

**BRYNMILL AND DISTRICT ANGLING CLUB
GENERAL RISK ASSESSMENT FORM**

Date Update	10/01/19	Assessed by: SDH	Activity: Fishing
Location	Fendrod and Half Round Ponds		Ref No. 1

Description of activity:
Fishing on lakes & ponds

What are the hazards:

- 1) Drowning
- 2) Flooding, including sudden rapid water level rises during heavy rainfall (Drowning)
- 3) Falling Trees during high winds
- 4) Injury resulting from use of knives and scissors
- 5) Negotiating bridges and paths
- 6) Slipping on wet, sloping or frozen ground
- 7) Injury from hooks
- 8) Vehicles (slippery ground overloading)
- 9) Cuts from rusty metal objects (tetanus risk)
- 10) Weil's disease
- 11) Boats and waterborne equipment
- 12) Fishing alone at night
- 13) Birdlife
- 14) Lyme disease
- 15) Poionous plants (Water Hemlock)

Who might be affected:

- 1) All anglers
- 2) Members of the general public
- 3) Birdlife

What controls are in place:

- 1) Copies of Health and Safety information is available on request from the Secretary
- 2) Regular checks on stability of paths, crossing points and bridges
- 3) Club equipment checked regularly for safety
- 4) Suitable personal protective equipment / clothing to be worn for all activities (individual responsibility).

What more needs to be done to reduce risk:

Repairs to pegs and platforms and access paths to be undertaken in April 2019 and yearly thereafter as required.

Work parties to commence in April to remove fallen trees from Banksides and water, and to prune any overhanging branches which have potential to cause injury.

RISK LIKELIHOOD & SEVERITY DEFINITIONS

SEVERITY

High 3

Hazard capable of resulting in death, severe injury, disability or serious illness and is a life/career-threatening outcome or has a major damage or loss capability.

Medium 2

Hazard capable of resulting in moderate personal injury / illness or damage and loss capability. In some cases 'Medium' level severity should be considered as being not *obviously* 'High' or 'Low' severity to either the individual or club.

Low 1

Hazard resulting in minor injury requiring first aid treatment/minor lost time only or slight damage. A minor loss event to the individual or the club.

LIKELIHOOD

High 3

Likely to occur in the very short term

Medium 2

Likely to occur in time.

In some cases 'Medium' level likelihood should be considered as being not *obviously* 'High' or 'Low' severity to either the individual or club.

Low 1

May occur in time, however low expectation of occurrence.

The Risk Assessment document will be completed and signed by the appointed Committee members, key actions will be conveyed (where appropriate read and understood) to all participating so that they know and understand what is expected of them.

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TABLE 1
RISK LIKELIHOOD & SEVERITY OF HAZARDS
(See also notes 'Reducing the Hazards' on following page)

No.	Hazards	Severity*	Likelihood*
1	Drowning	3	1
2	Flooding, including sudden rapid water level rises during heavy rainfall (Drowning)	3	1
3	Falling Trees during high winds	3	1
4	Injury resulting from use of knives or scissors	1-2	1
5	Injury whilst negotiating bridges and paths	1-2	2
6	Slipping on wet, sloping or frozen ground	1-2	2
7	Injury from hooks especially injury to eyes	1-2	1
8	Vehicles (slippery sloping frozen ground)	3	1
9	Cuts from rusty metal objects (tetanus risk)	2	1
10	Weil's disease	2	1
11	Boats and waterborne equipment	1	1
12	Fishing alone at night	2-3	1
13	Birdlife	2-3	1
14	Lyme disease	1-2	1
15	Poisonous plants (Water Hemlock)	2-3	1

*The Severity, Likelihood and Risk ratings are generally low. With regard to Severity, this of course depends on the incident. Likelihood ratings are based on the relevant precautions having been taken and common sense attitude to the tasks in hand

NOTES to Table 1 Reducing the Hazards

Most of the 'risks and hazards' outlined above are similar to those encountered by members of the general public when they are following a designated footpath alongside any river or lake anywhere in the UK, and a certain amount of common sense must be assumed with regard to any of the hazards outlined above (e.g. slipping on wet ground into the lake, injury whilst negotiating bridges, cuts from rusty metal objects and danger from birdlife).

Having said that, there are additional issues which must be considered as follows:

Hazards 1 & 2. When the Fendrod River is in flood due to heavy rainfall there is a sudden and rapid rise in water level on the Fendrod Lake, there is obviously an additional danger to anglers from drowning, and particular care needs to be taken during these times.

Hazard 3 There are a number of large trees on the bankside of both the Fendrod Lake and the Half Round Ponds, which during high winds have been known to fall into the water and onto foot paths, fishing platforms and pegs, and although extremely unlikely, extreme care needs to be taken when fishing to avoid fishing in areas where there are high trees that could potentially fall on anglers.

Hazard 4 The use of a knife or scissors whilst fishing can result in anything from a minor cut to a life threatening injury if not used carefully, so be extra cautious.

Hazards 5 & 6 Traversing bridges, footpaths, wet, frozen or sloping ground can be hazardous and requires extra care whilst carrying fishing gear etc.,.

Hazard 7 Casting and retrieving fishing line poses a danger to the eyes. Suitable eye protection should be worn

Hazard 8 Special care should be taken when driving a vehicle close to any body of water as there is a danger of the vehicle slipping uncontrollably on wet, sloping or frozen ground. It is advised to park in the approved parking areas and safe distance away, and adjacent to the water rather than pointing directly towards it.

Hazards 9 & 10 Cuts or other penetrative injury could lead to infection (especially by tetanus and Weil's disease) and should preferably be examined by a medical professional. Cover any cuts, sores or scratches with waterproof plasters and thoroughly disinfect any wounds that occur at the waterside. Always wash your hands in clean tap water (or use a sterilizing solution) and cover food carefully in a clean wrapper before eating. Do not put your hands in your mouth after immersing in river or lake water. Immunization to Tetanus is also recommended.

Hazard 11 Boat users during work parties should be vigilant at all times and should always wear a life or floatation jacket.

Hazard 12 Lone fishing exacerbates most of the dangers outlined in the "What are the hazards" section above. Carrying a mobile phone can help in some circumstances but bear in mind that reception is poor in many places. If you are going to fish alone it is wise to implement a buddy system (telling someone when and where you are going fishing and when you will return) even when it is deemed low risk.

Hazard 13 Birdlife on the lakes can be very unpredictable and are not to be trusted. In particular Swans or Geese which seems to be docile can change their demeanor very quickly to become aggressive. Using common sense and avoid contact with Birdlife, the Severity, Likelihood and Risk ratings are generally low. With regard to Severity, this of

course depends on the incident.

Hazard 14

Lyme's disease (Lyme borreliosis) is transmitted by tick bites. Keep clothing (especially trouser bottoms) tight to skin to prevent tick access. Ticks can be safely removed with specialized forceps but care must be taken to ensure that the mouthparts of the tick are removed and that the tick is not squashed during the process. **If you are not certain of how to do this safely, contact your health care specialists.** If you develop a reddening patch where a tick has been, you should contact your health care specialists urgently.

Hazard 15

Water hemlock is fairly common along most waterways and can be found in other wet places e.g. lakes. Care should be taken when handling fishing line lures etc., that any plant residue is not transferred to the mouth. Hands should always be properly cleansed before handling sandwiches or other foodstuffs. If you feel unwell after a fishing trip especially if you begin vomiting, contact a health professional urgently and explain the possibility (remote though it is) of hemlock poisoning.