

# Grafham Water Fly Fishers

## February 2024 Newsletter



### Welcome to our February Newsletter



February gives us a short break between fishing seasons and the opportunity to do things like clean our fly lines (🧼) and tie some buzzers for early season. Our fly-tying WhatsApp group is a great place for inspiration for new flies or improvements to your favourites.

Welcome to all of our new members and welcome back to all those renewing their membership for another year. We still have a couple of Winter meetings this season and our full timetable of fishing events is now available on the website. I hope there is something for everyone! Please let me know if you have any new ideas for events or winter speakers. Lianne

Chair Lianne Frost

## Winter Programme

We have had some very good attendances at the winter evenings, most have been 'in person' meetings but where the content suited, we have live streamed the evening using Zoom. By moving our presentations into the lodge downstairs training room, we have an improved Wi-Fi signal and in the main the Zoom connection has worked OK. For the most recent talk given by Chris Bobby & Lianne on boat fishing on Grafham we had over 60 attendees with about 30 people joining online. Of course, they do miss out on Stuart's sandwiches and chips! **The next session will be on Tuesday 20th February**, a presentation by Tom Bird from Fisheries Management UK who run Draycote, Eyebrook and Thornton. Tom will be joining us to talk about the trends in fisheries today and his vision for the future of still waters. This will be a very interesting evening. You may be aware this talk was originally to be given by Ifor Jones, who sadly has recently passed away. He will be a great loss to many of our members, fishing and our sport. We are though delighted that Tom has agreed to present to us.

## 2023 Season Big Fish Winners

We have a monthly £10.00 prize for the largest fish caught in either Grafham, Rutland or Pitsford Water. Ravensthorpe is excluded as Anglian Water stock some big fish there every season. The prize is for Rainbow and Brown trout, the Browns of course must be returned alive with the minimum of handling. We ask that the fish are weighed in the landing net, then just subtract the weight of the net. The only other condition for entry is that the weighing must be witnessed by either a GWFFA member or Ranger and the entry has to include a picture. Ideally of yourself and the fish or just the fish. As you can see some cracking fish have been caught.

Below are last season's winners.

**April 23 – Ben Gumm Grafham 5lb 3oz**



**May 23 – Andy Bayford, Grafham 5lb 9oz**



**June 23 – Mick Jamieson, Pitsford 5lb 5oz**



**August 23 – Alex Green, Rutland 7lb 3oz**



**September 23 – Mark Bambrick, Pitsford 5lb 2oz**



**October 23 – Lianne Frost, Grafham 8lb 8oz**



**November 23 – Alan Briggs, Grafham 8lb 5oz**



**December 23 – Alex Green, Grafham 5lb 5oz**



**January 24 – Philip Sorensen, Grafham 4lb 8oz**



## Grafham Bank Clearance

The bank clearance has been well supported with on two occasions 23 people attending. We have made a real impact on access to some of the key spots. We have 2 more planned sessions remaining on 19<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> February after this date we move into bird nesting season and restrictions on what can be cut. Also, we are then into the fishing season!

For the next sessions we will be tackling the Seat and Sailing Club Bay. We had hoped to work on the Sludge Bank, but we will run out of time to do this until later in the year. A new car park has been cleared for access to the Seat next to Duberly Close. Anglian Water are waiting for the ground to dry out to allow a tractor onto the site to level the ground. Once levelled a matting will be installed which is designed for the grass to grow through to provide a firm surface. The car park should hold up to approx. 10 cars.

We will though have a number of additional working parties to assist AW in installing two bridges over the stream in what's known as Wyndham's Way. This gives pedestrian access from the Plummer Car Park through to Sludge Point. We will be looking for volunteers to assist with this. They will be smaller than our usual group 5 or 6 people ideally with digging and bridge installation skills!

A few pictures of our efforts below. If you have any spare time on a Monday morning do come along and give a hand. Apart from a bit of exercise you get to meet up and have a social with other members and it is an enjoyable morning out. Plus, you get a few boat vouchers (one for every 4 sessions attended) which come in very handy for a day's fishing.



