



The Association of Major Flyfishing Clubs

2009 Newsletter

All the Results – All the Reports – Each Month

APRIL – The Spring Association Match

Editorial

The unexpected and LATE decision by Northumberland Water to allow ANY METHOD on their only southern *flyfishing* reservoir, HANNINGFIELD, has generated extreme attitudes within the Association.

Two Clubs and many individual anglers have said they will not fish there!

Northumberland Water argued that all their other reservoirs were 'any method' and there were no problems at these venues - *and that they needed additional revenue.*

It was reported at the meeting where Hanninfield F.C. was informed of this decision that the fishing was NOT functioning at a loss. Perhaps the real reason was associated with the corporate greed which has brought about the present economic situation. Let us hope that the fate that has befallen many banks – insolvency – does not happen at Hanningfield, because nobody is going to 'bail out' the fishing.

It must be a gamble because if fly fishers desert the water – and the Association became VERY close to removing the Spring Match to another venue

– it is difficult to see course anglers making up the shortfall, *and* increasing the revenue.

It was also a wrong decision because whilst course fisheries abound in the local area fly fisheries do not.

But the main stupidity was to consider reservoirs like Keilder as similar to Hanningfield.

Most of Northumberland Water's northern lakes are relatively sterile with (mostly) **natural** stocking by small browns. Hanningfield is one of the great eutropic southern reservoirs which **rely entirely on stocking with expensive (mostly) rainbows.** Many reservoirs similar to Hanningfield allow other

specific methods to catch specific species at specific times (Pike and Zander).

I know of no other water which throws in expensive trout and allows all methods to remove them. Is this 'cloud cuckoo land'?

I shall go to the Spring Match and as President of the Association I shall fish – albeit under protest. I must support the Association although as an individual I think that *at this time* it was probably the wrong decision to Fish **this match** at Hanningfield.

Every still water I knew, which could only maintain its entire stock through expensive stocking, and tried to increase the revenue by allowing all

'This looks like a good spot Mum, bring Grandma and the Kids'



other methods - **failed.** Unless this policy is changed I fear that Hanningfield may be doomed as a fishery.

A hidden agenda perhaps?

The New Hanningfield?

Spring Association Match Fished on an Enigmatic Hanningfield

It is difficult to understand how, on the same day, on the same reservoir, fishing the same areas, and using the same tactics, THREE anglers could catch their limits and seventeen blanked.

That is what happened in the Spring Association Match fished on Hanningfield on Friday 24th. April.

Conditions were not good for fly-fishing with bright sun all day. Sheltered from a South Easterly moderate wind it was warm. Out on the water the wind was quite cold. Under these conditions no one expected to see fish in the surface. There was a good hatch of various sizes and colour of buzzers all day and it might have been expected that at various depths buzzer patters would be successful.

The modern technique of fishing 3 or 4 buzzer patterns, at various depths, on a long leader and static on a floating line was the option that most anglers used at the start.

As the day progresses and anglers remained fishless all other methods, including pulling on fast sinkers were tried. All methods proved unsuccessful for all but the very few.

As can be seen in the picture, almost the whole fleet started the day in the peninsular and drifting across Atlantis. Most



stayed there all day! One or two boats started a drift across the Nature Reserve and one or two headed for the North Shore.

By the middle of the afternoon there was quite a lot of motoring about as anglers tried to find a few fish. Most boats stayed in the Peninsular area but a number of boats ended up on the North shore towards the end of the day. Here, one or two fish were caught, including the best fish of the day at 4lbs 4oz (in one of the Committee Boats).



John Hardy of Soldier Palmers 'A' Team was one of only three anglers to catch a limit. With the best actual weight and the best time bonus he was easily the winner of the best bag. He received the Eddie Gray Cup from Mike Clarke of Hanningfield F.A.

Most fish had buzzer in their stomachs, although daphnia

were also present in some fish. The three anglers who complete their limits used diverse methods which reflected this feeding pattern.

Generally however, those anglers who stayed with buzzers on a long leader and floating line did best. Although with seventeen blanks any fish could be regarded as a bonus.

It is unwise to propose luck as the deciding factor but there was little pattern to the fishing. Some fish was caught on the top dropper, early in the cast, less than four feet down. Others on the bottom dropper at the end of the cast, nearly twenty feet down close to the bottom.

Anglers who caught did so SLOWLY after hours of hard work. Hugh Frew of Bewl 'A' caught his three fish in the last hour of the match (and might have had more but got into a tangle, which cost him much time).

I cannot remember a Spring Association Match when the fishing was so difficult. Let us hope that matches in the Group Programme will provide some better fishing.

A few **bank anglers** were bait fishing and spinning, but even here most anglers were fly fishing. However the fishing was so difficult that the two clubs which withdrew on principle may have made the right decision.

All the Individual Results – also overleaf

GROUP ONE

Bewl Bridge F.C.'A

Jim McGonigle	0
Hugh Frew	3 6lbs 2oz
Steve Collins	8 17lbs
Dave Withers	1 2lbs 8oz
TOTAL	25lbs 10oz

Fish Hawks 'A'

Paddy Mounter	1 2lbs 6oz
Phil Thomas	4 7lbs 12oz
Ian Baker	1 1lb 6oz
Al Gamble	6 10lbs 6oz
TOTAL	21lbs 14oz

Hanningfield 'A'

Nathan Ineson	8 14lbs 12oz
Alan Stern	2 3lbs 8oz
Ashley Livermore	2 4lbs 2oz
Phil Shaw-Brown	4 6lbs 14oz
TOTAL	29lbs 4oz

Rutland Water F.F.

