

Grafham Water Fly Fishers October Newsletter



Welcome to our October Newsletter



Picture is of our Chair Lianne catching a rainbow at Badger Lake Canada in practice for the Ladies World Championships

Welcome to the October newsletter. What unseasonable weather we are having! It seems to be making fishing unpredictable, but I hope many of you are finding time to get out and fish the wonderful fisheries we have in the area.

Chris and I spent the latter half of September in British Columbia, Canada fishing in the Masters and Ladies's World Championships. It was a fun and challenging experience, and we will be talking about it at one of our Winter Meetings if you are interested in finding out more. Full details of Winter meeting dates are included in this newsletter, hope to see many of you there.

Congratulations to the AMFC A team who won the Group 1 league. The team has been consistent all season which has paid off. If anyone would like to have a gentle introduction to competition fishing this is a great league to start in the B team. Chris Bobby will send out a mail early next year with details of match dates and venues - let him know if you are interested in taking part.

Tight lines!

Lianne.

AMFC Association Match Draycote Water 7th October 2023





Ready for the off



GWFFA A Team AMFC Group 1 overall group winners 2023. Trophy Presentation by John Caldwell

Team: Peter Hartley, Mark Brinkman, Neil Walsh & David Spall

This was the last match of the season and pivotal for the GWFFA A team who were top of the leader board with one match to go but with Tunbridge Wells one point behind in the league. A win or to come above Tunbridge Wells was needed to take the winners trophy. Draycote fished well, and the fish were widespread but the majority of the boats headed up to Rainbow Corner where fish had been found in practice. Some stayed close in this area, others drifted down as far as the harbour and a fair number fished drifts from the valve tower.

Fishing methods were mainly floating or tip lines, fabs, sparklers, dawl bach's and nymphs, and a few caught on dries. It was a close match with GWFFA A coming third and Tunbridge Wells 4th which was all that was needed for GWFFA to win the Group 1 trophy.

Well done to all the A Team members and to Chris Bobby for all his organisation and to all members who practiced to support the team. It's great to have this trophy, the challenge now is to keep it in 2024.

[Full write up by Chris Bobby](#)

AMFC Group 1 – Review of 2023 Season

The AMFC season concluded at Draycote of 7 October. The GWFFA A team finished 3rd which was enough to confirm the club as the overall winners of the league for the first time since xxxx. The GWFFA squad of 14 anglers fished 6 matches over the whole season. We may have only won one match at Eyebrook in July but we were the most consistent team, finishing in the top 3 of all 6 matches.

The season began in April with the association match at Rutland with the fish feeding hard on buzzers. We caught fish all over the south arm either on the bung or washing lines. At this time of year the fishing can be easy and so it proved with a Group 1 rod average of nearly 11. Lianne, Steve C and myself all had 12 fish limits but we did not have enough time bonus and the all-star team from Tunbridge Wells won the match to sit at the top of the table – a position they held for most of the season.

Our second match was at Bewl in May – it is always difficult to persuade anglers to make the trip south so many thanks to the team that fished – especially those who took a day off work. Bewl actually fished very well with a rod average of over 6 with Steve Jones being our star performer with 11. Again we finished 3rd but we did beat both the local teams.