Plummer Park break time for bacon sandwiches



Pylon Point nearly finished



Clearing the new car park for the Seat

## GWFFA Activities 2024

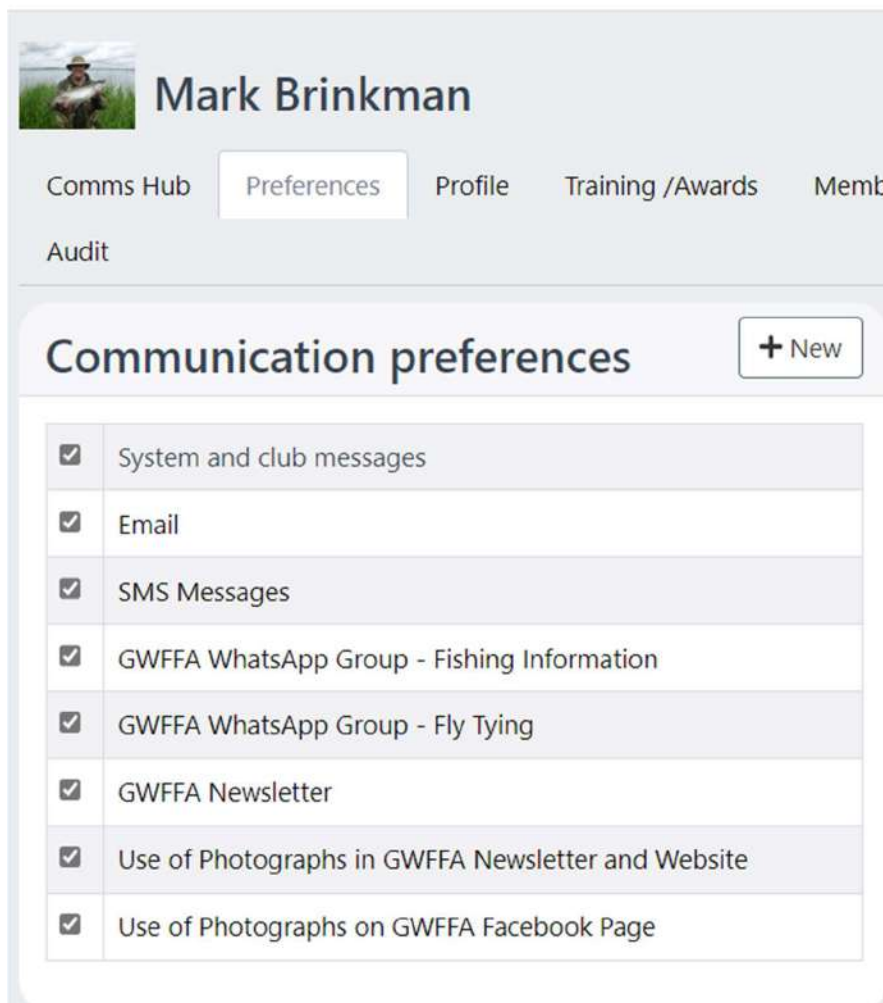
The following is the list of activities planned so far this year. Please refer to the GWFFA website for up-to-date information as this always has the full information. Most events are bookable through Clubmate where you can book in and pay for the boat cost. Fishing permits are the responsibility of the angler.

GWFFA Activities 2024				
DATE	DAY	EVENT	VENUE	ORGANISER
10 Feb 24 and 11 Feb 24	Saturday & Sunday	BFFI	Show Ground	
17-Feb-24	Saturday	A/W Open Day	Grafham	A/W
26-Mar-24	Tuesday	Social Boat Day 1	Grafham	C Faulkner
13-Apr-24	Saturday	1st Bank Match	Grafham	C Faulkner
17-Apr-24	Wednesday	GwFFA day at Ravensthorpe	Ravensthorpe	C Faulkner
20-Apr-24	Saturday	AMFC Association Day	Grafham	C Bobby/S Goodland
25-Apr-24	Thursday	Snowbee Practice Day	Grafham	C Faulkner
27-Apr-24	Saturday	Snowbee Floating Line	Grafham	Invicta
02-May-24	Thursday	Social Boat Day 2	Grafham	C Faulkner
05-May-24	Sunday	Group 1 round 2	Rutland	C Bobby
11-May-24	Saturday	1st Boat Match	Grafham	C Faulkner
12-May-24	Sunday	Group 3 round 2	Rutland	S Goodland
14-May-24	Tuesday	TEST DAY	TIMSBURY	C Faulkner
25-May-24	Saturday	TEST DAY	TIMSBURY	C Faulkner
02-Jun-24	Sunday	Group 1 round 3	Pitsford	C Bobby
11-Jun-24	Tuesday	GwFFA day at Pitsford	Pitsford	C Faulkner
16-Jun-24	Sunday	Dry Fly Day and BBQ	Ravensthorpe	C Faulkner
22-Jun-24	Saturday	Group 3 round 3	Draycote	S Goodland
23-Jun-24	Sunday	Social Boat Day 3	Grafham	C Faulkner
29-Jun-24	Saturday	2nd Boat Match	Grafham	C Faulkner
03-Jul-24	Wednesday	GwFFA day at Eyebrook	Eyebrook	C Faulkner
06-Jul-24	Saturday	Group 1 round 4	Eyebrook	C Bobby
13-Jul-24	Saturday	Group 3 round 4 (or Sun 14th)	Eyebrook	S Goodland
20-Jul-24	Saturday	Members Day	Grafham	C Faulkner
21-Aug-24	Wednesday	Social Boat Day 4	Grafham	C Faulkner
25-Aug-24	Sunday	Maitland Trophy (provisional)	Rutland	R/WFF
08-Sep-24	Sunday	3rd Boat Match	Grafham	C Faulkner
14-Sep-24	Saturday	Group 3 round 5	Pitsford	S Goodland
19-Sep-24	Thursday	Social Boat Day 5	Grafham	C Faulkner
28-Sep-24	Saturday	Group 1 round 5	Draycote	C Bobby
29-Sep-24	Sunday	2nd Bank Match	Grafham	C Faulkner
05-Oct-24	Saturday	AMFC Association Day	Bewl	C Bobby/S Goodland
13-Oct-24	Sunday	Social Boat Day 6	Grafham	C Faulkner
27-Oct-24	Sunday	Hinckley Shield (provisional)	Grafham	INVICTA(CF for GwFFA)
10-Nov-24	Sunday	3rd Bank Match	Grafham	C Faulkner
23-Nov-24	Saturday	Winter Plate	Grafham	C Faulkner
Key		AMFC Groups 1 & 3		
		GwFFA Bank Match		
		GwFFA Boat Match		

