

# Grafham Water Fly Fishers May Newsletter



GWFFA's first bank match of the season got off to a good start with Grafham fishing well off the north shore



Our first bank match fishing on Saturday 15th April saw a good turnout of 18 anglers with a 5.7 fish rod average. The north shore fished its whole length with anglers fishing from Stumps, Pylon Point, Deep

Water Point, G Marker and the Willows. Top rod Frank Daley caught his fish off of Hedge End to take bigger fish to clinch the match. Frank's match report gives the detail.

The Winners of the Anglian Water vouchers for the Bank Match were John Vincent and Nick Butt.

First Name	Last Name	Fish Caught	Best Fish	Lb's	OZ	Position	Comment
Frank	Daley	6	2lb 10oz	13	6	1	Winner
Christopher	Faulkner	6	2lb 14oz	11	12	2	Largest Fish
Johan	Drier	6	2lb 10oz	11	10	3	
Simon	King	6	2lb 8oz	11	10	4	
Andy	Limwood	6	2lb 6oz	10	14	5	
Andy	Smith	6	2lb 6oz	10	13	6	
Colin	Best	6	2lb 2oz	10	13	7	
Alex	Green	6	2lb 3oz	10	0	8	
Nail	Squire	6	2lb 3oz	9	14	9	
Terry	Green	6	2lb 8oz	9	11	10	
Mark	Brinkman	6	2lb 2oz	9	10	11	
Nick	Butt	5	2lb 6oz	8	14	12	
John	Vincent	6	1lb 10oz	8	13	13	
Steve	Crainell	6	2lb 2oz	8	12	14	
Dereck	Bravington	6	2lb 1oz	8	12	15	
Peter	Waterhouse	4	2lb 0oz	7	0	16	
Keth	Hazel	2	1lb 12oz	3	6	17	
Michael	Daly	1	2lb 2oz	2	2	18	

*1st Bank Match Results*

**Frank Daley summarises his approach to the bank match:**

Having fished the Sierra pairs, and the week before having fished from a boat, I did know already that there were a lot of fish at the stumps, albeit these were not particularly very big.

So my friend, Andrew Smith, and I decided to fish at Hedge End because of the wind.

I was on a floater with straight through buzzers and I was trying not to move them so as not to get stockies.

As the wind picked up the fly line was moving around too fast and I did notice that the 2 fish my friend Andrew caught were small, I think due to the fact the flies were moving faster.

I then decided to take off all of my buzzers and put on a size 8 grey minkie and to do a fast figure of 8 retrieve.

It was getting pulls from the smaller stockies but no lock ups, but the bigger fish were grabbing hold of it.

So, in a nutshell, this is how I think I was getting bigger fish.

Tight lines all!

Frank Daley



*Top rod Frank Daley and GWFFA Captain Christopher Faulkner who had the largest fish.*



*Winners of match sponsor Anglian Water vouchers for the Bank Match were John Vincent and Nick Butt*

## GWFFA Green team - Runners Up in Invicta/Snowbee Interclub Floating Line Competition held on 30th April



Grafham Water was in fine form for the Snowbee competition with most boats fishing Valley Creek or Sanctuary Bay with buzzers either straight lined or under a bung.

Invicta Fly Fishers put on an excellent event with sponsorship from Simon Kidd of Snowbee. 88 Anglers fished the match starting at 09.30am for the morning session then all in for lunch at the Harbour View restaurant at 1pm. The afternoon session fished from 2pm to 6pm, followed by an evening meal and presentation in the Harbour View. Anglian Water put on an excellent lunch and evening meal.

GWFFA fielded two team's; Green and Yellow. Team Green manged 2nd place, match winners were Snowbee Guests. GWFFA Chair Lianne Frost won Ladies best bag and Chris Bobby won the best fish prize. Full results below.

