thank you and appreciation must go out to all our volunteers who give up their time to assist with our competitions. Without their help and continued support we would not be able to provide competitions on the scale that we do for our members.

If you would like to offer your assistance to act as a volunteer at any of our competitions, please contact Kelly Latimer, Angling Trust via email: Kelly.latimer@anglingtrust.net



2023 Individual National Winning Catch, Shropshire Union Canal

Sections & Maps

The following pages contain a guide to the stretches of canal being used in the 2024 Individual National Championships **The match will be fished on one or more of these stretches, depending on the number of anglers.** Please note that while every effort by our host club has been made to ensure accuracy, all maps are provisional and subject to change before the event. Wherever parking takes place in practice or otherwise, anglers should park sensibly, avoiding disruption to residents at all times. All parking is at your own risk.

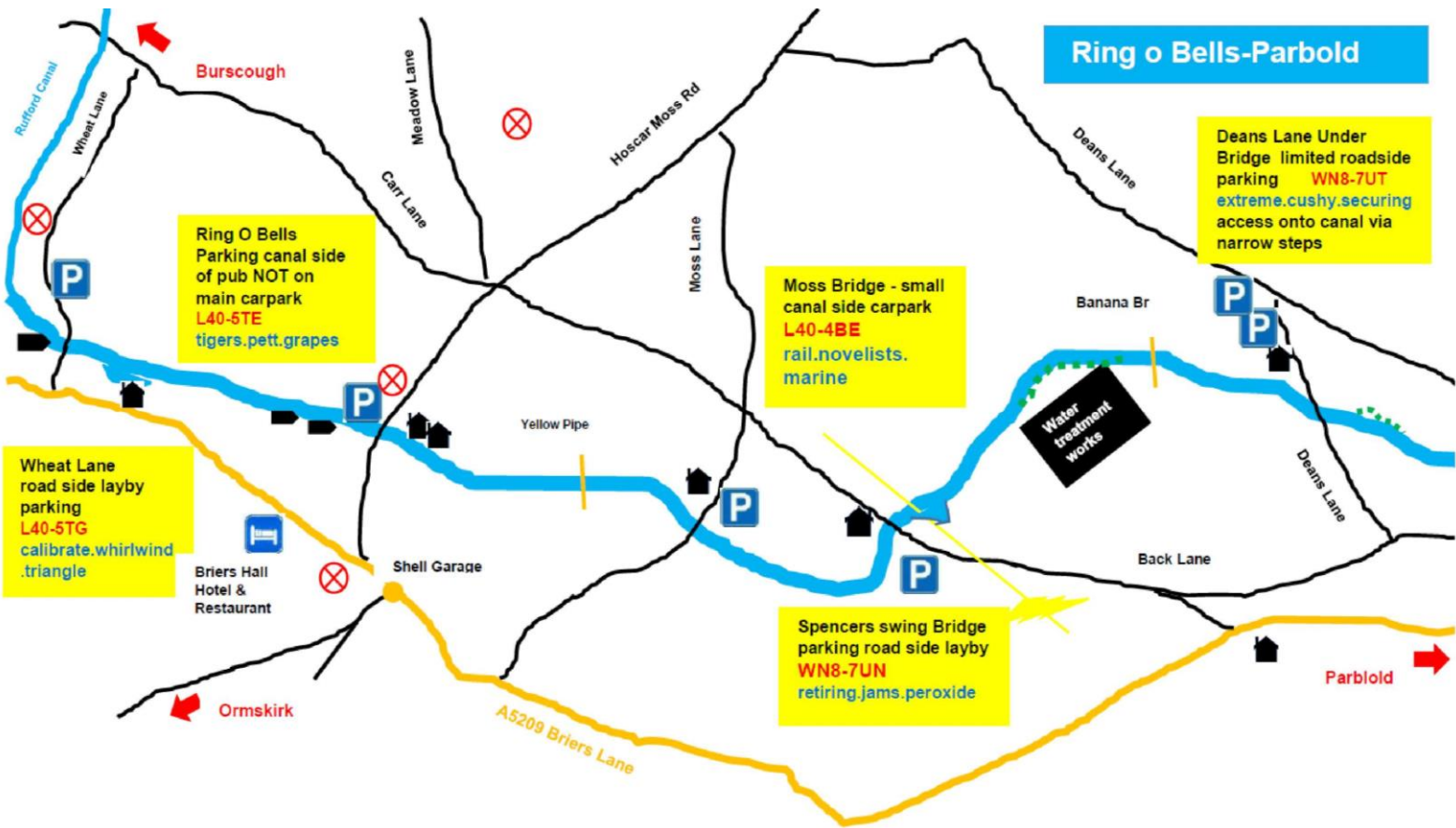
To complement the maps below, the Angling Trust have produced an accompanying interactive tool via Google MyMaps, which can be saved to your phone and viewed at any time within the Google Maps app. Please note that this also includes Division 1 Sections that are not being used on the Individual National.

