

# Grafham Water Fly Fishers September Newsletter



Welcome to our September Newsletter



As I write the weather has taken an upturn and having had a few weeks of cooler and damp conditions summer seems to have returned in the autumn! 30 deg C forecast for the week and well into the weekend. The fishing has been a little challenging, improving with the cooling water temperatures but the fish remaining difficult to tempt. We have had a busy few weeks with social boat days and matches, and also now starting the bank clearance sessions. The above picture is from the Willows bank showing the amount of brambles on the top of the bank. Detailed fishing reports below.

## 3rd Social Boat Day Grafham Wednesday 23rd August



*1 - Sponsors draw prize winners*

The 3rd Social Boat day was held at Grafham Water on the 23rd August- it was another hot bright day with a moderate wind so conditions were not easy.

19 members fished the day including our then newest member – Stuart Prior who had only done his course with Peter Hartley a few weeks before and joined GWFFA three days before the social day.

The day was very kindly supported by Sportfish and it was a great result that Stuart Prior won the voucher for a lesson and a days fishing at the Sportfish centre at Haywards Farm in Theale. The wine raffle went to Steve Cracknell, Dayood Sheik and Andy Linwood won vouchers to fish Draycot/Eyebrook.

As for the fishing – well that was the down side - it proved a tough day with most boats only managing a fish or two. But then our social days are about the enjoyment, learning from each other and a good break for lunch and a chance to meet other members.

The final social day is being held on the revised date of Sun 22nd October 2023 and I hope we will see as many of you as possible – especially some of the new members.

Christopher

## Maitland Trophy Sunday 27th August 2023



This year GWFFA had the honour of organising the Maitland Trophy at Graham Water on Sunday 27th August 2023. The competition, initially started in Memory of John Maitland, had traditionally been an

inter club event between GWFFA and RWFF, but has grown over the years, and this year we invited Mid Northants Fly Fishers to join GWFFA, RWFF and INVICTA. With each club fielding a full team of 16 we had 64 rods fishing in 32 boats. We were also very fortunate to be supported on the day by Anglian Water Fisheries and Wading Waters ([www.wadingwaters.co.uk](http://www.wadingwaters.co.uk)) who donated team and Individual prizes, and Raymond Rainbird of Wading Waters actually fished the day as a part of the RWFF team.

The day started with over 50 rods enjoying a good breakfast laid on by Shiva and his team at the lodge. With the fishing commencing at 0930.

The forecast has been for a warm day with light winds, and it was totally wrong. It proved to be a very tough day with strong westerly winds and even some showers. The water became very choppy, and fishing proved to be very uncomfortable.

As has been the case over the past weeks the north shore became the destination for the majority of the boats at the start of the day with a large number around G Buoy. The wind was favourable for drifting along the shoreline and towards the north end of the dam. During the day boats did move around and were seen fishing in Plummers, both ends of the dam and back towards Hedge End, Pylon Point, Rectory Bay and over towards the Seat.

I was fishing with Neil Squires – a RWFF team member who is also a GWFFA member. We both fished 12ft slow tips with 3 or 4 flies including Fabs, Blobs, Black Booby, Hares Ears, Cormorants and Diawl Bachs. We also chose to drift close into the shore, probably closer than the other boats and from the start we were getting pulls. Being barbless and with the fish often running straight back towards the boat a few came off (that's my excuse) but we finally had our first fish at 10.13, and we both had a fish in the boat by 10.51. We continued to fish the areas either side of G Buoy all day, we were getting regular pulls and landing a few of them so why move. Every return back towards G Bay proved very bumpy, slow and extremely wet. I certainly learnt that my "waterproof" trousers were anything but waterproof and ended the day soaked to the skin. During the day we did change the flies, different coloured FABs/Blobs and these seemed to catch the majority of the fish.

By mid-afternoon I was 7 -3 down to Neil and I changed to a Fab on the top dropper and on the point - it worked. During a mid-afternoon purple patch I had a further 5 fish to take our final score to 7- 8. 15 fish to the boat which proved to be a winning catch.