# Clubmate Update

Clubmate has proved to be a very positive move for the club in terms of numbers of members joining but also the management of member data, events and finance. For the member data each member updates their own, so we trust that this is updated if there are changes. One aspect that we will move to after the AGM is the adoption of member preferences in our communications. Until now we have used a system override to allow emails to be sent out to all members regardless of the preferences set. This was to allow members to familiarise themselves with Clubmate and to update their accounts. I am pleased to say that 97.2% of the members have updated their preference just leaving a few to do so. If you are one of the 2.8% who have not yet done so, could you please take 5 minutes to update them. We intend to observe preferences after the AGM so if you have not set yours to receive emails or Newsletter you will cease to receive them. This is so the club complies with GDPR rules and does not send you unwanted communications. If you have any difficulty updating them, please let me know and I can always update them for you from an email instruction.

While checking preferences please also check for any inaccuracies or changes to your address or contact information. It's also handy to have an emergency contact name and number on your account just in case it should ever be needed. It's also handy to have your picture on the account though not essential.



The screenshot shows a user profile for Mark Brinkman. The profile includes a navigation menu with options: Comms Hub, Preferences (selected), Profile, Training /Awards, and Memb Audit. Below the navigation is a section titled "Communication preferences" with a "+ New" button. A table lists various communication preferences, all of which are checked.

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"/>

# Anglian Water Grafham Open Day Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2024

10am – 3pm

Anglian Water are holding an open day at Grafham this year for purchase of season tickets and have a special additional shop discount offer for those purchasing on the day. GWFFA will be in attendance where Peter Hartley will be holding a casting clinic plus opportunity to try different tackle set ups. It is always very worthwhile trying out different weight and action rods to see what suits your casting style.

Information below from Anglian Water season ticket holder letter.

## Fly Fishing Opening Dates for 2024/25

This year the fisheries open on the following dates: Ravensthorpe: Friday the 23rd of February Pitsford: Saturday the 24th of February, Grafham: Friday the 1st of March, Rutland: Friday the 8th of March. As per last year, with its increasing popularity, we will also be opening for fly fishing for Predators, from the 1st of May.

## Pricing for 2024/5

Season tickets are priced as follows:

Ticket	Boat Limit	Bank Limit	Day Limit (Ravensthorpe)*	Season Limit	Price
Gold	8 + C&R	8 + C&R	2 + C&R	500	£1,250
Silver	8 + C&R	6 + C&R	2 + C&R	180	£840
Bronze	4 + C&R	4 + C&R	1 + C&R	65	£750
Sporting	1 + C&R	1 + C&R	1 + C&R	25	£655
Starter*	4 + C&R	4 + C&R	1 + C&R	65	£380
Predator	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	£380

Please note that the sporting ticket is not valid when fishing competitions. If you wish to fish a match that has a higher limit than your Season ticket allows, a day ticket with the correct kill limit must be purchased. Anglers can also enjoy all the benefits of a Predator season ticket with the silver and gold options; however, all season tickets allow for fly fishing for Predators (rules and dates apply). Starter, Sporting and Bronze do not allow lure fishing or dead-baiting for predators. \*Starter season tickets will now be valid for the full season, previously they were only valid for 8 months. Starter season tickets can only be taken for a maximum of two seasons.