[CLICK HERE FOR INTERACTIVE MAP](#)

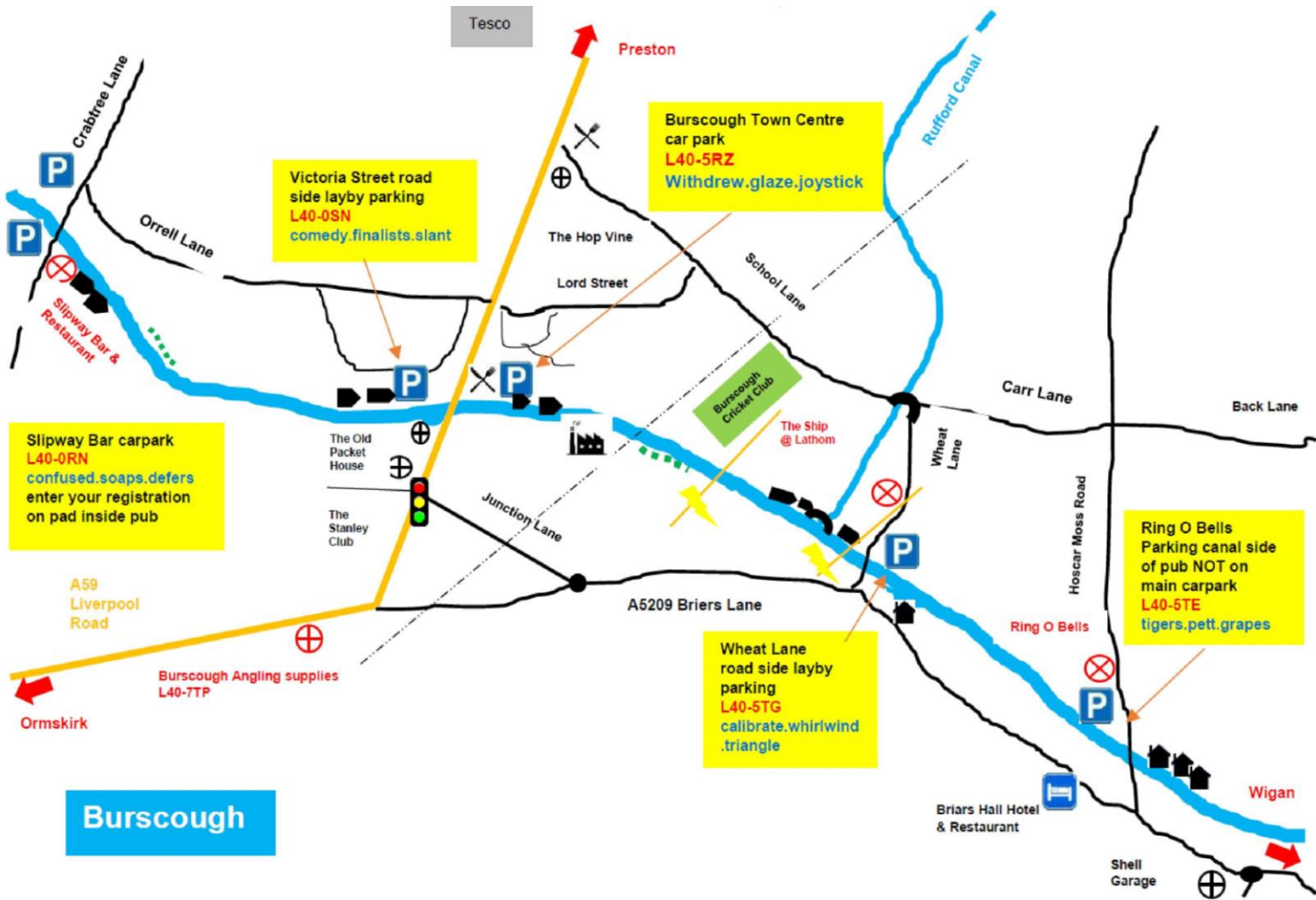
Access Points – Individual National

Access point - length	Post Code	What 3 Words	Type of Parking	Peg Nos
Saracens Head	L39-8RH	sharpens.blitz.defaults	canal side car park	
North Moor Lane	L39-8SD	tech.healers.unleashed	canal side car park	
Morris/Pinfold Lane	L39-8ST	projects.lordship.ambushed	canal side car park	
Nellie Indian (red lion)	L40-8HQ	tone.composes.annotated	car park	
Tea Rooms S/brick marina	L40-9RH	sensitive.theme.toggle	car park No Canal Access	
Heatons Bridge Inn	L40-8JG	jetting.clips.afterglow	pub car park L/H side only	
Martins Lane	L40-8JH	scatters.curtail.bulids	Field parking over bridge	
Gorst lane Log	L40-0RT	wing.wired.tribune	road side laybye	
Gorst Lane Wood yard	L40-0RS	between.vaulting.nearing	road side laybye	
Farmers Arms	L40-8JA	pipes.fuse.domestic	NO PARKING on pub	
Slipway Bar	L40-0RN	confused.soaps.defers	pub car park enter req	
Crabtree Lane	L40-0RN	regulate.bravest.pulps	road side	
Victoria Street Burscough	L40-0SN	comedy.finalists.slant	road side laybye	
Burscough Town Centre	L40-5RZ	withdrew.glaze.joystick	car park	
The Ship Lathom (Rufford)	L40-4BX	flame.puzzles.sleepless	overspill pub car park	
Wheat Lane Swing Bridge	L40-5TG	calibrate.whirlwind.triangle	road side	
Ring O Bells	L40-5TE	tigers.pett.grapes	car park to side of pub	

