

Grafham Water Fly Fishers April Newsletter



Welcome to
the April
Newsletter!

Welcome to the April Newsletter!

It's been a windy start to April but both Grafham and Rutland have been producing tremendous catches. The fish are feeding hard on buzzers especially close into the banks. It's nice to see a few browns have gone into Grafham this month. I urge you to treat them with respect when you catch fish to release - try to release them from the net in the water if you can. Barbless flies are the way to go!

I'm very happy to say we have had a lot of new members since we launched the new website. Welcome all! I hope we see you at some of the events Martin details below. The club caps have proved very popular - Mark Brinkman has been getting lots of exercise the last few weeks walking to and from the post office.

Unfortunately we haven't had our monthly meeting with Anglian Water this month but we have raised a few issues with them that have been highlighted by members. In particular the state of the drogues at Grafham is variable and we know the fisheries are struggling to get hold of new ones. We can all help to keep them functioning if we refrain from driving with the drogues in the water.

We would love to get feedback on the website and Clubmate so do let any committee member know what you think.

See you on the water!

Lianne

Grafham Water Fly Fishers Association Fishing Event Calendar



Hello everyone.

I hope that you have all had a cracking start to the new season. We are really pleased with the new GWFFA Clubmate Website and the feedback we are receiving from the members. You can see all the latest club news, receive emails and newsletters from the club and book and pay for GWFFA club events. The new site will save the organisers of these events, endless emails back and forth and save an astonishing amount of time. We hope that you will all use the new site.

I have not fished much myself but understand that the boats at Grafham are catching well, some of the bank areas are also fishing well at times. People are using the GWFFA WhatsApp and Facebook where the information is often up to date. It will be worth being on both the Facebook and the WhatsApp groups. We have some

GWFFA club events being held in the near future, so if you have not already booked in, would you please do so using the Clubmate website or the mobile App.

GWFFA 1st Bank Match at Grafham Water. Saturday 15th April 2023.

This is the 1st bank match and forms part of the GWFFA championship.

Fishing from 8am to 2pm. You must weigh in at the lodge by 2.30pm.

This is a 6 fish kill. Most season permit holders will be covered except the sporting ticket and the beginner's ticket. You will need to purchase a day permit to cover the day. A £2 match fee is payable on the day.

Snowbee Practice Day at Grafham Water. Thursday 27th April 2023.

Hosted by Christopher Faulkner and Martin Brocklebank.

We have 10 boats booked for the day. We hope that our practice day will help those fishing the competition at the weekend. Even if you are not fishing the competition, you are all welcome to fish and meet the members and enjoy a day fishing. Fishing from 9am to 5pm. Please book in via Clubmate.

GWFFA Social Boat Day at Grafham Water. Thursday 4th May 2023.

Hosted by Christopher Faulkner and Martin Brocklebank.

We have 10 boats booked for the day. This is an opportunity for us all to meet with old and new members. For those with limited fishing experience, the day will be an opportunity to improve your knowledge. We try to put a more experienced angler with a more novice angler.

Fishing from 9.30am to 6pm with a break for lunch.

Please use Clubmate to book your place.

GWFFA 1st Boat Match at Grafham Water. Sunday 14th May 2023.

Hosted by Martin Brocklebank.

We have 15 boats booked for the day. This is the 1st boat match and forms part of the GWFFA club championship.

Fishing from 9.30am to 6pm with a break for lunch. This is a 4 fish kill and 8 catch and release.

Even if you are not a competition angler please do come along and fish with the members and enjoy a day afloat. You will have an opportunity to improve your fishing skills and knowledge.

Please book your day using Clubmate.

We hope to see you supporting the events. The committee work hard to arrange these days and take great satisfaction on running a successful day. You will get to meet other club members and improve your fishing knowledge.

Tight Lines

Martin Brocklebank

Fish of the Month

No fish of the Month for March but April has started with two great contenders. Please send entries to Christopher Faulkner with a photo of your fish, witnessed by another GWFFA member or a Ranger.



Steve Cracknell with a 5lb 1/2 oz Rainbow



New junior member Ben Gumm with a cracking 5lb 03oz Rainbow

Lifejacket Maintenance

Now that the fishing season is in full swing with many of us out afloat on the water, if you have your own buoyancy aid have you remembered to complete your annual check? It only takes a few minutes and could save your life!

Key things to check:

1. The integrity of the lifejacket. Remove the gas cartridge and the auto inflator if it is an automatic version. Then manually blow the jacket up to full inflation, leave it inflated overnight to check there are no leaks.
2. Gas cylinder. These all have printed on the side of the cartridge the weight. Typically, 137 grams for my wave hopper lifejacket. Check that the cylinder weighs 137 grams or more. If it does it's fine, if not replace it.
3. Auto Inflator Valve. (If you have an automatic version) This will have a 'replace by' date on the side. If it has gone past its use by date replace it. Be careful in replacing it that the replacement you buy has a reasonable shelf-life, it should have at least a couple of years.

One other thing to be aware of. On my lifejacket there are green indicators on the pull cord and the auto inflator. I pulled the cord to check the valves operation (after taking out the gas cylinder and auto inflator) but neglected to remove the green indicator, hence it then broke off. The lifejacket will still work perfectly well without it but it's a bit annoying. These indicators you can replace as they come with the re arming kits.

Fully manually inflate to check it has no leaks and holds up overnight.



Check your cylinder weight is correct and that the auto inflator is within its use by date

Mark Brinkman