\*Whilst season ticket holders still have a reduced kill limit on Ravensthorpe, season ticket members no longer have a cap on how many times a week they can visit Ravensthorpe.

Season Tickets and Catch Returns Season tickets are available to buy now at full price on our website, however as with previous seasons, season ticket holders who renew are entitled to a discount of £25 off the sporting, bronze and silver tickets and £50 off the Gold.



This season we will not be issuing 'books' to season ticket holders, instead season ticket holders will be given a credit card style season ticket. These will feature your name, season ticket type, expiry date and your photo. No season tickets will be released without a photo, so you must bring a passport style photo in when you pick up your season ticket. Multistage payments: Customers can still take advantage of the multi-stage payment facility, however this cannot be done online, so customers must visit either Rutland, Grafham or Pitsford lodges to purchase a season ticket with multi-stage. Please complete the additional form before coming into the lodge and don't forget to bring your photo. Online system This will be our first season of opening with the new online system. If you haven't done so already, we recommend creating an account on our website: [www.anglianwaterparks.co.uk](http://www.anglianwaterparks.co.uk). Due to the catch returns moving online, season ticket holders will no longer be automatically issued with any paper catch returns to complete. Instead, all season ticket holders will be asked to complete their catch returns online at [www.anglianwaterparks.co.uk/catchreturnform](http://www.anglianwaterparks.co.uk/catchreturnform). If you have created an account, the system will record how many fish you have taken for the season. With the online system, season ticket holders no longer need to submit a 'did-not-fish' catch return, instead they just need to complete a catch return after every trip. For customers without an email address, paper catch returns can be issued to season ticket holders if requested in the lodge. As a reminder it is a condition of having a season ticket that holders must complete their catch returns.

## British Fly Fair International Stafford

There was a very strong turnout of GWFFA members for the BFFI held in Stafford on 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> February. This year seemed even busier than ever on the Saturday that I attended. It was great to see fly tying techniques with demonstrations from experts and an easy way of spending lots of money! I took a list this year and stuck to it. I was pleased to say that I managed to get everything that I wanted. A very useful day despite a long drive, and a great social event meeting up with members and fellow fly fishers.



# GWFFA Annual Dinner and Award's Night

I am delighted to confirm that we will be holding this year's Annual Dinner and Awards night at 1930hrs on Saturday 9th March at The Harbour View restaurant, Grafham Lodge.

This evening is our annual evening to celebrate the season and to look forward to the year ahead. We very much hope you will join us, and we hope you will be accompanied by your wife/partner.

The menu is as follows:

**Starter** - French Onion Soup with cheese croutons or Smoked Trout Mousse with toasted ciabatta

**Main Course** - Slow Roasted Beef Brisket with horseradish mash and red wine jus

Or

Chicken Breast stuffed with cream cheese and sundried tomatoes with roasted new potatoes and a creamy white wine sauce.

Or

Roasted Vegetable and Lentil Wellington with a tomato sauce.

All served with Seasonal Vegetables.

**Dessert** - Homemade Treacle Tart with Custard or Homemade Vanilla Cheesecake with a mixed berry compote.

After Dinner Chocolates and Coffee

Tickets will be £37.00 per person and will include red or white wine on the table with dinner.

There will also be a pay bar.

Please can you email me ([tophergfaulkner@gmail.com](mailto:tophergfaulkner@gmail.com)) if you will be joining us and I will also need your menu choices by Thursday 29th February

We look forward to an enjoyable evening where we will also present all the awards and cash prizes for the 2023 year.

## Picture Annual Dinner 2023



## Dates For Your Diary

Saturday 17 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Anglian Wate Open Day 9am to 5pm	Grafham Water
Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> Feb	GWFFA Bank Clearance 9.30am to 2pm	Meet at the Boatshed
Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Tom Bird Trends in Fishery Management 7.30pm	Harbour View Restaurant
Monday 26 <sup>th</sup> Feb	GWFFA Bank Clearance 9.30am to 2pm	Meet at the Boatshed
Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> March	GWFFA AGM 7.30pm	Lodge Training Room
Saturday 9 <sup>th</sup> March	GWFFA Annual Dinner & Awards 7.30pm	Harbour View Restaurant
Tuesday 26 <sup>th</sup> March	GWFFA 1 <sup>st</sup> Social Boat Day	Grafham
Saturday 13 <sup>th</sup> April	GWFFA 1 <sup>st</sup> Bank Match	Grafham