RING O BELLS

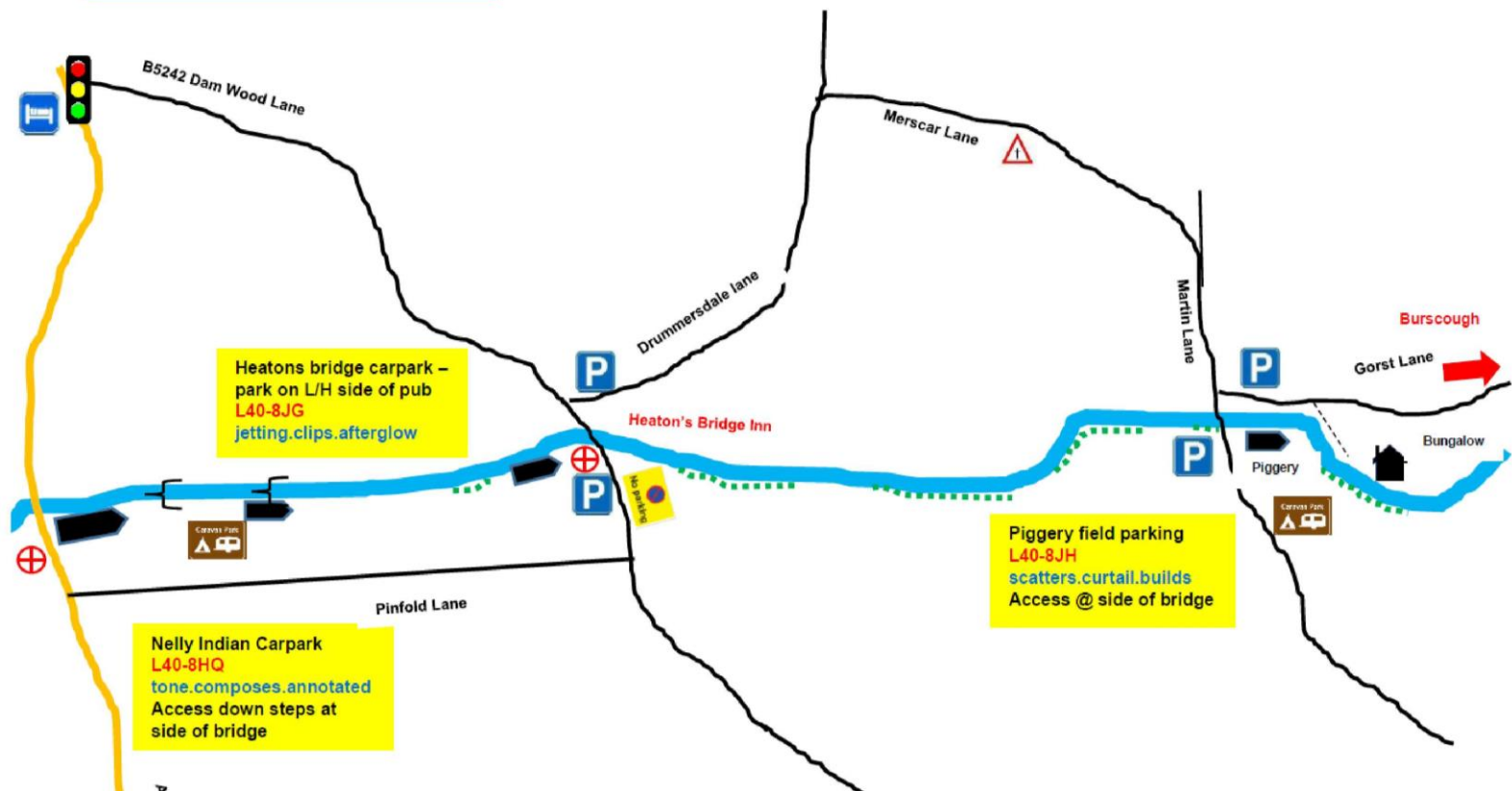


BURSCOUGH



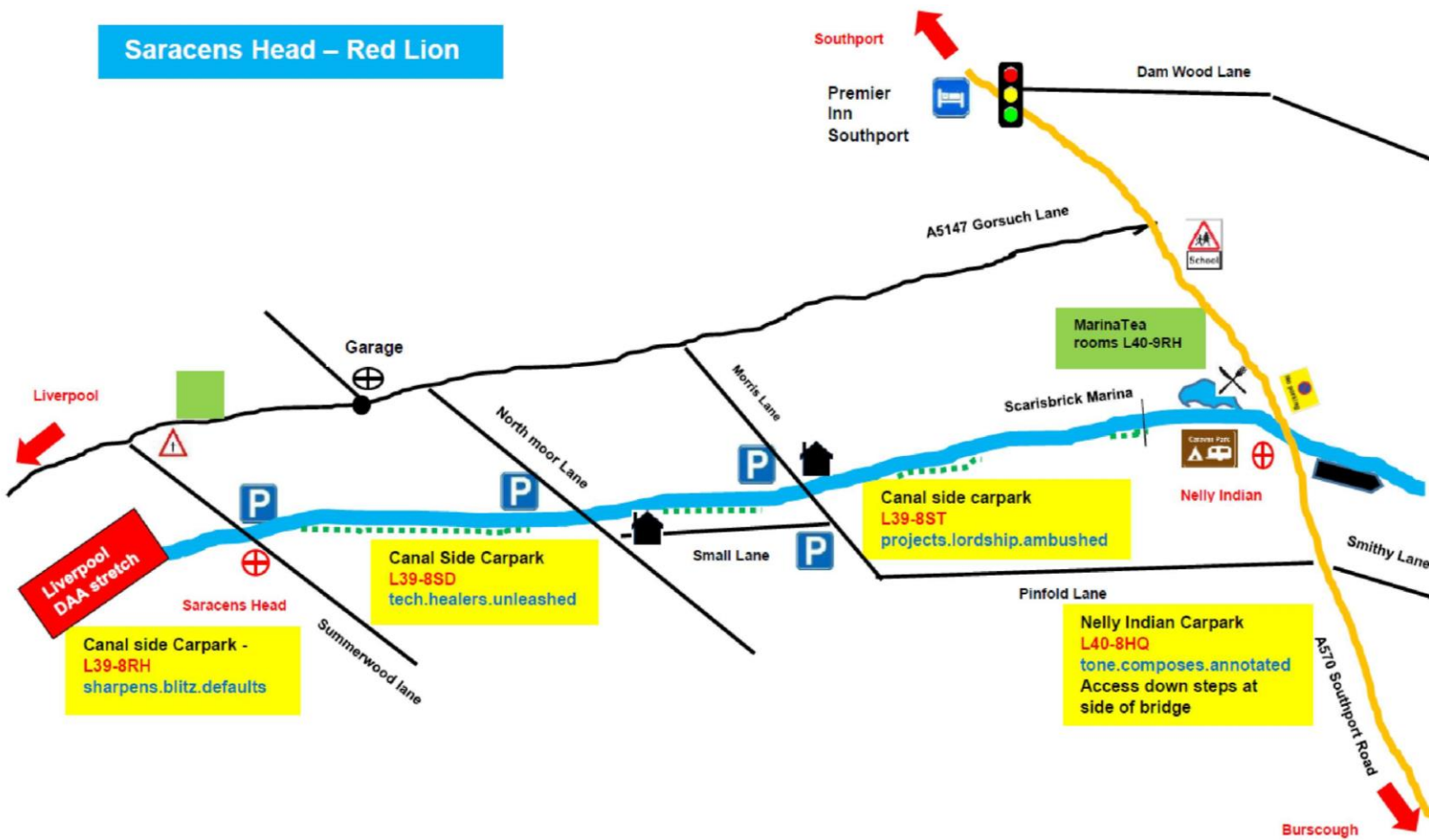
HEATON'S BRIDGE

Red Lion-Heaton's Bridge



SARACENS HEAD

Saracens Head – Red Lion



Angling Trust Individual National Championship Rules 2024

1. The Angling Trust (AT) will organise an Individual National Championship each year. The AT Competitions department will be responsible for supervising the arrangements.
2. At the organiser's discretion, the stretches used in this year's Individual National Championship may be closed for practice in the week or days leading up to the event. This will be communicated to all ticket holders.
3. The National Championship will be "pegged down" competition, pegs to be preferably 20 yards (18 metres) apart, or more where practicable. And must be a minimum of 30m from overhead power cables.
4. The Individual National Championship is open to anyone who has individual membership of the Angling Trust, which is valid on the day of the event.
5. No person will be allowed to compete in the event if they are **under the age of 16 on the day of the Championships** unless they have been issued with an Angling Trust Young Angler Exemption which is valid at the time of the Championship.
6. The Draw for pegs will take place on the morning of the event. Time to be specified in the match booklet.