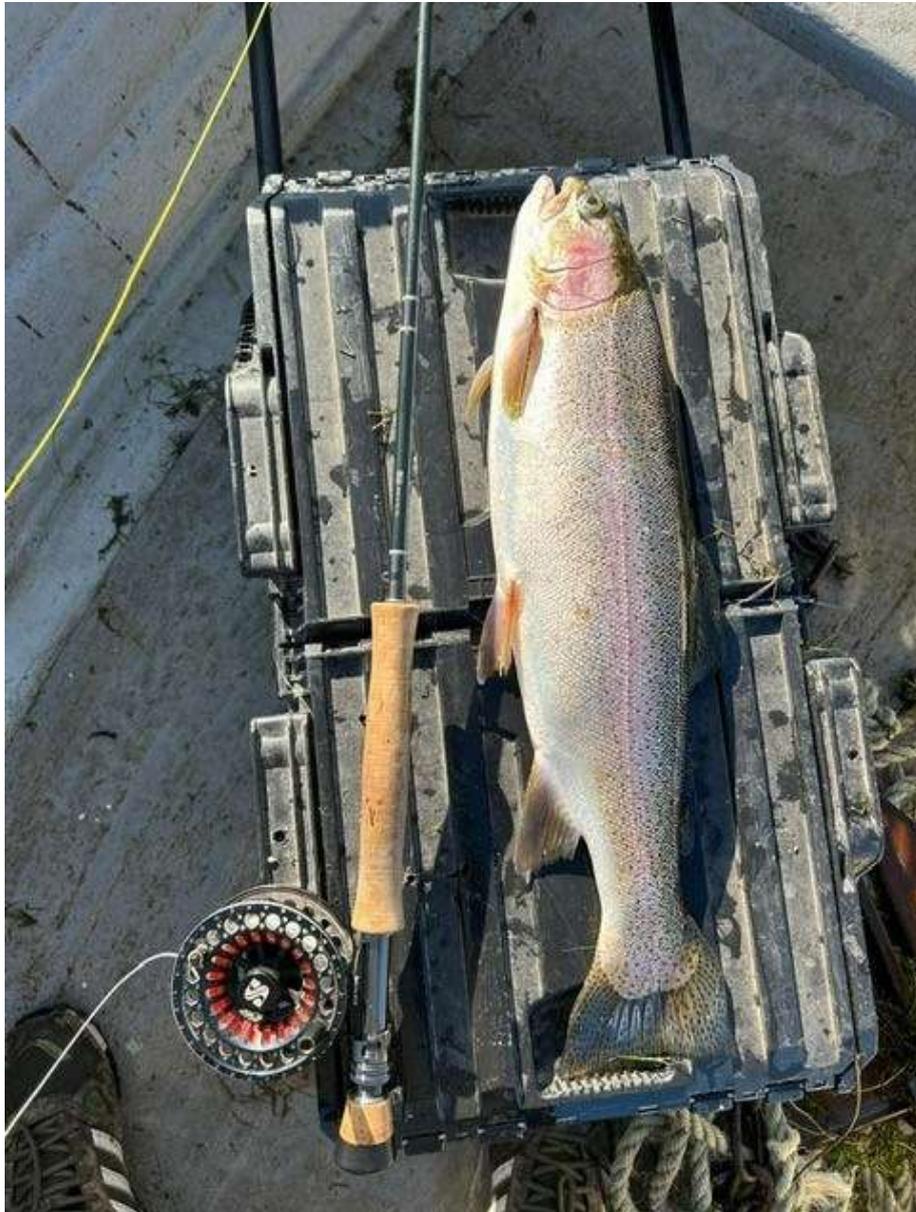
The 3rd match was back at Rutland in early June – fish were feeding hard on shrimps in the margins. The team had 57 fish thanks to limits from Steve C, Roger and Jake. This was enough for 2nd place on the day behind Tunbridge who had some lucky big stockies in their bags.

There is always a dilemma about whether to hold a match in July or August – this year we decided to fish at Eyebrook in late July. Eyebrook can fish better than other reservoirs at this time of year as there are no boils to create thermoclines and keep the fish deep. On the day it proved to be the case as the winning tactic was a couple of small hare's ear CDC's. I caught 11 but was ably supported by Mark, Philip and James who all contributed to a comfortable win.

Next round was at Grafham – historically not our best venue! Fishing was really tough as weather had been hot and the fish were not eating so the rod average was only 1.8. Despite this Roger managed a great bag of 5 from G to the Willows and Neil and Steve J both had 3 to secure 2nd place and importantly 2 places ahead of Tunbridge Wells so we moved to the top of the league.

