

Grafham Water Fly Fishers Association

December Newsletter 2024



Season's Greetings



The club fishing days are now all complete for the year, although for the hardy the Shrimpmasters matches will continue through December and January with additional dates to replace those cancelled due to high winds. Wind certainly does seem to be a feature now and not only in the UK with usually predictable weather subject to change. It does make planning fishing days and holidays a bit of a challenge!

Although the fishing days have finished, we have the winter programme held on alternate Tuesday evenings at the Grafham Lodge to look forward to. This kicked off with our customary fly-tying evening and social on 12th November, a chance to see some of the members 'must have patterns'. On 26th November Gareth Jones from Airflow gave an interesting talk on fly line manufacture and all the thought, materials and processes involved. And I at last learnt how to easily take the twists out of fly lines without dragging them behind a boat. On 10th December Martin Webster of Selectafly gave a talk and slide show of some of the destinations around the world that he has fished and the species to fish for. He has travelled extensively and caught some fantastic fish on his trips. It does certainly whet the appetite to fish beyond the UK.

Coming Up

Tuesday 14th January - Matt Harris – Fish Photography and Destination Fishing

Matt is a highly experienced angler, fly fisher and fish photographer who has fished extensively with destinations worldwide. The focus of the evening though will be on fish photography and how to best capture the image of your trophy fish. An evening not to be missed.

Tuesday 28th January - Chris Bobby – Dry Fly Fishing

Chris as you may be aware is a very experienced boat, bank and competition angler and is highly successful fishing dry fly. Grafham fished very well this year on dries and Chris took great advantage of this, many anglers though tend to turn to dries as a last resort if normal tactics are not working. Chris is going to explain the techniques, tackle and tactics to make you a successful dry fly angler.

Tuesday 11th February – John Wadham - Changing Water Ecology at Rutland Water

John is President of Rutland Water Fly Fishers and has fished Rutland extensively over many years. In recent years there have been newcomers to the water such as quagga mussels, zebra mussels, demon shrimps, killer shrimps and the like which have had a bearing on the water and its ecology. John is going to share with us work he has done studying the changing ecology of Rutland and what that might mean to anglers.

Tuesday 25th February – Anglian Water Review and Fly-Tying Competition Results

This is our customary evening with Anglian Water to reflect on the past season and news for the coming season. With the pending acquisition of Draycote Water and the potential changes to the waters we fish it will be an interesting session.

Following the Anglian Water presentation we have our new fly-tying competition results. This has two classes the Open Trophy for experienced tiers which is the 'Robertson Trophy' and the novice trophy which is the 'Hurren Trophy'. All flies will be on display and our judges will announce the winners. If you have not yet entered there is still time to do so. Please refer to the email and WhatsApp previously sent out from Club Captain Christopher Faulkner.

Membership Renewal

If you have already renewed your membership thank you, no further action is required. If you have yet to do so what a perfect Christmas present to yourself!

If you look at the Clubmate App a yellow bar will appear above the membership tab. (please note that this stays there through the renewal window even after you have renewed membership)

To renew membership just click on the membership tab and this will take you through to check your details and then take out a new membership. Please note that the Family Membership option has been removed and instead all juniors up to the age of 18 can take out free membership. Please don't forget if you have renewed your adult membership to renew any junior family members through their own Clubmate account. If you have any difficulties in this please let me know.

Also, for those members who joined us after September their membership has been extended until the end of 2025. Again, if you have any queries please let me know.

Mark Brinkman GWFFA Membership Secretary Email: membership@gwffa.co.uk Mobile 07484 659549

Grafham Bank Clearance

This continues though to the end of February. We have made some good progress this year as we started earlier, just as well given the rate of re growth of the willows etc. The next big push is to re-open Wyndham's Way. This is a path that leads from the end of Plummer car park round Gains Cove to Sludge Point and the Seat. It has been closed due to the bridge being washed away. This has now been replaced just upstream from the old bridge, but the way is blocked by a fallen tree. Our next job is to remove this and clear the path right round to sludge point. This is planned for Monday 6th January. All welcome to come and give a hand.

If you have any spare time on Monday mornings do consider coming along and joining the working party. Apart from a bit of exercise it's a good social and a chance to meet members and discover new fishing spots.

We meet alternate Mondays at the Grafham boatshed by 09.30am and wrap up by 2pm. There is also a FOC boat voucher for every 4th session attended and a bacon roll and coffee on the day.

Next sessions:

Mon 6th Jan	Mon 20th Jan	Mon 3rd Feb	Mon 17th Feb	Mon 24th Feb
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Clearing Plummer Bank



Recent Events

Anglian Water Fur & Feather + Shrimpmasters – Sunday 15th December



The second match of the Shrimpmasters series and AW fur and feather was fishing on Sunday 15th December after storms Bert and Darragh had caused cancellations of the previous two events.

24 anglers caught a total of 73 fish and 3 anglers had their 6 fish limits. Overall winner was David Hoppe who's 6 fish weighed 13lb 07oz, finishing just ahead of Jamie Thomas who had 5 fish for 12lb 10oz

Steve Cracknell came 3rd and top rod in the Shrimpmasters with 4 quality fish the best being 4lb 09oz

John Archer – Best fish



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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