7. The Senior Steward will have the right to examine all containers carried by competitors prior to commencement of the Championship, at their pegs.
8. Stewards will do their utmost to prevent spectators approaching or interfering with the competitor's swims. Where competitors are drawn on opposite banks, the limit of the swim will be the middle line between either bank and as defined in (a) and/or (b) above. The competitor will restrict their activities completely to these boundaries, neither their person, tackle, bait, ground bait or hooked fish may intrude into their neighbour's swim.
9. No competitor will change their section. Any angler fishing at the wrong peg will be disqualified.
10. Competitors must use private transport to transfer from HQ to their Section and return.
11. Any angler may bring a caddy to help carry their tackle to their peg.

12.No competitor will have live or dead fish in their possession before the National.

13.The signal to commence and cease fishing will be given by the Senior Section Steward in each Section.

14.The duration of the National will be 5 hours.

15.Before the starting signal no competitor must on any account ground bait or loose feed the swim but will be allowed to:

- Wet a line,
- Plumb the depth
- Test the float
- Mix or wet ground bait
- Clear their fishing ground of weed or obstructions
- Position their equipment

You cannot:

- Cast a feeder – a bomb must be used
- Ship out any form of pot (pole-mounted or cupping kit) over the water

16.A competitor may wade provided that the water does not extend above the knees, unless they can touch the bank, in which case the water can extend above the knees. The same principles apply to platforms and knee depth is to be taken at the front of the platform. No Box legs may extend beyond that front of the platform.

17.Every competitor must fish from within one metre either side of their designated peg.

- (a) On flowing water, they will fish from their position in the direction of the flow as far as the next peg.
- (b) On still waters they may fish as far as half the distance between their peg and the pegs on either side.

In an extreme situation, e.g. snagged tackle or a snagged fish, an angler must seek permission from their neighbour/neighbours before moving from their designated peg to try and remedy the situation.

18.No competitor may leave their peg during the Championship other than to go to the toilet. However, in the event of an emergency and/or severe weather conditions, a competitor may leave their peg, but only with the express permission of the Senior Section Steward.

In such circumstances, the Senior Steward may decide in the best interests of the competitors that fishing should be suspended.

In the worst case fishing may be terminated by the Senior Steward upon an instruction from the AT's team of Championship adjudicators.