So it was all to play for at Draycote for the last match of the season – David, Peter, Neil and Mark managed 41 fish between them which was good enough for 3rd place but only 1lb off winning a really tight match on the day. Tunbridge Wells finished one place behind us (although it was over 20lb) so we finished the season on 28 points.

Fish of the Month September - Mark Bambrick



Mark Bambrick was fishing with his mentor Simon King at Pitsford on the 23/9/23. It was the first time Mark had fished at Pitsford, which was a very enjoyable experience. Mark caught the fish on a hare's ear on a slow retrieve.

GWFFA 2nd Bank Match Saturday 30th September



Left to right.

John Archer (best fish) John Vincent (top rod) and club captain Christopher Faulkner



John's killing flies

30th Sept Bank match result by John Vincent

The fly which took all the fish on the left, a bit mangled!! Small foam bodied daddy size 14 B175 or similar, homemade bodies.

Fished on point, 6lb fluorocarbon with a small booby on the 5ft dropper.

I fished at the end of the gabions in the corner of Church Hill Bay, 50 yards from the beach.

I knew there were a few fish in the area as Brian Calvert and I have fished this area on boats for the last 6 weeks weather permitting. Brian has taken most of his few fish on a dry fly set up, with the small orange daddy being the most successful fly. I have also used this fly on the dry's to some effect. There are no Daddies on the water and no other fly but fish killed have revealed lots of snail in the gut.

The two fish I gutted from my six were full of snails.

Old habits die hard, years ago snail feeding fish could be taken on orange CDC patterns.

John Vincent

The 2023 National Final



The National Final was held on Grafham on a weekend of very rough weather. It had been windy for much of the week, then calmer at the end of the week the wind building again over the weekend.

10 of our members fished the finals:

Lee Cartmail, Richard Denney, Pete Eville, Tony Fox, Peter Hartley, Mark MacLeod, Stephen Pattinson, Leigh Pond, Neil Squires & Jake Wenman

With 4 finishing in the top 28 who are, Mark McLeod, Jake Wenman, Pete Eville and Richard Denney.

Our congratulations to all.

GWFFA Bank Clearance



The bank clearance has gone well this year with fine weather for the 4 sessions completed. We have cleared the Willows bank. This took a couple of sessions due to the level of bramble regrowth in particular in the rocks which takes time to remove them. For the last 2 sessions we cleared Pylon Point and have made a good start on Deep Water Point. All of these are key bank locations.

Simone Tauber Anglian Water Estates Manager has also now been trained on the brush cutters and put her new skills into effect on our last session. With 4 of us now on the brush cutters and trimmers we can make some real headway, this though is also reliant on the rest of the team clearing away the cut vegetation and removing brambles from the rocky areas.

Some great team effort and despite a few aches from not so often used muscles it is an enjoyable morning's work. If you have not yet joined us, please come and give it a go. Many hands do make light work of it, and there is always chance to have a spot of bank fishing before or after the session.

We meet in front of the shop or by the gutting shed on alternate Mondays. Bacon roll and tea and coffee on the day and for every 4th session a FOC boat voucher.

The planned dates are:

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.



Pylon Point cleared.

Up and coming events

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. In this instance vouchers to acquire them. Usual bank match hours 8am to 2.30pm and a 6 fish limit. Santa fancy dress optional!

GWFFA Winter Programme



The GWFFA Winter Programme is about to get underway. We have a series of talks from members and invited guests on fishing related topics. We will attempt to live Zoom some of the meetings depending on the subject matter, as we appreciate a number of our members live too far away to attend in person. However, we have real issues with broadband speed at the lodge which makes it challenging to get an uninterrupted streamed meeting.

The following are the planned dates.

Tuesday 31st October 2023 - Fly tying evening. This involves demonstrations from a number of our talented members.

Tuesday 14th November 2023 - Culinary evening with Dayood Sheik and Mark Brinkman. Dayood and Mark will be sharing techniques and recipes to make the most of your catch.

Tuesday 28th November 2023 - Tom Pumphrey. Tom is a GWFFA member and also works for Anglian Water. His role is finding water in aquifers and boreholes to satisfy our ever increasing demand for water in East Anglia. This should be a very interesting evening to learn about our water supply.

