

Angling Trust Winter League Final - Saturday 28th February 2026

Dear Team Captain,

Congratulations to you and your team on qualifying for this year's Winter League Final. As always, we thank all teams for their input into the leagues and appreciate that many of you will travel considerable distances to take part.

General Information:

Headquarters Registration Results & Presentation	Sir Harry Smith Community College, Eastrea Road, Whittlesey, Peterborough, PE7 1XB. Registration will commence at 7.30am, teams drawing in the order that they register in at 8am.
Parking	All competitors MUST park within the college gates. ABSOLUTELY NO PARKING on the surrounding roads and driveways.
Fishing Times	11.00am - 4.00pm
Pegging	Pegging for the 2026 Final is still to be finalised and we'll be naming the preliminary drains sections on Monday 23 rd February. We'll then follow this with maps and parking details.
Catering	The Fenland Roaster catering van will be at the college from 7.00am – 6.00pm.
Additional Info	In the event of extreme weather, a decision to cancel the event will be made at the earliest opportunity.

The Draw

The Section Draw- will be held on Wednesday 25th February on the Angling Trust Competitions Facebook page at 6.00pm.

This draw will be very similar to previous years draws, where all anglers will be drawn into their alphabetical sections. The only exception being on Float Fish farm, where no draw is required.

The Peg Set Draw - will commence from 8.00am in person at the school on Saturday 28th February.

Drains

This year it's clear there are limited fish in the drains system, so please abide by the following rules to help maintain the quality of the fishing in the final.

- **The drains are closed to all Winter League anglers for practice from Friday 20th February at 23:59. The only exception to this are the dedicated practice matches being held.**
 - All Winter League anglers are not allowed to use KEEPNETS in team practices (line ups) on the drains. This rule is in place to protect the fishing as much as possible.
 - We also request that no bait is thrown in after practice sessions between now and the final
 - We politely request that anglers respect local residents.
 - **At least three sections (potentially four) will be held on the Old Nene at March this year. The remaining section(s) will be made up from the following venues dependent upon how the fishing evolves:**
 1. **The Bower**
 2. **Old River Nene, Benwick**
 - When wading (with the exception of permanently pegged areas at Benwick) anglers must adhere to rule 8. *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 the front of the platform.*
 - At Benwick where there are permanent pegs, the front of the physical platform is as close to the water as you can set up your seat box (no platforms or seat box legs beyond it). Where there is no permanent peg, see previous rule 8.
 - Please do be careful on the drains, in areas pegs are steep so anglers may even want to pack a rope and something suitable to anchor it against.
 - Can all anglers on the drains please pick up peg markers after the match has finished
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Angling Trust
Competitions Team
The Old Police Station
Wharncliffe Road
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TEL: 0115 822 4532
EMAIL: kelly.latimer@anglingtrust.net



Matches and Practice on the Drains:

To book onto March DAA opens contact Bob Fitzjohn 07970 673439

To book onto Benwick opens contact Fiz Drake on 07850 993498

To practice on the Bower contact Paul Marriott 07885 439184

Decoy Lakes (Oak 1 Section, Yew 1 Section, Beastie 1 Section and Six Islands 1 Section)

Decoy Lakes will remain OPEN for all anglers up until the final. Decoy Lakes rules apply and are available on their website – please do not use the rules board on display at the fishery, as some are not correct. Here are a few key rules for the final:

- All fish must be netted. No swinging in of fish at any time.
- ANGLERS MUST BRING THEIR OWN KEEPNETS. We recommend using three nets minimum to adhere to net rules (60lb limit with an even split of weight between the three nets).
- All Keepnets are to be laid out behind the peg on arrival. 15 minutes before the match starts, keepnets can be put into the water.
- BREAD is allowed.
- 1KG maximum of groundbait is allowed. This can be cupped in or used in a feeder, NOT thrown in by hand.
- Maximum 14.5m pole limit on the strip lakes (Oak and Yew), 16m limit on all other lakes.
- Anglers may fish to the leg of the next platform only.

All other rules are listed on Decoy's website at:

<https://www.decoylakes.co.uk/fishery-rules-decoy-fishing-lakes-cambridgeshire.html>

At Decoy the proposed lakes for the final are; Oak, Yew, Beastie and Six Islands

Planned Opens on Decoy Lakes:

- **Sunday 18th January**
- **Sunday 25th January**
- **Sunday 1st February**
- **Sunday 8th February**
- **Sunday 15th February**
- **Tuesday 17th February**
- **Sunday 22nd February**
- **Tuesday 24th February**

To book onto opens you can call 07498 332817

Rookery Waters (Jay 1 Section, Raven 1 Section, Crow 1 Section Magpie 1 Section)

Rookery Waters will remain OPEN for all anglers up until the final. Rookery Waters rules apply and are available on their website here - <https://www.rookerywaters.co.uk/rules>

- **Saturday 17th January - Pairs League round one**
- **Sunday 18th January - Magpie and Jay Lakes**
- **Wednesday 21st January - Over 60s Crow and Jay Lakes**
- **Saturday 24th January - Jay and Raven Lakes**
- **Sunday 25th January - Raven Lake**
- **Wednesday 28th January - Over 60s Raven and Jay Lakes**
- **Saturday 31st January - Pairs League round two**
- **Sunday 1st February - Magpie Lake**
- **Wednesday 4th February - Over 60s Magpie and Crow Lakes**
- **Saturday 7th February - Magpie, Raven and Crow Lakes**
- **Sunday 8th February - Raven and Magpie Lakes**
- **Wednesday 11th February - Over 60s Raven and Jay Lakes**
- **Saturday 14th February - Pairs League round three**
- **Sunday 15th February - Magpie, Crow and Jay Lakes**
- **Wednesday 18th February - Over 60s Magpie and Jay Lakes**
- **Saturday 21st February - Magpie, Raven and Crow Lakes**
- **Sunday 22nd February - Magpie, Raven and Jay Lakes**

Float Fish Farm (Phoenix 1 Section, Two Islands 1 Section)

Float Fish Farm will remain OPEN for all anglers up until the final. Float Fish Farm rules apply and are available on their website here - <https://floatfishfarm.co.uk/2-islands/>. The same rules apply across both lakes.

- **Saturday 17th January - Two Islands and Phoenix Lakes**
- **Saturday 24th January - Two Islands and Phoenix Lakes**
- **Saturday 7th February - Two Islands and Phoenix Lakes**
- **Saturday 14th February - Two Islands and Phoenix Lakes**
- **Saturday 21st February - Two Islands and Phoenix Lakes**

***** Some matches will be held on the Two Islands Lake on Sundays - check the fishery Facebook page for dates *****

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Team & Pools Sheet

Teams must submit their proposed 10-man team sheet no later than Friday 6th February 2026 by e-mail to kelly.latimer@anglingtrust.net. Your team MUST be picked from your original squad submission.

Any team changes after team sheet submission must be sent by e-mail to kelly.latimer@anglingtrust.net before 4pm on Friday 27th February clearly stating which changes need to be made.

Proposed Payouts

Teams

1st £2,000
2nd £1,500
3rd £1,000
4th £800
5th £700
6th £600
7th £500
8th £400

Individuals

20 x £120 Sub Sections of 12 or 13 Anglers = £2,400

Should you not wish to fish please inform us as soon as possible so that we can offer your place in the final to the next team in your respective league, and if you have any further queries, please don't hesitate to contact the Angling Trust team.

This only leaves me to wish your team the very best of luck for the Final!

Kind regards,

James Lewis

Competitions Development Manager

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