

Grafham Water Fly Fishers August 2023 Newsletter



Welcome to our August Newsletter. The fishing has been a bit mixed with reports of great catches and of difficult days! Much depending on the weather. The bank fishing can be productive but more limited in the places that can be fished due to the prolific weed growth we have seen this year; this is also true of the bankside vegetation. The 'Pink Flamingo' has arrived in the swimming area, I am told not for hire for fishermen!



Update from our Chair



Well August so far hasn't brought the hoped for improved weather with high winds and coolish temperatures so the fishing can still be difficult, but I hope many of you are still getting out and finding a few friendly trout. I've been out and about again fishing Eyebrook and Llyn Brenig and have found dries to be the best way to persuade a few trout onto my line!

The Summer months bring more water activities onto the AW waters so please keep an eye on the Anglian Water website and Facebook pages for details and any changes. I'm pleased to report that, following Christopher and my regular meeting with Grafham Water, the buoys marking out the water activity area in the bay at Marlow have been moved back to the correct location, leaving plenty of room for fishing. Grafham management also reported that they are going to start to make new drogues in-house given the continued issues with supply of drogues. Please make sure you look after the nets and drogues supplied by AW when you are out in the boats and report any issues to the Rangers.

Tight Lines for the remains of the Summer!

Lianne

AMFC Group 1 Round 4

Eyebrook Reservoir

I am pleased to report that the GWFFA team had a great result coming 1st on the day and with Chris Bobby being top rod. This was thanks to Chris & Lianne practicing before the match and sussing out the best methods and locations. We went out well briefed on how to fish. Chris's report is below:

The 4th match of the year took place at Eyebrook on 29 July. It can be a difficult time of year to organise a match because of the chance of hot weather. However, Eyebrook is pretty reliable as it does not have any boils which create a thermocline in the water. The hot weather of June is long forgotten and recently the theme has been strong winds and rain. Despite this the fish of Eyebrook have been feeding well and are readily moving close to the top.

There was a 6x4 league match the previous weekend and the fish had become wary of boobies and fabs being pulled across the top. All the top rods from that match fished dries and we confirmed in practice that this was still the best method for the AMFC match as no more fish had been stocked. The fish were cruising a couple of feet down, so you had to leave the flies a while for the fish to find them. So, our plan was to fish a small hare's ear CDC on the point and some sort of bits type dry on the dropper at the start but to expect to switch to 2 CDC's later on.

The boats spread quickly over the whole basin area and all the way down past Robbo's to the Willows areas but looking around only the occasional rod was bending so you had to be patient and make the most of your chances. In a strong wind with tiny dries the key is to cast a short line and react to any movement near the flies. At the start of the match I targeted the area from halfway along the dam to Harrisons and took 2 fish on each of my first 2 drifts – I found that I had to cast to each of these as nothing came blind (unlike the previous week or practice). After this it was a case of choosing an area of clear water free from other boats to drift into. Over the next 3 drifts I steadily moved to 7 fish before it went quiet. Communication between the team members was good so I knew Mark and James were both catching well and this was giving the others confidence the dries would work.

The fish came on again in the last hour and I finally finished the day with 11 fish after a hectic last drift when I had plenty of chances. The team came in with a total of 28 which looked like a good result. It turned out that this was enough to win the match with the Tunbridge Wells all-stars team coming 2nd with 26. The rod average was 3.09 and only 3 anglers caught more than 6 (John Hood of TW catching 8 and Mark Brinkman 7). With 2 matches to go we are now in 2nd place on 19 points, one behind TW with Greylags 4 points behind us. The next match is at Grafham on 2 September.

Association of Major Flyfishing Clubs

GROUP 1 RESULTS 2023

Round 4 Venue: Eyebrook Date: 29 July 2023

1st	GWFFA	8 pts
2nd	TUNBRIDGE WELLS	5 pts
3rd	RISK HUNTERS	4 pts
4th	GREYLAGE	3 pts
5th	BOW BRIDGE	2 pts
6th	SOLDIER PALMERS	1 pt

Total fish caught	109	(killed, released)
Red average	3.02	
Average weight	3 lbs 10 oz	
Largest fish	3 lbs 10 oz	caught by HUGH FREW TUNBRIDGE
Best Bag inc. time bonus	21 lbs 1 oz	caught by CHRIS BOBBY GWFFA

Bow Bridge F.C. 'A'							
No.	Best Fish	c/r bonus	Bag Weight	Finish Time	Time Bonus	Total Weight	
Alastair Gardner	1	lbs oz	1 lbs 11 oz	hrs mins	lbs oz	1	lbs 11 oz
Baz Reece	2	lbs oz	3 lbs 9 oz	hrs mins	lbs oz	3	lbs 9 oz
Trevor Bourne	1	2 lbs 6 oz	2 lbs 6 oz	hrs mins	lbs oz	2	lbs 6 oz
Ralph Painter	3	lbs oz	5 lbs 10 oz	hrs mins	lbs oz	5	lbs 10 oz
Ian Watts	3	2 lbs 2 oz	5 lbs 11 oz	hrs mins	lbs oz	5	lbs 11 oz
John Dunmall	1	lbs oz	2 lbs 1 oz	hrs mins	lbs oz	2	lbs 1 oz
Team Total	11		2 lbs 1 oz				20 lbs 13 oz