Tuesday 12th December 2023 - World Championships - This will be a joint talk by Lianne Frost and Chris Bobby on the world fly fishing championships.

Wednesday 10th January 2024 - Joint meeting with Invicta Fly Fishers -with guest speaker Ian Barr who is a renowned local expert.

Tuesday 23rd January 2024 - Ifor Jones (of Draycote Water, Eyebrook & Thornton) a talk on the trends in fisher management.

Tuesday 6th February 2024 - Anglian Water annual fishery review.

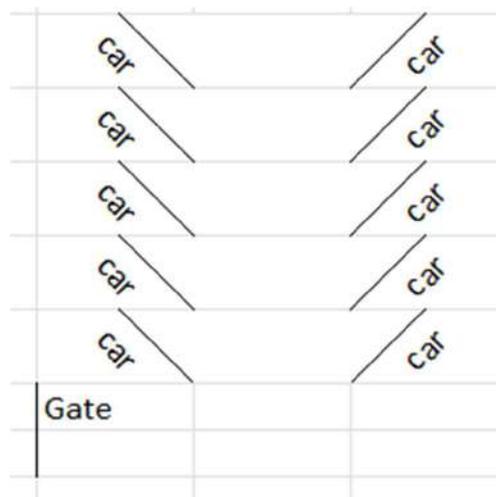
Tuesday 20th February - Fly tying meeting.

Tuesday 5th March 2024 - Annual General Meeting

Lane End Car Park

The Lane End angler car park which gives easy access to Deep Water Point and Pylon Point, was designed by GWFFA members. At its optimum it can house 10 to 12 cars. Due to the surface of the car park, it is not possible to show intended layout which is important to maximise the number of vehicles it contains. The sketch below attempts to show how it was envisaged that car would park at an angle on either side this giving sufficient room for a car to reverse out of the car park. If cars are parked square to the side, it greatly restricts the number of cars. Please bear this in mind when parking.

On another matter the gate with the angler's lock. Please ensure that when you re padlock it that the padlocks are joined together. This ensures that any of the 3 padlocks will be able to unlock the gate.



Have you Updated your preference in Clubmate?

Just a reminder that if you have not yet done so, please take 5 minutes to update your preferences in clubmate.

Preference	Status
System and club messages	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Email	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
SMS Messages	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
GWFFA WhatsApp Group - Fishing Information	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
GWFFA WhatsApp Group - Fly Tying	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
GWFFA Newsletter	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Use of Photographs in GWFFA Newsletter and Website	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Use of Photographs on GWFFA Facebook Page	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

This Newsletter has been sent out under 'system and club messages' ideally, we would filter to send to only those who have ticked GWFFA Newsletter and Email. Going forward we will be doing this, therefore if you have not updated your preferences, you will stop receiving some communications from the club. If you would like to be part of the WhatsApp groups and have changed you preferences to reflect this please email me so I pick this up and add you to the group/s at membership@gwffa.co.uk

The other area to check is the 'Profile Tab'. This is your address, email and contact numbers. Please check that this is all correct. If you have not already done so please consider listing an emergency contact and thier number. If you have difficulties with this please let me know.

Is this of interest?

I recently attended a village organised course on how to recognise heart attacks and how to provide first responder help. This was via CPR plus we were shown how to use a defibrillator. We also had a hands-on session on dummy's etc to practice our life saving skills. The course lasted 2.5 hours with no breaks.

I had a word with the course provider and they would be willing to come to Grafham and present to us if we are interested. At our village evening we had 21 people. I expect we might have more people which may limit the hands on, but you would still come away with I hope the confidence to tackle an emergency and use the equipment if available.

We are interested to know if this a subject that would be of interest to our members. If there is sufficient interest, we may be able to arrange a session in the new year as part of our winter programme. Or perhaps separately to allow more time.



Mark Brinkman

Please contact me on membership@gwffa.co.uk