



PRESS RELEASE

21 December 2016

CANAL PAIRS CHAMPIONSHIP 2017

Britain's biggest canal angling competition the Canal Pairs Championship is once again being held along the nations waterways.

Organised by the charity, Canal & River Trust, in partnership with the Angling Trust, the Championship's regional qualifying heats are being held in Wales, Scotland and Ireland as well as thirteen heats across England. Once again competitors will score points based on the weight of fish they catch. Up to five pairs in each heat will go through to the grand final which, together with the National Junior Canal Championship, will be held on the Erewash Canal on Saturday 21 October 2017.

Applications for tickets will open on 13 March 2017 from 9.00am via the Angling Trust new online booking system at a cost of £40.00 per pair per qualifier.

Prize money for the 2017 competition final, which is subject to entry, could total up to £16,000 between the top four pairs.

John Ellis, national fisheries and angling manager for the Canal & River Trust comments: "The aim of the competition is to inspire match anglers to experience the great fishing that can be found on their local canal.

"The 2016 event was a great success and proved really popular with anglers from across the country and I'm expecting 2017 event to be just as big a success."

David Kent, Chair of Angling Trust Competitions said; "The 2016 event was our biggest yet and it was great to see club and open anglers from across the country of all ages taking part. Canal fishing is a great branch of the sport and I'm sure this year's championship will help inspire even more people to get involved and give it a try."

The dates, venues and host clubs for the qualifiers and the final are listed below:

- Saturday 1st July - Leeds & Liverpool Canal, *Liverpool & District Angling Society*

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Patron: H.R.H. The Prince of Wales. Canal & River Trust is a charitable company limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales with company number 7807276 and registered charity number 1146792, registered office address: First Floor North, Station House, 500 Elder Gate, Milton Keynes MK9 1BB

- Saturday 15th July - Forth & Clyde Canal, *Scottish Federation for Coarse Angling*
- Sunday 16th July - Basingstoke Canal, *Basingstoke Canal Angling Association*
- Saturday 29th July - Grand Union Canal (Aylesbury Arm), *The Tring Anglers*
- Sunday 30th July - Newry Canal, *Edenderry Angling club*
- Saturday 5th August - Shropshire Union Canal Soudley, *Hodnet Angling Club*
- Sunday 13th August – Shropshire Union Bretton to Audlem, *Hodnet Angling Club*
- Sunday 20th August - Kennet & Avon Canal, *Reading & District Angling Association*
- Monday 28th August - Aire & Calder Canal, *Boothferry Joint Angling Committee*
- Saturday 2nd September - New Junction Canal, *Doncaster Angling Association*
- Sunday 3rd September -Trent & Mersey Canal, *Pride of Derby Angling Association*
- Sunday 10th September - Gloucester & Sharpness Canal, *Winget Angling Club*
- Sunday 24th September - Staffordshire & Worcestershire Canal, *Wombourne Wolverhampton Angling Association*
- Saturday 30th September - Grand Union Canal, *Northampton Nene Angling Club*
- Saturday 7th October - Llangollen Canal, *Whixall Hodnet Angling Club*
- Sunday 8th October - Trent & Mersey Canal Middlewich, *Middlewich Angling Club*

Grand Final and National Junior Canal Championship:

- Saturday 21st October – Erewash Canal, *Long Eaton Victoria Angling Society*

To find out more about the Canal Pairs Championships go to www.anglingtrust.net

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For further media requests please contact:

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Notes to editors:

The Canal & River Trust is the guardian of 2,000 miles of historic waterways across England and Wales, caring for the nation's third largest collection of listed structures, as well as museums, archives, and hundreds of important wildlife sites. We believe that *living waterways transform places and enrich lives* and our role is to make sure there is always a place on your doorstep where you can escape the pressures of everyday life, stretch your legs and simply feel closer to nature. www.canalrivertrust.org.uk / @CanalRiverTrust / @crtcomms