Fish Hawks							
No.	Best Fish	c/r bonus	Bag Weight	Finish Time	Time Bonus	Total Weight	
Al Gamble	4	2 lbs 2 oz	7 lbs 12 oz	hrs mins	lbs oz	7	lbs 12 oz
Dave Earnes	2	lbs oz	3 lbs 7 oz	hrs mins	lbs oz	3	lbs 7 oz
Phil Calvert	2	1 lbs 0 oz	3 lbs 15 oz	hrs mins	lbs oz	3	lbs 15 oz
Billy Miller	2	lbs oz	2 lbs 15 oz	hrs mins	lbs oz	2	lbs 15 oz
Steve Pemham	3	2 lbs 2 oz	6 lbs 2 oz	hrs mins	lbs oz	6	lbs 2 oz
Drwg Macintosh	5	lbs oz	7 lbs 3 oz	hrs mins	lbs oz	7	lbs 3 oz
Team Total	18		7 lbs 3 oz				33 lbs 6 oz

GWFFA 'A'							
No.	Best Fish	c/r bonus	Bag Weight	Finish Time	Time Bonus	Total Weight	
Chris Bobby	11	2 lbs 0 oz	14-00	hrs mins	lbs oz	2	lbs 1 oz
Phillip Sorenson	4	1 lbs 15 oz	7 lbs 12 oz	hrs mins	lbs oz	7	lbs 12 oz
Mike Wenman	7	2 lbs 1 oz	6-00	hrs mins	lbs oz	13	lbs 1 oz
James Stuart	4	lbs oz	7 lbs 8 oz	hrs mins	lbs oz	7	lbs 8 oz
Peter Hartley	0	lbs oz	1 lbs	hrs mins	lbs oz	1	lbs
Lianne Frost	2	2 lbs 7 oz	4 lbs 3 oz	hrs mins	lbs oz	4	lbs 3 oz
Team Total	28		4 lbs 3 oz				53 lbs 4 oz

Greylags							
No.	Best Fish	c/r bonus	Bag Weight	Finish Time	Time Bonus	Total Weight	
Dai Davies	5	lbs oz	8 lbs 8 oz	hrs mins	lbs oz	10	lbs 8 oz
Dave Ogg	1	lbs oz	1 lbs 14 oz	hrs mins	lbs oz	1	lbs 14 oz
Jem Dunn	3	lbs oz	5 lbs 10 oz	hrs mins	lbs oz	5	lbs 10 oz
Peter Lewis	0	lbs oz	lbs oz	hrs mins	lbs oz	0	lbs oz
Si Morris	0	lbs oz	lbs oz	hrs mins	lbs oz	0	lbs oz
Steve Ottridge	6	1 lbs 13 oz	4	6 lbs 11 oz	hrs mins	lbs oz	10 lbs 11 oz
Team Total	15		6 lbs 11 oz				28 lbs 11 oz

Soldier Palmers 'A'							
No.	Best Fish	c/r bonus	Bag Weight	Finish Time	Time Bonus	Total Weight	
Ryan Bull	1	lbs oz	1 lbs 11 oz	hrs mins	lbs oz	1	lbs 11 oz
Toby Bunney	1	lbs oz	1 lbs 13 oz	hrs mins	lbs oz	1	lbs 13 oz
Vishan Gurung	4	2 lbs 1 oz	7 lbs 2 oz	hrs mins	lbs oz	7	lbs 2 oz
Jamie Nairn	2	2 lbs 2 oz	4 lbs 0 oz	hrs mins	lbs oz	4	lbs 0 oz
Mark Rose	3	2 lbs 2 oz	5 lbs 13 oz	hrs mins	lbs oz	5	lbs 13 oz
Robert Middleton	0	lbs oz	lbs oz	hrs mins	lbs oz	0	lbs oz
Team Total	11		1 lbs oz				20 lbs 7 oz

Tunbridge Wells							
No.	Best Fish	c/r bonus	Bag Weight	Finish Time	Time Bonus	Total Weight	
John Frank	3	2 lbs 3 oz	5 lbs 11 oz	hrs mins	lbs oz	5	lbs 11 oz
Mike Laycock	6	lbs oz	4-00	6 lbs 15 oz	hrs mins	lbs oz	10 lbs 15 oz
John Hood	3	lbs oz	8-00	8 lbs 7 oz	hrs mins	lbs oz	16 lbs 7 oz
Martin Griffiths	4	lbs oz	7 lbs 2 oz	hrs mins	lbs oz	7	lbs 2 oz
John Hancock	4	2 lbs 7 oz	7 lbs 9 oz	hrs mins	lbs oz	7	lbs 9 oz
Hugh Frew	1	3 lbs 10 oz	3 lbs 10 oz	hrs mins	lbs oz	3	lbs 10 oz
Team Total	26		1 lbs oz				51 lbs 6 oz

Key:
No. is total number of fish caught
c/r bonus is 2lb per released fish
Bag Weight is from the weighing
Time Bonus is 1lb per hour

GWFFA A Team Group 1 round 4 results Eyebrook

Members Day & BBQ Saturday 12th August Grafham Water



Our Members Day was postponed from 16th July to Saturday 12th August due to forecast high winds, ironically we nearly had the same wind strength for our day with winds of 17mph and gusts much stronger. Thankfully we were able to get out and the rain held off just long enough to finish and clear up after the BBQ.

