

Grafham Water Fly Fishers March Newsletter



1 - Welcome to the new fishing season and to our new format newsletter!

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I'm thrilled to be GWFFA's new and first female Chair and am looking forward to keeping up the great work done by Mark Brinkman and his predecessors in the role. My personal thanks go to our 2023 committee members for agreeing to once more give some of their free time to making GWFFA the great club it is:

Peter Hartley (President)

Lianne Frost (Chair)

John Batter (Secretary)

Christopher Faulkner (Club Captain)

Mark Brookbanks (Treasurer)

Mark Brinkman (Membership Secretary)

Martin Brocklebank

Steve Cracknell

Stuart Stenning-White

Philip Sorensen

Special mention and thanks also to Brian Calvert who retired from the committee this year after many many years service.

We have lots of social events and friendly competitions in the calendar this year and I hope to see many of you join in. They are a great way to have some fun, make new fishing buddies and to learn from the great wealth of experience we have in the club. We had a very enjoyable annual dinner and prize giving on Saturday night at the Grafham Lodge which was looking splendid. It was lovely to see our three newly honoured Life Members Colin Brett, Davey Jones and Michael Ball there. Congratulations to all the prize winners. Please contact any of the committee if you have ideas for events or winter talks you'd like us to consider.

One of our developments this year is the introduction of the ClubMate app, integrated with our new website, to help us manage membership, fees and club events. Details of the launch and training available are included in Mark and Christopher's update below. Please do send us any articles, fishing reports or photos for inclusion on the website. Many thanks to Peter Waterhouse, John Batter and Colin Brett for all the work they have put into our previous website over the years.

The season has had a cold start, with bank fishing proving to be tricky at Grafham now the water levels have come up. I'm sure this warmer weather the last few days will soon bring reports of good catches. Sport has been good already at Rutland and Draycote. If you're not already on the WhatsApp group set up to share up to date fishing information I highly recommend it. Let Mark Brinkman know if you'd like to be added.

Enjoy some Spring fishing and let us know how you get on!

Up and coming events

- GWFFA 1st Bank Match Saturday 15th April
- GWFFA Social Boat Day Thursday 4th May
- GWFFA 1st Boat Match Sunday 14th May

Grafham opens in freezing conditions

Grafham Water opened in freezing conditions but a hardy few managed to get out and cast a line. Fishing has been difficult but if you find the fish you can have some great sport as Peter Hartley's course on Sunday 12th March saw novices catch 6 fish off the bank up to 3lb. Conditions have improved as the weather has warmed up the recent Sierra Pairs boat match saw lots of fish caught along the stumps close in. Bank anglers also catching along the Stumps shore. At the time of writing the water level has dropped below the yellow lines on the Dam meaning that this is fishable without restrictions. With the significant rainfall we have had this is unlikely to remain below the line for long.



2 - The Stumps fishing well for Christopher, Andy, Steve, and Mark on Monday 27th March. Wind went round to north west making for some excellent bank fishing.



3 - Pitsford and Rutland are also fishing well. Picture shows Simon Goodland showing how it's done with another hard fighting Pitsford rainbow.

GWFFA Annual Dinner held at Harbour View Restaurant on Saturday 18th March 2023



4 - GWFFA Annual Dinner 2023

Our annual dinner was held at the Harbour View Restaurant where an excellent meal was provided by Shiva and his team. The dinner is our awards ceremony to celebrate the last season and recognise the trophy winners. This year we decided to award Honorary Life membership to 3 of the clubs founder members; Mike Ball, Colin Brett and David Jones. We were delighted that all were able to join us for the evening. We also were joined by guests Catherin Keating (Park Manager) and husband Mike, and Stuart Stenning-White Ranger and GWFFA member.

It was a very social affair, a brief presentation given by past Chairman Mark Brinkman, followed by the prizegiving by Christopher Faulkner and our new Chair Lianne Frost. Sadly our past club captain Martin Brocklebank was unable to join us as he was unwell, we wished him a speedy recovery. Peter Hartley club President gave a short speech thanking Mark Brinkman for his work as Chairman and presenting him with a tankard as a memento.

The list of prize winners is as follows:

Gwffa Championship was decided on weight as both had 11pts

1st. Mark Brinkman.

2nd. Andy Linwood.

Boat Champion.

1st. Neil Squires

2nd. Mark Brinkman.

Bank Champion.

1st. Mark Brinkman.

2nd. Andy Linwood.

Heaviest Bag

Leanne Frost 27.13lbs

Dry Fly Day.

Tony Fox with 15 fish

The Winter Plate.

Neil Squires

Best Brown.

7lb11oz caught by Philip Sorensen

Best Rainbow.

7lb 13.4 lbs caught by David Moore.

Best Brace.

Mark Brinkman with a Brown of 6lb 10oz and RB of 5lb13oz.

New website and Clubmate



We are just about to launch the new club website. This will be in a modern, mobile and tablet friendly format. At the same time, we will launch Clubmate which will manage our membership. Members will through an App on a mobile, tablet or PC be able to manage their own data and at a touch renew memberships or book and pay for any of our events and fishing days.

We will be holding training webinars and one to ones where required. These will be on the new website and Clubmate and how to make the most of it as we really want this to be the place to go to for all current information.

Please go to the Apple App store or Google Play and download 'Clubmate Fishing'. Once you have entered your personal data search for Grafham Water Fly Fishers. You will already be on the system, but you need to re set your password. To do this click on 'forgot password' a link will then be sent by email to allow you to log in and create your own password. Please complete your preferences. Don't forget to allow emails and Newsletter or we will not be able to keep in contact with you!

If you then store a payment card on the secure App you will be ready to go and will be able to book and pay for any of our boat days through the year. Should you have any difficulty you still will be able to pay by Bacs or cash and confirmation as before by email to the event organiser. However, we do hope that you will where possible use Clubmate as it will cut down work for all. If you have any difficulty, please contact Mark Brinkman who will assist you email: membership@gwffa.co.uk. Or 07484 659549.

Clubmate videos and tutorial on all the key functions can be found by following this link:

<http://support.clubmate.co.uk/en/collections/2847806-member-resources>