WADAA Catch Returns

WADAA invests heavily in stock for both it's game and coarse waters, to offer the best quality angling for members and day tickets. Knowing the stock in the waters is not only important for catch returns, but also fish health.

This is particularly important for game venues, as stockings are balanced with estimations of losses, through angler's take, predation, poor fish handling and natural death. Additionally, trout are particularly sensitive to water conditions and even relatively small levels of overstocking can lead to major issues when we get climate extremes, which we now seem to be suffering from annually, at some point during the year.

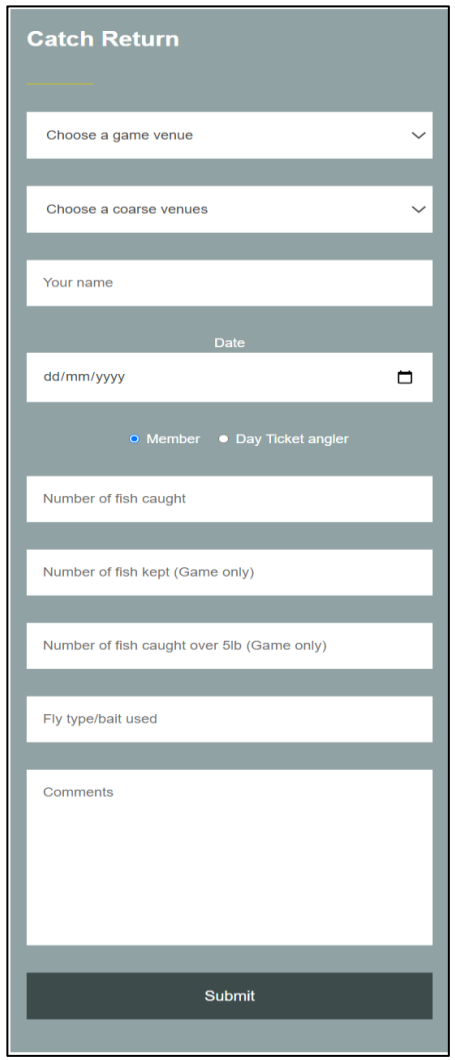
In the past, monitoring angler visits was through paper logs at the venues. These proved to be inaccurate for a number of reasons; they were not always completed, ravaged by the weather etc etc. Additionally, we had to remove these as part of the Covid-19 restrictions. Furthermore, it costs the club money to collect and to manually collate these records.

As we continue to update our stocking plans, it was important to have a robust solution and one which is convenient to all our anglers. Working with our website hosting company, we devised an electronic solution. At each venue, a board is displayed, reminding anglers to complete a catch return, for each visit, NOT just if you catch.

Electronic catch returns have been in use for all of our venues for around 6 years. Unfortunately , we are finding that a large number of anglers are not completing a return after each visit, so our data is not as accurate as it could be with your help.

A catch return is to be completed for EVERY VISIT, WHETHER YOU CATCH OR NOT.

When you point you camera phone or QR scanner at the sign you will see a link to take you to the catch return entry page:

