

Grafham Water Fly Fishers September 2024 Newsletter



Welcome to our September Newsletter

I think I have said on here before that I am a bit of a fair-weather angler, so I haven't been fishing much in the recent hot weather. However, I did have a super day out at the members day though, catching some nice fish at Gaynes and the dam and enjoying the BBQ that Christopher did for us. As I write this I am enjoying some cooler fishing at Clywedog in Wales. If you've never been there then I highly recommend it.

Mark Brinkman and his hardy group of bank clearers have had a few heroic sessions around the lake in the hot weather which has made a big difference to some of the bank fishing areas. Mark has also been working hard for the last year to get AW to repair and open access from the Plummer car park to Sludge and I am very pleased to report that work has now been done.

I'll hopefully see many of you at the lake as September brings some hopefully better conditions!

Lianne Frost



GWFFA Dry Fly Day – Ravensthorpe 16th June 2024

This is one of the most popular days on the club's calendar and this year was no exception, you had to book early to ensure your place. The day was expertly managed by Christopher Faulkner Club Captain who in addition to running the day, single handedly prepared an excellent BBQ for our lunch. The day is sponsored by Peter Waterhouse of Scottie Products. Peter was able to fish with us this year and present the prizes. He also managed to arrange a near perfect dry fly day, dry with a soft wind and some cloud cover, perfect! The day is very much a family day, and it was great to see James Stuart and Simon Goodland fishing with their sons.

The fishing proved to be a little more challenging than last year where the top bag was Tony Fox with 29 fish. This year Chris Bobby took top honours for the day with 13 fish. Chris had a cracking afternoon. Christopher Faulkner put up a prize of 2 bottles of wine for the best boat by lunchtime. This was won by Mark Brinkman and Steve Cracknell who between them had 12 fish to the boat. Chris at lunchtime had only 4 fish. For most the afternoon was the more difficult part of the day, but Chirs managed a further 9 to complete his winning bag.

A super day which was enjoyed by all.



Captains briefing, BBQ & Prize winners





Top rod Chris Booby presented with the Scottie Trophy by our sponsor Peter Waterhouse

Update from the Club Captain

During June July and August we held 6 events, including a day at Rutland, and a total of 45 members fished, some fishing every event and some only one but it's great to see so many members playing an active part in the Club.

It also included 5 new members using their new member offer and I would like to encourage new members in 2023 and 2024 to take advantage of the social day for £5. We only have a couple left –9th September and 13th October.

In September and October, we have the following events

- Sunday 8th September 3rd Boat Match
- Thursday 19th September Social Day
- Sunday 29th September Bank Match
- Sunday 13th October Social Day
- Sunday 27th October The Hinkley Shield. – anyone wanting to fish the Hinkley Shield please email Christopher (captain@gwffa.co.uk) and request a place. The Team will be confirmed by Mon 14th October

Christopher Faulkner

Some pictures from recent events:



GWFFA social boat day 3rd July
Rutland Water



August Social day supported by
Wheatley Fly Boxes at Grafham Water

Prize winners; Steve Cracknell,
Christopher Faulkner & Neil Squires

AMFC Group 1 Round 4

The 4th round of Group 1 of the AMFC took place on 6 July at Grafham. Beforehand the fishing had been hard but fish were being taken at Valley Creek and at the dam. During the week AW stocked everything changed. Fish were evident at the lodge, the seat and into Gaynes. Lianne and Chris opted for the South Corner of the dam and found the stockies had already found their way to the dam where they had pushed the residents away and gathered in large numbers in shallows along plummer. Chris was the first to finish completing his 12 fish bag by 2:30. James and Simon started near the lodge looking for a few bigger fish before switching to the seat to complete their limits. David and Philip were taken for a ride around the lake and found a few fish on the north shore before switching back to the south shore. A great team performance meant that we won the match with 59 fish which was 5 fish more than the all-star Tunbridge Wells team. As a result, we moved off the bottom of the league 1 point ahead of Greylags but only 1 point behind both Bewl and Rutland. If we do well in our 2 remaining fixtures at Chew and Bewl then we should retain our place in Group one.

Chris Bobby

Maitland Trophy Sunday 25th August – Rutland Water

This year it was the turn of Rutland Water Fly fishers to organise the Maitland trophy which took place on 25 August. The timing was unfortunate as quite a few people could not make the bank holiday weekend, however, the enthusiasm of the GWFFA anglers was clear as we had a full team of 16 and as well lent anglers to all the other teams to make sure they had the minimum 10 anglers.

The forecast weather for the week was dire – a mixture of wind, rain, sun and a lot more wind. For once it was spot on as the match started with a strong wind which got steadily stronger as the day went on. Limited practice had identified fish were to be found close in all the way around the peninsula and also from the Sailing club to the Lodge and down towards the Church. We split the team and those that stayed near the lodge were quickly into fish on a variety of lines, but most were pulling on a fast glass intermediate with one or more boobies.

GWFFA retained the trophy with 54 fish from their top 10 anglers ahead of Invicta (47 fish), Rutland (37) and Mid Northants (24). The top individual angler was Rich Denney of GWFFA who caught an impressive 11 fish. Many thanks to Douglas Rods and Wading Waters for sponsoring this event once again.

The Maitland Trophy is an annual match that we fish against Rutland Water Fly Fishers in memory of John Maitland. In recent years the teams have now widened to include Invicta and Mid Northants making this a popular event in the clubs' calendars.



Maitland Trophy Evening meal in the Rutland Lodge.



Winning Team GWFFA

We managed to retain the trophy for a second year



Chris Bobby receiving trophy on behalf of the GWFFA Team



Richard Denney Top Rod on day with 11 fish

The event was very well supported by Douglas Rods. A picture of some of the prizes below.



GWFFA Activities. Up and coming events.

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
27-Sep-24	Friday	Group 1 round 5	Chew Valley	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
01-Dec-24	Sunday	Winter Plate	Grafham	C Faulkner
<p>Key</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> AMFC Groups 1 & 3 GWFFA Bank Match GWFFA Boat Match 				

GWFFA Grafham Bank Clearance

This year bank clearance has been going now since June. We have made substantial progress on clearing Pylon & Deepwater Point however we need to revisit these to take off the higher bank growth. Pig Bay and Hedge End have been fully cleared.

We still have a lot to do. With the damp conditions the banks have quickly been reclaimed by brambles and willows and we need to keep on top of this to maintain bank access.



A few pictures above on recent work on Pig Bay and Hedge End.

The working parties apart from a bit of light exercise are enjoyable and play a real part in keeping the banks open and accessible. If you have not already done so please do consider coming along. We work from 09.30am to about 2pm. For every 4 sessions attended there is a free boat voucher. Next sessions as below.

Mon	Mon	Mon	Mon	Mon	Mon	Mon	Mon	Mon	Mon	Mon	Mon	Mon
9th	23rd	7th	21st	4th	18th	2nd	16th	6th	20th	3rd	17th	24th
Sept	Sept	Oct	Oct	Nov	Nov	Dec	Dec	Jan	Jan	Feb	Feb	Feb

Newsletter Articles

We are always interested to have member contributions to the Newsletter. If you have tips to share or would like to see certain topics covered in the newsletter, please let me know. All contributions gratefully received.

Mark Brinkman

Editor.

The GWFFA Committee

Below contact details and committee roles.

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