I think everyone was glad when fishing ended at 1745hrs and the score sheets were submitted. Time for reflections on the day and stories of fish lost or methods tried over a drink in the Harbour View café. Shiva and his team laid on the evening meal of lasagne, chips and salad followed by a home-made cheesecake. Many thanks to Marin Brocklebank who assisted me in recording the scores and compiling the results. And what a great result it was - GWFFA had won the Maitland Trophy by 3 fish, and to top the day, for me, I had won the top rod with 8 fish. David Spall also caught 8 fish, but I'd had my first fish before him.

Following the meal we had the prize giving with the 10 GWFFA rods receiving a bottle of wine, a fly box and a selection of Flash Attack Flies, other GWFFA prizes were the Top Boat, Neil Squires and I with 15 fish so another bottle of wine. My prize for Top Rod, a Douglas 9ft 7Weight rod which I much look forward to trying out. David Spall was 2nd winning boat and tackle vouchers from Anglian Water and Neil Squires was 3rd winning a boat voucher from Anglian Water. Roger Hurren for catching the first

Rainbow of the day (level with Martin Nelson of MNFF) so they both received a new Wynd fly box from Wading Waters. No browns were caught.

Result - for the 10 top rods were club, GWFFA 44 fish, RWFF 41 fish, MNFF 27 fish, Invicta 26 fish

Overall 149 fish were caught by the 64 rods, a rod average of 2.3 but 16 rods blanked.

I look forward to next year and hope GWFFA can retain the Maitland Trophy.

Thanks again to Anglian Water Fisheries and Wading Waters for their support and to Martin Brocklebank for his advice and assistance which was invaluable, being the first inter club match I have had to organise.

Now we need to win the Hinckley Shield and we wish our A Team best of luck in the final AMFC match - could be a brilliant season for GWFFA.

Christopher



*Top rod Christopher Faulkner receiving sponsors prize from Raymond Rainbird of Wading Waters*



## AMFC Results



Picture from recent match at Bewl Water

Results from Group 1 match held on Grafham on Saturday 2nd September. Well done to all teams on a tough day and to the winners, Greylags and [Al Owen](#) for top rod. GWFFA had an excellent result coming 2nd which now puts GWFFA A team in top position with one more round to fish at Draycote Water on 7th October.

GWFFA have 24 points, Tunbridge Wells 23 points, Greylags 21 points. So a close finish we need to win to assure our place or finish above Tunbridge Wells.

Good luck to the GWFFA A team it would be great to bring home the group 1 trophy.

## Association of Major Flyfishing Clubs

### GROUP 1 RESULTS 2023

Round 5

Venue:

Gatham

Date: 2 September 2023

	Round 5	Bred	Total
1st: Greyhags	6	15	21 pts
2nd: GWFFA 'A'	6	10	24 pts
3rd: Solihull Palmers 'A'	4	9	17 pts
4th: Turbridge Wells	3	20	23 pts
5th: Bevel Bridge P.C. 'A'	4	10	14 pts
6th: Fish Hawks	1	11	12 pt

Total fish caught	60	60	Mixed	3 released
Rise average	1.83			
Average weight	2 lbs 17 oz			
Largest fish	3 lbs 4 oz	caught by	Roger Warren	
Bred Bag inc. time bonus	13 lbs 8 oz	caught by	W Owen	