We decided to run the BBQ ourselves this year and our club captain Christopher Faulkner did a cracking job with assistance from Martin Brocklebank and Dayood Sheik, providing some delicious food with burgers, hot dogs, chicken wings, salads and deserts, as well as managing the fishing. Our thanks to Christopher and the team.

The fishing was tough, which was disappointing given how well the water had been fishing. Catches of 30 plus fish to a boat had been reported in the weeks leading up to the BBQ. Grafham has a knack of switching off for no clear reason and then coming back on again. Maybe the water temperature is too high, or the food source is lower in the water, but despite

the challenging conditions we had an enjoyable day, and it was great to see new members joining us for the day.

Top rod was Norman Rushden with 3 fish, which earned him a bottle of wine. Normans report is below:

"I initially tried nymphs, but the wind was too strong fishing on the north shore to control them. Knowing that fish tend to sit below the waves in rough weather I changed to a D13 with a cat's whisker on the point and a sparkler on the dropper. I kept it to a 2-fly cast with the fly's 10' apart to prevent tangling in the high wind. I cast straight down the wind bringing the fly's back in a straight line to get better depth. All fish were caught drifting onto G Marker bank."



Club Captain Christopher Faulkner briefing before the start of fishing.



BBQ held behind the Grafham boat shed.



Members enjoying the BBQ. Thankfully the rain held off until we finished.

Maitland Trophy Sunday August 27th- Grafham Water

The Maitland Trophy match is getting bigger this year. Traditionally a match between GWFFA and RWFFA it has been extended to include Invicta and Mid Northants. The format will be each club fields up to 16 rods, but it will be the top 10 rods that count towards the team score. All catch and release and its total fish number that counts. There will be no limit as all catch & release. 4 clubs. GWFFA Rutland Invicta Mid Northants so 64 rods fishing. At present we have 11 rods for the club and so need 3 more for a full team.

The lodge will be open for breakfast (£9.99 payable on the day) and there is a meal afterwards of lasagne , salad & chips followed by cheesecake, cost £16.00. The cost of fishing the competition is also £16.00 for the boat and entry plus if required a catch and release fishing ticket or season ticket

please let me know if you can fish via email captain@gwffa.co.uk or via text 07921 940836.

GWFFA Bank Clearance Sessions 2023





Harts Bluff bank before clearance



Harts Bluff bank after clearance

We are shortly to start our bank clearance sessions for 2023. We started these off in 2020 and it has made a significant improvement to bank access. A couple of shots above show how Harts Bluff had become inaccessible before we cleared it.

This year with the water levels likely to remain high it is more important than ever that we tackle the regrowth. With the damp conditions this year the bank vegetation has grown strongly making some banks very difficult to access and fish. We will start with the most popular spots such as Pylon Point and Deep-Water Point and try to clear these ASAP.

We would welcome new volunteers to the bank clearance sessions. They are a great way of meeting GWFFA members and getting to know the water as we clear the different locations. You may find spots that you had never considered fishing. It is not just for GWFFA members as we also have volunteers from some of the other local clubs such as Invicta and East Mids. as they also have an interest in improving the bank access.

Anglian Water provide safety footwear plus a free boat voucher for every 4 sessions that a volunteer completes. Plus, we normally get a bacon roll and a cup of tea or coffee during the day to keep us going. We meet at the lodge for 9am and then get clearing for 9.30am usually wrapping up by 2pm. A bit of light exercise makes these very social and enjoyable days. Please do come along and give it a go. It is helpful to drop me a note or text at the number below to let me know if you will be attending:

Mark Brinkman GWFFA Membership Secretary

Email: membership@gwffa.co.uk Mobile 07484 659549

The provisional bank clearance dates for this year are as follows:

Mon 4th Sept, Mon 18th Sept.

Mon 2nd Oct, Mon 16th Oct, Mon 30th Oct.

Mon 13th Nov, Mon 27th Nov.

Mon 11th Dec, Mon 18th Dec.

Mon 8th Jan, Mon 22nd Jan.

Mon 5th Feb, Mon 19th Feb, Mon 26th Feb.

Up and Coming Events

- Social Boat Day 3. Grafham. Wednesday. 23-Aug-23
- Maitland Trophy. Grafham. Sunday. 27-Aug-23
- AMFC Group 1 round 5. Grafham. Saturday 2-Sep-23
- 3rd Boat Match. Grafham. Sunday 3-Sep-23
- Social Boat Day 4. Grafham. Saturday. 9-Sep-23
- AMFC Group 3 round 5. Eyebrook. Saturday. 16-Sep-23
- 2nd Bank Match. Grafham. Sunday. 24-Sep-23