19. A competitor shall have in use one rod or pole, one line, and single hook at any one time, but may have other poles or rods and tackle assembled in a position behind them, if possible, providing no such other tackle is baited.
20. Maximum Length of Poles, 16 metres, Floating poles are not permitted.
21. Braid hook lengths are not permitted.
22. Any bait, subject to the local rules appertaining at the time of acceptance as a National Championship venue, may be used during the National Championship, except live or dead fish, spinning baits and artificial lures.
23. Surface floating baits, either hook or feed are not allowed.
24. The use of electronic fish finders is forbidden.
25. No competitor shall present their baited hooks into their swim by any means other than the pole or rod to which the line is attached.
26. All feed may be thrown in by hand, or by the use of one or two-handed catapults, throwing sticks, swim feeders, bait droppers, bait cups and bait shuttles, but no other mechanical means of projecting feed is allowed. No bait shall be introduced with a pole or bait dropper attached to an extra pole or rod whilst continuing to fish. Spodding is not permitted.
27. Competitors must strike, play and land their own fish from the confines of their own peg. (See Rule 17). Hand lining fish is not permitted; this includes hand lining elastics and line. Also, not allowed is the practice of trapping stretched elastic with the hand down the length of the pole, fish should never be bullied like this. This does not affect the use of Pulla bungs and similar devices.
28. Competitors must retain all fish in a keepnet that complies with the relevant Environment Agency byelaws: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/national-rod-fishing-byelaws-for-england-freshwater-fishing-with-a-rod-and-line>
29. All Keepnets must be laid out on the bank before the start. Keepnets will only be allowed to be put into the water 15 minutes before the all-in.
30. 2 keepnets are not a requirement for the 2024 Individual National, but we ask that anglers are sensible and consider taking/ using a second keepnet where

appropriate. Competitors must lay ALL keepnets out on the bank before the start, as per rule 29.

31. All fish caught are eligible for weighing except Game Fish (salmonids, including grayling) & Pike. Crustaceans (e.g crayfish) are not fish and do not count.
32. Competitors must, if practicable, keep all fish caught alive. If for any reason competitors cannot keep fish alive, the Stewards shall have the power to weigh in during the Championship and return the fish alive to the water.
33. Competitors must cease fishing at the signal. Should a competitor still be playing a fish hooked before the finishing signal is given, they will be permitted no more than 15 minutes after time has been called to land the fish. All competitors will remain at their pegs, except for the purpose of clearing litter from their swims, or, for reasons (as defined in Rules 17 and 18), until details of their catch have been recorded by the Steward, even if they have caught no fish.
34. Competitors are responsible for ensuring their pegs are clear of litter and no competitor shall have their catch weighed in who has litter on the banks of their swim.
35. Both the competitor and steward(s) must ensure that the correct procedure is used for transferring fish from a keepnet to a weigh net. They MUST utilise either,
 - a. pulling a lower ring through and pouring fish into the weighing net or
 - b. swimming them up the keepnet and pouring.
36. The individual weight of each competitor will be recorded to the lowest possible denomination on the scales provided in Kilograms.
37. After each competitor, has been weighed in at their peg and signed for, all fish must be carefully and considerately returned to the water.
38. Competitors must, if practicable, keep all fish caught alive. If for any reason competitors cannot keep fish alive the Stewards shall have the power to weigh in during the competition and return the fish alive to the water.
39. Any dead fish should be weighed and recorded separately; the steward will clearly mark this on the weigh sheet. The decision as to whether the dead fish will be added to the weight of the anglers catch will be at the discretion of the AT Competitions Team.
40. All competitors must conform to Environment Agency byelaws. Any competitor reported to the Event Management Team by the Environment Agency for being unable to produce a valid license shall be deemed to be in contravention of the Rules and shall be disqualified. All pools, entry fees etc. in respect of the said competitor shall be forfeited.

41. Any Challenge must be made in writing and lodged with a member of the AT Competitions Team or Senior Section Steward no later than one hour after the end of the match and before the results are published. Irregularities which are brought to notice at a later date may be dealt with only by and at the discretion of the AT Competitions Team.
42. If in the opinion of the AT Competitions Team, any Team or Individual is in breach of these rules or is guilty of behaviour which is contrary to the best interests of the sport, or upon complaint being received by the AT Competitions Team that there has been an alleged breach of the rules, the AT Competitions Team shall make a decision on all available facts and that decision will be final and binding.
43. Any team or competitor proved to be in contravention of these rules will be disqualified

Biosecurity for Competitors

Please help prevent the spread of invasive non-native species (INNS), diseases & parasites by practicing good biosecurity in the build up to this year's National. All anglers should follow the mantra of *Check, Clean, Dry* after every match or practice session.

What is biosecurity?