Bevel Bridge P.C. 'A'	No.	Bred Fish	ch bonus	Bag Weight	Fresh Time	Time Bonus	Total Weight
Alisdair Garner	2	2 lbs 10 oz	3	4 lbs 11 oz	hrs min	0 hrs 0 sec	4 lbs 11 oz
Paul Crane	1	1 lbs 12 oz	3	1 lbs 12 oz	hrs min	0 hrs 0 sec	1 lbs 12 oz
Travis Bourne	1	1 lbs 11 oz	3	1 lbs 11 oz	hrs min	0 hrs 0 sec	1 lbs 11 oz
Rob Topole	1	1 lbs 15 oz	3	1 lbs 15 oz	hrs min	0 hrs 0 sec	1 lbs 15 oz
Jane Robinson	2	2 lbs 14 oz	3	4 lbs 2 oz	hrs min	0 hrs 0 sec	4 lbs 2 oz
Lee Gilbert	2	1 lbs 7 oz	3	6 lbs 3 oz	hrs min	0 hrs 0 sec	6 lbs 3 oz
<b>Team Total</b>	<b>9</b>			<b>18 lbs 0 oz</b>		<b>0 hrs 0 sec</b>	<b>20 lbs 8 oz</b>

Fish Hawks	No.	Bred Fish	ch bonus	Bag Weight	Fresh Time	Time Bonus	Total Weight
N-Dennis	2	2 lbs 14 oz	3	4 lbs 14 oz	hrs min	0 hrs 0 sec	4 lbs 14 oz
Paul Culvert	0	0 lbs 0 oz	3	0 lbs 0 oz	hrs min	0 hrs 0 sec	0 lbs 0 oz
Langdon Davies	0	0 lbs 0 oz	3	0 lbs 0 oz	hrs min	0 hrs 0 sec	0 lbs 0 oz
Billy Miller	1	2 lbs 12 oz	3	2 lbs 12 oz	hrs min	0 hrs 0 sec	2 lbs 12 oz
Duncan Ayle	1	1 lbs 6 oz	3	1 lbs 6 oz	hrs min	0 hrs 0 sec	1 lbs 6 oz
Craig Carroll	3	2 lbs 7 oz	3	5 lbs 1 oz	hrs min	0 hrs 0 sec	5 lbs 1 oz
<b>Team Total</b>	<b>7</b>			<b>12 lbs 1 oz</b>		<b>0 hrs 0 sec</b>	<b>14 lbs 1 oz</b>

GWFFA 'A'	No.	Bred Fish	ch bonus	Bag Weight	Fresh Time	Time Bonus	Total Weight
Neil Walsh	3	2 lbs 3 oz	3	3 lbs 2 oz	hrs min	0 hrs 0 sec	3 lbs 2 oz
David Spall	1	1 lbs 14 oz	3	1 lbs 14 oz	hrs min	0 hrs 0 sec	1 lbs 14 oz
Steve Clackwell	1	1 lbs 2 oz	3	1 lbs 2 oz	hrs min	0 hrs 0 sec	1 lbs 2 oz
Simon Jarvis	3	2 lbs 9 oz	3	5 lbs 11 oz	hrs min	0 hrs 0 sec	5 lbs 11 oz
Roger Warren	3	3 lbs 4 oz	2	6 lbs 11 oz	hrs min	0 hrs 0 sec	10 lbs 11 oz
Philip Stevenson	0	0 lbs 0 oz	3	0 lbs 0 oz	hrs min	0 hrs 0 sec	0 lbs 0 oz
<b>Team Total</b>	<b>13</b>			<b>18 lbs 0 oz</b>		<b>0 hrs 0 sec</b>	<b>24 lbs 8 oz</b>

Greyhags	No.	Bred Fish	ch bonus	Bag Weight	Fresh Time	Time Bonus	Total Weight
Al Owen	6	2 lbs 12 oz	4	6 lbs 0 oz	hrs min	0 hrs 0 sec	11 lbs 0 oz
Matt Orrell	2	2 lbs 1 oz	3	3 lbs 6 oz	hrs min	0 hrs 0 sec	3 lbs 6 oz
Ian Whiteside	2	2 lbs 15 oz	3	5 lbs 9 oz	hrs min	0 hrs 0 sec	5 lbs 9 oz
Gary Leggs	3	2 lbs 8 oz	3	5 lbs 12 oz	hrs min	0 hrs 0 sec	5 lbs 12 oz
John Jones	1	1 lbs 6 oz	3	1 lbs 6 oz	hrs min	0 hrs 0 sec	1 lbs 6 oz
Peter Lewis	1	2 lbs 5 oz	3	2 lbs 5 oz	hrs min	0 hrs 0 sec	2 lbs 5 oz
<b>Team Total</b>	<b>18</b>			<b>28 lbs 0 oz</b>		<b>0 hrs 0 sec</b>	<b>31 lbs 8 oz</b>