Position	TEAM	No. of Fish	TEAM WEIGHT		
1	Snowbee Guests	32	93 lbs	1 oz	
2	GWFFA Green	32	84 lbs	10 oz	
3	GREYLAGS Geese	31	84 lbs	0 oz	
4	Tunbridge Wells	29	71 lbs	7 oz	
5	Soldier Palmers A	31	70 lbs	6 oz	
6	Rutland Water Red	30	68 lbs	0 oz	
7	EMTFA	22	64 lbs	9 oz	
8	Invicta Stars	27	64 lbs	3 oz	
9	GWFFA Yellow	25	62 lbs	10 oz	
10	Invicta Fly by Nights	26	62 lbs	7 oz	
11	Invicta Mudducks	23	59 lbs	10 oz	
12	Rutland Water Blue	25	57 lbs	11 oz	
13	England Ladies MS	22	56 lbs	10 oz	
14	England Ladies LC	25	54 lbs	4 oz	
15	Invicta Z	25	54 lbs	2 oz	
16	Graylags Goslings	19	45 lbs	15 oz	
17	Soldier Palmers B	19	43 lbs	14 oz	
18	Bewl Chompers	17	43 lbs	13 oz	
19	Invicta Silver	21	43 lbs	7 oz	
20	Bewl Bridge	18	39 lbs	3 oz	
21	Invicta Crooners	17	35 lbs	1 oz	
22	Invicta Reelmen	15	27 lbs	15 oz	
23		0	0 lbs	0 oz	
24		0	0 lbs	0 oz	
25		0	0 lbs	0 oz	



*Top lady angler; Lianne Frost*



*Runners up GWFFA Green Team. Mark Brinkman, Steve Cracknell, Simon Charter & Tony Fox*



*Winning team Snowbee Guests.*

*Andy Cottam, Paul Sweatman, Graham Currie, & Paul Roach*



***Snowbee Practice Day***

*What helps lead to a successful result is time spent on the water practicing. There was no shortage of support for the day!*



***Snowbee Practice Day top rods Steve Cracknell & Andy Pegram***

*Apart from having a good day out with some social fishing two lucky members walk off with something to celebrate with!*

As promised, here's a few words from me with regards my recent first trip out with GWFFA on the Snowbee practice day:

Although I'd joined GWFFA back in 2022, I had not participated in any club activity other than attend an interesting talk about Pike on the fly (as an old 'Piker', I'm always keen to hear about techniques I'd not used before or updates on the quality of Pike coming out of our Anglian Water reservoirs). I'd had a few trips on Grafham throughout March and April, mainly from the bank but with the odd boat trip. They had all been successful in the fact that I'd caught each trip but I wasn't catching the numbers that I had seen others enjoy. There is nothing more frustrating than watching the boat not far from you seemingly take fish after fish with ease!

I decided it was time to increase my learning and with work getting increasingly busy of late, I took the opportunity to take a well deserved day off (my wife was less convinced...) for a bit of fishing with the club on one of its 'social' events. It was billed as an opportunity to fish with some of the more experienced anglers, perfect for what I was after!

Other than at that one meeting I'd attended the previous year, I had not met any of the members of the club so I didn't know what to expect upon arrival that morning. Within a minute of getting out of the car I was greeted and engaged in conversation about how well it had been fishing and the likely tactics needed for the day ahead. I was introduced to a number of people, all of whom seemed genuinely pleased to see a 'new' member and willingly offering advice and recent experiences from being out on the water. I apologise for not remembering names, I think there was a Dave, there was definitely an Alex but I really appreciated the warm welcome and immediately felt at ease.

I was also introduced to Christopher Faulkner who kindly explained the format for the day and that I had been paired with Steve Cracknell. I was reliably informed by others that I was in good hands!

Steve was great, he quickly told me his plan for the day regarding tactics and that this was a fact finding mission for the coming competition on the Saturday when international rules would be in play. My initial plan of starting on a sinking line with a couple of lures was quickly changed as Steve explained that a team of buzzers had been doing extremely well of late and that we were surrounded by thousands of them!