Biosecurity is about the measures we take to prevent the spread of unwanted plants, animals and diseases between waters. The things we could potentially transfer are wide ranging, but some common examples you might be familiar with include:

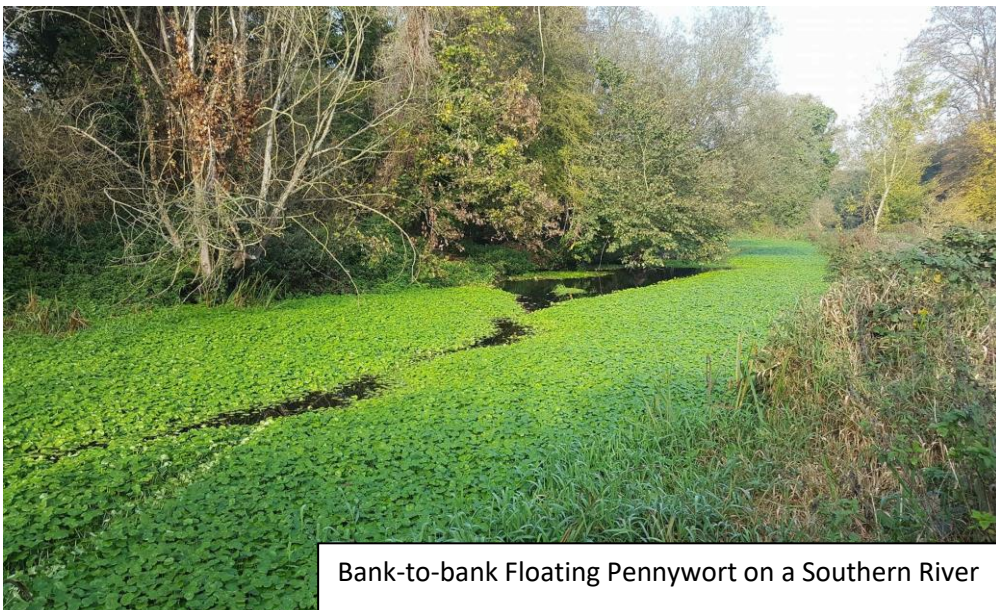
- [Koi herpesvirus \(KHV\) – viral disease](#)
- [Floating Pennywort – invasive aquatic plant](#)
- [Signal Crayfish – invasive aquatic animal](#)
- [Himalayan Balsam – invasive terrestrial plant](#)

Why is biosecurity important?

Invasive non-native species, diseases & parasites affect **your** fishing.

Match venues can be devastated by the arrival of invasive species or disease; whether it's a viral outbreak that kills fish, or plant growth that makes a stretch of water unfishable.

Invasive non-native species *are present* in and around the Leeds & Liverpool Canal, which are currently being managed. Please respect our host club and your own waters by following the guidance on the next page.



Bank-to-bank Floating Pennywort on a Southern River

How do I practice good biosecurity?

Biosecurity is simple when carried out by following Check, Clean, Dry. You should pay particular attention to:

- Keepnets & landing nets – which should be clean and completely dry before they are submerged. (Note rule 29 RE keepnets)
- Stink bags – which should arrive at a venue dry. You should not under any circumstances bring your nets to a new venue in a wet/ damp stink bag which hasn't been dried or cleaned.
- Footwear – invasive terrestrial plants such as Himalayan Balsam can be easily spread by their seeds, which could be carried in the mud on your boots.

STOP THE SPREAD

Invasive plants and animals can carry diseases that kill fish, and block waterways and banks interfering with fishing. They can be small and hard to spot so are easily spread on damp equipment and clothing.

Protect the environment and fishing you enjoy by keeping your kit free of invasive plants and animals.

Remember to check these places

- CHECK** your gear after leaving the water for mud, aquatic animals or plant material. Remove anything you find and leave it at the site.
- CLEAN** everything thoroughly as soon as you can, paying attention to nets, waders, and areas that are damp and hard to access. Use hot water if possible.
- DRY** everything for as long as possible before using elsewhere as some invasive plants and animals can survive for two weeks in damp conditions.

Watch out for

- QUAGGA MUSSEL
- KILLER SHRIMP
- FISH DISEASES
- FLOATING PENNYWORT

Funded by the Aquatic Biosecurity Partnership:

Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs | Net Zero Scotland | Aquatic Biosecurity Partnership | NNSS | ANGLING TRUST

Find out more about invasive plants and animals and how you can help to stop the spread at: nonnativespecies.org/checkcleandry

Team captains should ensure that all squad members are briefed on the above.