Solihull Palmers 'A'	No.	Bred Fish	ch bonus	Bag Weight	Fresh Time	Time Bonus	Total Weight
Ryan Bell	2	1 lbs 5 oz	3	2 lbs 14 oz	hrs min	0 hrs 0 sec	2 lbs 14 oz
Sean Harbon	1	2 lbs 1 oz	3	2 lbs 1 oz	hrs min	0 hrs 0 sec	2 lbs 1 oz
Mark Rose	4	2 lbs 13 oz	3	7 lbs 13 oz	hrs min	0 hrs 0 sec	7 lbs 13 oz
Lindsay Simpson	3	2 lbs 2 oz	3	6 lbs 5 oz	hrs min	0 hrs 0 sec	6 lbs 5 oz
Paul Wright	1	2 lbs 6 oz	3	3 lbs 6 oz	hrs min	0 hrs 0 sec	2 lbs 6 oz
Paul Culvert	0	0 lbs 0 oz	3	0 lbs 0 oz	hrs min	0 hrs 0 sec	0 lbs 0 oz
<b>Team Total</b>	<b>11</b>			<b>18 lbs 0 oz</b>		<b>0 hrs 0 sec</b>	<b>21 lbs 7 oz</b>

Turbridge Wells	No.	Bred Fish	ch bonus	Bag Weight	Fresh Time	Time Bonus	Total Weight
John French	2	1 lbs 14 oz	3	2 lbs 8 oz	hrs min	0 hrs 0 sec	3 lbs 8 oz
John Hancock	0	0 lbs 0 oz	3	0 lbs 0 oz	hrs min	0 hrs 0 sec	0 lbs 0 oz
John Peare	1	1 lbs 15 oz	3	1 lbs 15 oz	hrs min	0 hrs 0 sec	1 lbs 15 oz
Marin Wright	2	3 lbs 5 oz	3	3 lbs 7 oz	hrs min	0 hrs 0 sec	3 lbs 7 oz
Bob Shaw	4	2 lbs 9 oz	3	8 lbs 5 oz	hrs min	0 hrs 0 sec	8 lbs 5 oz
Hugh Price	2	2 lbs 6 oz	3	3 lbs 13 oz	hrs min	0 hrs 0 sec	3 lbs 13 oz
<b>Team Total</b>	<b>11</b>			<b>18 lbs 0 oz</b>		<b>0 hrs 0 sec</b>	<b>20 lbs 14 oz</b>



## GWFFA 3rd Boat Match Sunday 3rd September 2023



Our 3rd boat match of the championship, 16 fished what was a very warm day. Gone were the winds of the previous days now almost flat calm, wall to wall sunshine and 30 deg temperatures. We had knowledge from practice sessions plus the AMFC held the previous day. The fish were widespread although most caught on the Saturday were in the willows area. During a practice session on Friday Steve Cracknell and I found fish out at M Buoy, lots of fish rising over a large area, and willing to take your flies. But for the following 2 days they were more elusive, the dam and willows being the productive area.