I set up for a team of 3 buzzers, the idea to use a straight line method and see what sort of depth we could find the fish in. My first lesson was how to set up the drogue correctly, this is something that I had not considered at all previously, I had just thrown it out the back and hoped for the best. Steve showed me how to set up the clamps on one side of the boat so that we could enjoy a much more controlled drift, particularly important with the strong wind we had that day.

We decided to start just out from the lodge which allowed us to drift in a north west direction, both starting with straight lined buzzers. Much to my surprise, I was into a fish on my first cast. It had taken the point fly on the hang and then led me on a merry dance which concluded with Steve netting the fish for me after it had taken me around the boat and through the drogue! We thought we were in for a good day based on this early result. I then spent the next 10 minutes trying to untangle everything which was unfortunately not the last tangle of the day for me... all part of the learning curve I'm sure!



I showed Steve my point fly, a simple gold head black buzzer but was surprised to hear that this was not a legal fly in competition, I had no idea! I clearly have some reading to do if I want to participate one day.

We continued with similar drifts and both picked up the odd fish here and there but at no point did we feel that we had 'cracked' a method or depth. We even tried an excursion over towards Sanctuary Bay as we'd seen a few boats over there and wondered if they were having more luck. However, despite Steve catching one, the conditions were pretty rough and it was very difficult to control the flies properly so back to the calmer southern area we went.

I continued with my straight line of buzzers but Steve was ringing the changes in an effort to improve the catch rate, trying a washing line with a FAB and also fishing under the bung. He explained that although he was still fishing with buzzers, the way and depth that they were being presented differed and that may be the difference on the day, plenty of food for thought for me. He also explained that during a competition, he would have these different methods already pre-tied on leaders ready to be switched over very quickly, something I had not thought of doing previously.

Talking through the days results, we soon realised that by far, most of the fish caught and takes we'd had had been on the 'hang'. Although I'd caught fish on the hang previously, I'd not thought about it in much detail. Steve explained and showed me how the trout like to see the buzzers rising slowly upwards through the water column, as they would naturally, and how you can imitate this during the hang. I watched him do this a few times and realised I needed to take more time during the hang and include a few pauses as I slowly lifted. It worked, some of the takes I had were quite late on, previously I would have simply not taken so long and likely would have missed these fish.

When it was time for lunch, we headed back with 8 fish to the boat but confident that others must have done far better as Grafham had been on 'fire' of late. We were most surprised to hear that we were top boat and the bottle of wine received helped justify my day off with the wife! Over lunch, everyone was openly sharing their experiences and thoughts which was really great and people seemed genuinely pleased that we had caught.

Steve and I had a couple more hours after lunch and he very quickly added another 3 fish followed by another 2 for myself, all again in the same area using the same tactics. I think we ended up on about 14 or 15 fish to the boat but as the wet weather moved in we decided to call it a day. Actually, what really happened is that I'd forgotten to bring any sort of coat and was getting soaked!

I had a thoroughly enjoyable day and I'd like to thank everyone that made the effort to say hello and share their thoughts, particularly Steve who I learnt so much from throughout the day. I will be joining the club again on future trips when time (and wife) allows. For those thinking whether they should join the club or try one of these social days, just do it, you will meet friendly, likeminded people and I've no doubt your fishing will improve as a result!

Kind regards

Andy Pegram

## Fish of the Month



*Fish of the Month is Ben Gumm a new Junior Member 5lb 3 oz caught in Gaynes Cove on a Tequilla Booby Blob. Ben is the first junior ever to win the Fish of the Month and it was his personal best fish too.*

## Up and coming events

- GWFFA Social Boat Day - Thursday 4th May
- AMFC Group 3 Round 2 Chew Valley Lake - Saturday 6th May
- GWFFA 1st Boat Match - Sunday 14th May
- AMFC Group 1 Round 2 Bewl Water - Saturday 20th May
- River Test Dry Fly Day - Sunday 21st May
- AMFC Group 3 Round 3 Grafham Water - Saturday 27th May
- AMFC Group 1 Round 3 Rutland Water - Friday June 9th
- GWFFA Social Day Pitsford - Tuesday 13th June