For further guidance on biosecurity, visit:

[The GB Non Native Species Secretariat Website – Biosecurity for anglers](https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/gb-non-native-species-secretariat)
[The Angling Trust Invasive Non Native Species Homepage](https://www.anglingtrust.org.uk/invasive-species/)

Or contact Ian Doyle via ian.doyle@anglingtrust.net or on 07951037091

Practice Opportunities

Day tickets are not available on the Wigan & District Angling Association stretches of the Leeds & Liverpool Canal, but match lineups can be booked at £5 per peg (minimum of 5 anglers) via Lead Organiser Trevor Smith (trevorsmithy@blueyonder.co.uk or 07906846226). The club ask that this is done in advance to prevent areas from being overfished.

The Club also run members only matches on Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays. Individual membership costs £45 for adults and £27 for over 65s. For details and results of these matches, join the Wigan & District Angling Association Canal Flyers Facebook Group by clicking here. Any anglers fishing the flyers will have the opportunity to qualify for the annual 'King of the Cut' match which guarantees a minimum of £2000 to the winner.

Wigan & District Angling Association practice an affiliated membership scheme, where a club or team can join for a registration fee and receive cards at a discounted rate. For more details, contact Trevor Smith.

****NO BAIT TO BE THROWN IN AFTER FISHING****



Appley Bridge April 2024 (Martin Crombie)

Leeds & Liverpool Canal Practice Matches

Below is a list of open practice opportunities on the Leeds & Liverpool Canal in July. Included is also an event on Liverpool & District Waters, which are adjacent to the Individual National sections.

Date	Match	Section(s)	No of Pegs	Book on with...	Draw Venue
06/07/2024	Canal & River Trust Pairs	Appley Bridge	TBC	Canal & River Trust via Eventbrite	TBC
07/07/2024	Wigan DAA Open	Crooke & Martland Mill	100+	Trevor Smith	Crooke Hall Inn WN6 8LR
13/07/2024	Canal Masters Qualifier	Burscough	60	Simon Mottram via canalmastersfishing@gmail.com (further details on the Canal Masters Facebook Page)	Burscough Slipway L40 ORN
14/07/2024	Wigan DAA Open	Saracens Head & Heatons	100+	Trevor Smith	Burscough Slipway L40 ORN
20/07/2024	Canal & River Trust Pairs	Liverpool & District Waters (NOT ON NATIONAL SECTIONS)	TBC	Canal & River Trust via Eventbrite	Maghull Community Association L31 2JH
21/07/2024	Wigan DAA Open	Parbold	100+	Trevor Smith	TBC
28/07/2024	Wigan DAA Open	Gorst Lane & Burscough	100+	Trevor Smith	Burscough Slipway L40 ORN

Accommodation

Chain/Name	Location	Address	postcode	distance
Premier Inn	Wigan Town Centre	Harrogate Street	WN1-1BL	1.1 mile
Premier Inn	Wigan-	Warrington Road	WN3-6XB	2.1 mile
Premier Inn	Wigan North	Almond Brook Road	WN6-0SS	3.1 mile
Premier Inn	Haydock Park	Yew Tree Way	WA3-3JD	6.1 mile
Premier Inn	Chorley	Moss Lane	PR6-8AM	9.1 mile
Premier Inn	Southport	544 Southport Road	L40-9RG	12.3 mile
Weatherspoons	The Bocket Arms	38 Mesnes Road	WN1-2DD	2.6 mile
Holiday Inn Express	Wigan	Martland Mill Lane	WN5-0LX	0.7 mile
Holiday Inn Express	Leigh	Leigh Sports Village	WN7-4JY	
Travel-Lodge	Haydock	Piele Road	WA11-9TL	5.2 mile
Best Western	Lancashire Manor Hotel	Prescott Road	WN8-9QD	3.8 mile
Swan & Railway Hotel	Wigan	80 Wallgate Wigan	WN1-1BA	0.9 mile
Ramada	Chorley South	Mill Lane	PR7-5LR	6 mile
The Red Lion	Newburgh	9 Ash Brow	WN8-7NF	5.8 mile
The Mount	Orrell	Orrell Road	WN5-8HQ	1.9 mile
Wrightington Hotel	Wrightington	Moss Lane	WN6-9PB	3.8 mile
The Bellingham Hotel	Wigan	141 Wigan Lane	WN1-2NB	1.2 mile

Angling Trust
The Old Police Station
Wharnccliffe Road
Ilkeston
Derbyshire
DE7 5GF

Email: kelly.latimer@anglingtrust.net
Tel: 0115 822 4532

The Angling Trust believes in clean sport and supports the anti-doping policies and anti-doping rules of WADA, UKAD and the International Angling Confederation (CIPS) to ensure the integrity of our sport is protected. For further information, see our website.



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