Our match winner Frank Daley had a terrific result in the conditions landing 9 fish, his report is as follows:

*Arriving at the Reservoir, I could see there was no wind and forecast and was for bright sunshine.... I thought it was going to be a hard day.*

*As I had fished the week before I knew there were bigger fish left of the tower and I also knew there were fish near G buoy.*

*I told my boat partner this and he was happy to go with the flow. My set up for the day was going to be a floater and a minkie on the point and two diawl bachs, first drift in the swimming area.*

*Hooked one on the minkie but lost it in the weeds. We had a couple of more drifts.*

*Then more boats moved in, so we decided to go to the Dam. Caught two there and lost two, both in the weeds. It was very slow here and you had to persevere. But I did notice that the fish were moving, and they were taking snails, I then put on some dries.*

*No action there, so went back to my first set up.*

*After lunch returned here, had one and lost one. Then moved on to G buoy and as the wind picked up and the fish switched on, I caught another six fish.*

*So, in my opinion, the fish were no more than 2 feet down and the bigger fish were definitely on the Dam.*

*Tight lines*

*Frank*



*Club captain Christopher Faulkner completing the 'sponsors draw' during our lunchbreak.*



*Sponsors Draw prize winners. Kindly supported by the Celtic Blob Company.*



*Match winner Frank Daley receiving a bottle of wine*

## Fish of the month August



Alex Green took this fine 7lb 3oz Rainbow from Rutland at C buoy, taken on a popper minkie. Well done Alex a super fish.

## GWFFA Grafham Bank Clearance



We have now held our first bank clearance session on Monday 4th September. 14 volunteers and AW staff. We started at the Willows and due to the high water levels this year the first job was to clear a discrete area behind the willows which will be our area to burn much of the wood and brambles that we cut. Last year with the low water levels we had some 30+ bonfires on the foreshore to clear this. There seems little chance this year that the water level will significantly drop to allow this.

Without the clearance of brambles and self-set willows along the stoned willows bank there would be a severe restriction on bank space, this is true of much of the north and south shore. Ultimately if no action is taken the banks would effectively be lost to fishing except at low water levels. You can see evidence of this at Savages Creek, which was fully fishable from the banks, now only fishable from a boat.

I would urge members if they are able to attend to come along and give support to the sessions. Apart from a bit of exercise it is a pleasant way to spend a day in the company of other keen anglers and making a real impact on the fishing for our and other member's benefit. I have had some requests about considering some weekend dates as many of our members are committed during the week, I will be looking into this and put some dates forward in due course. Given the amount of re growth this year we will doubtless need more dates than currently planned to clear all key banks.

You also earn a free boat voucher for every 4 sessions completed plus some sustenance on the day in the form of a bacon roll and teas and coffee. Some pictures below of our first session.

### **Planned Dates**

Mon 18th Sept, Mon 25th 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.



*2Clearing the burning area*



*Clearing the Brambles from the rocks*



*A Barrow full of willows for the bonfire*

## Up and coming events

- **Saturday 30th September- GWFFA 2nd Bank Match.** Bank matches are from 8am to 2.30pm weigh-in at the lodge by 3pm. No cost apart from day/season ticket and a £2.00 match fee collected on the day. Please book in by clubmate. Do not break the water before 8am. We fish to a 6 fish kill limit.
- **Sunday 22nd October - Social Boat Day.** 9.30 start fishing. A relaxed fishing day with members. We come in for a picnic lunch to share successes and then back out again, finish when it suits you.
- **Saturday 28th October - Hinckley Shield Bank Match Grafham.** This is an interclub competition with each club fielding teams of 6 anglers. If you would like to fish, **please contact club captain Christopher Faulkner mobile: 07921 940836.**
- **Saturday 11th November - GWFFA 3rd Bank Match.** This is the last bank match in the championship. Fishing from 8am to 2.30pm weigh-in at the lodge by 3pm. No cost apart from day/season ticket and a £2.00 match fee collected on the day. Please book in by clubmate. Do not break the water before 8am
- **Saturday 18th November - GWFFA Winter Plate.** This is a fun bank match fishing for traditional Christmas fare of Turkey, Gammon & Christmas Pudding. Our prizes in this instance are vouchers to acquire same. Usual bank match hours 8am to 2.30pm and a 6 fish limit. Santa fancy dress optional!

Tight lines

Mark Brinkman

Editor