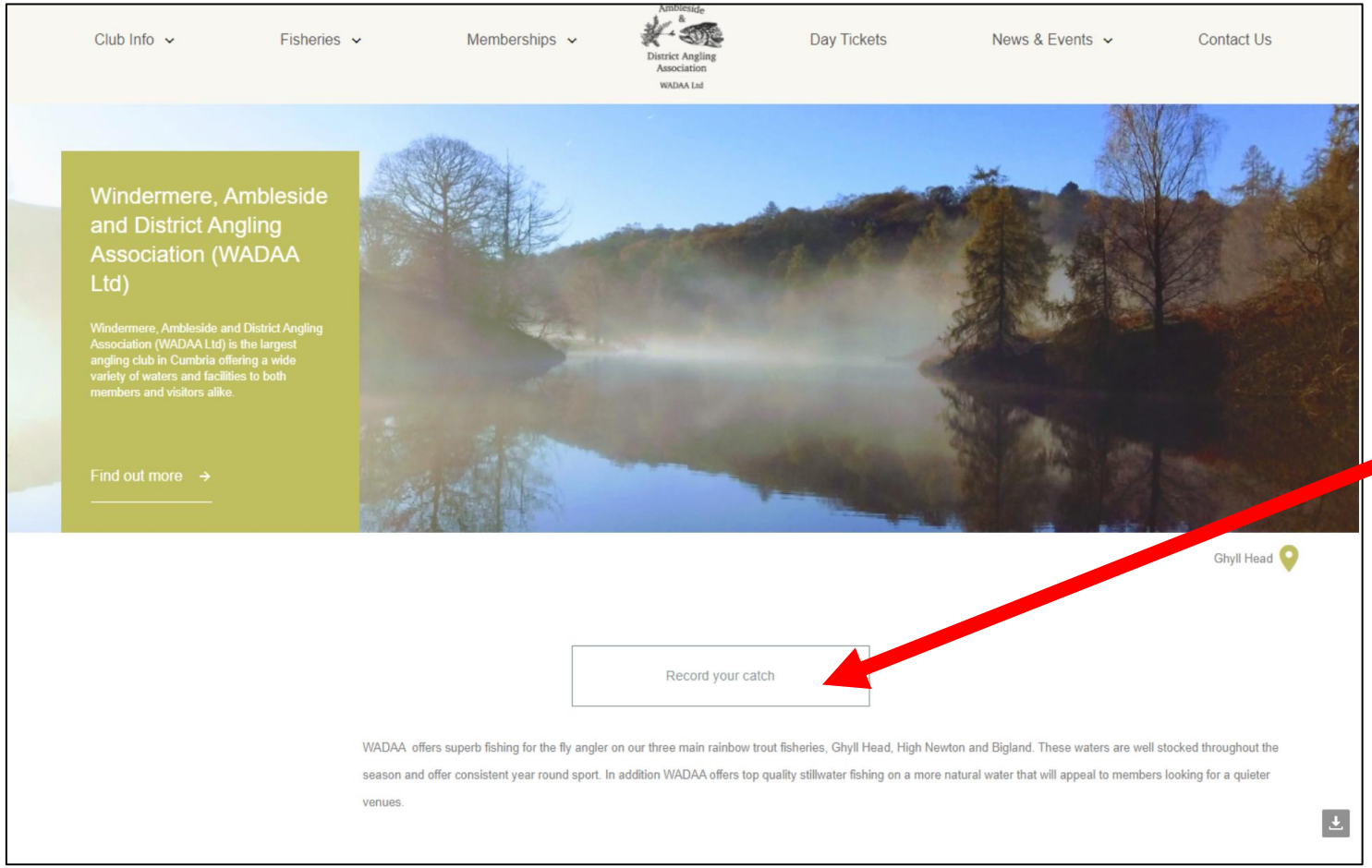


Most modern phone cameras will read the QR code automatically. On some older phones, you may need to download a free app: https://www.kaspersky.co.uk/qr-scanner

Using the controls on your mobile phone will allow you to complete the return and submit. We have made many of the fields available as a simple dropdown to make this as simple and quick as possible.

Once all the information has been added, simply ‘Submit’ and the info will be centrally collated.

Don’t worry if your mobile signal strength is low, as long as you leave the page open, the info will be submitted when signal returns.



We realise that not all anglers will either take or want to use their mobile phones and therefore the solution that has been created can be accessed directly from the website too.

The prominent position that it takes up on the home page shows the importance this has for the club. By clicking on the box ‘Record your catch’ it will take you to the following link: https://www.lakedistrictfishing.co.uk/catch-return/

As the information is generated, a database will be built up. Information will be automatically be categorized by venue, date etc etc thus giving the club ‘live’ information without the need for costly manual consolidation.

We also want to encourage anglers on the coarse venues to take the same approach, as it gives us good information on how the waters are performing. For ease, we have grouped the game and coarse waters separately to speed access. For practical reasons, the ‘scan me’ boards won’t be available at the 3 large natural coarse venues, but entries can still be made via the website.

The boards were updated in 2026, so are now available at the majority of our venues.

It is hugely important that members take the time to complete returns for every visit, whether you catch or not