Mike Barratt	2 3lbs 12oz
Garry Cooper	0
Peter Gover	0
Richard Cooper	3 5lbs 8oz
TOTAL	9lbs 4oz

Soldier Palmers 'A'

John Hardy	8 20lbs 14oz
Mark Rose	2 4lbs
Andy Everett	5 12lbs 4oz
Dick Turpin	1 1lb 14oz
TOTAL	39lbs

Rod Average 3.1

Average Weight 11b 15oz

Positions

- 1 Soldier Palmers 'A'
- 2 Hanningfield F.A.
- 3 Bewl Bridge F.C. 'A'
- 4 Fish Hawks 'A'
- 5 Rutland Water F.F.

**Best Fish 3lbs 12oz
John Hardy (Sold. Palmers)**

**Best Bag 20lbs 14oz
John Hardy (Sold. Palmers)**

GROUP TWO

Bristol Reservoirs F.A.

Andre Gysler	0
Sag Griffiths	1 2lbs 4oz
Paul Crook	0
Lee Bartlett	4 9lbs
TOTAL	11lbs 4oz

Grafham Water F.F.A. 'A'

Peter Hartley	0
Tony Starling	6 10lbs 4oz
Richard Kesek	0
John Weaver	1 1lb 14oz
TOTAL	11LBS 4OZ

Iver F.C.

No Show

Queen Mother F.F.

No Show

Royal Navy/Marines

Neil Jones	1 3lbs 4oz
Dave Morton	3 3lbs 8oz
Stu Ellins	5 8lbs 8oz
Chris Anderson	5 9lbs 2oz
TOTAL	24lbs 6oz

Rod Average 2.2

Average Weight 11b 13oz

Positions

- 1 Royal Navy/Marines
 - 2 Grafham Water F.A. 'A'
 - 3 Bristol Reservoirs F.A.
- No Show**

Iver F.C.

Queen Mother F.F.

**Best Fish 3lbs 4oz
Neil Jones (Navy/Marines)**

**Best Bag 10lbs 4oz
Tony Starling (G.W.F.F.A.)**

GROUP THREE

Bewl Bridge F.C. 'B'

Ray French	2 4lbs 2oz
Bob Shaw	4 7lbs 4oz
Mick Phipps	1 1lb 14oz
Nick Cox	1 2lbs 6oz
TOTAL	15lbs 10oz

Crawley F.C.

Bob Sanger	0
Alan Hall	0
Ian Sharpe	0
Martyn Burrows	1 1lb 6oz
TOTAL	1lb 6oz

Fish Hawks 'B'

Keith Jones	3 5lbs 14oz
Si Gaines	5 10lbs 14oz
Keith Gilchrest	1 1lb 12oz
Mark O'Neil	
TOTAL	18lbs 8oz

Invicta F.C. 'A'

Alan Taylor	4 7lbs 14oz
Mike Smith	6 9lbs 14oz
Andy Newman	3 5lbs 9oz
John Brownbridge	3 7lbs 4oz
TOTAL	30lbs 8oz

Soldier Palmers 'B'

Gary Cullen	1 1lb 12oz
Jamie Thomas	6 10lbs 8oz
Dave Froggatt	0
Rob Jackson	1 2lbs 8oz
TOTAL	14lbs 12oz

Rod Average 2.1

Average Weight 11b 15oz

Positions

- 1 Invicta F.C.'A'
- 2 Fish Hawks 'B'
- 3 Bewl Bridge F.C. 'B'
- 4 Soldier Palmers 'B'
- 5 Crawley F.C.

**Best Fish 3lbs 14oz
Si Gaines (Fish Hawks 'B')**

**Best Bag 10lbs 14oz
Si Gaines (Fish Hawks 'B')**

Detailed results for

GROUP FOUR

East Midlands T.F.A.

Graham Bodsworth	4	7lbs 14oz
John Duffield	2	4lbs
Mick Facey	0	
Tim Leech	2	3lbs 2oz
TOTAL		15lbs

Grafham Water F.F.A. 'B'

Kevin Appleton	3	6lbs 14oz
Steven Ellerbeck	1	2lbs 8oz
Chris Lane	1	1lb 10oz
Derek Bravington	1	12lbs 12oz
TOTAL		12lbs 12oz

Invicta F.C. 'B'

Norman Shippey	0	
Oscar Boatfield	0	

TOTAL	0	

TUNBRIDGE Wells F.F.S.

Andy Sawyer	0	
Bob Holland	1	3lbs 6oz
Scott Benton	0	
Richard Lovett	1	1lb 12oz
TOTAL		5lbs 2oz

Rod Average 1.1

Average Weight 2lbs 1oz

Positions

- 1 East Midlands T.F.A.
- 2 Grafham Water F.F.A. 'B'
- 3 Tunbridge Wells F.F.S.
- 4 Invicta F.C. 'b'

Best Fish 3lbs 8oz
Kevin Appleton (Grafham)

Best Bag 7lbs 14oz
Graham Bodsworth (E. Mid)

***East Midlands T.F.A.
Winners Group Four***



***Invicta F.C. 'A'
Winners Group Three***



***Soldier Palmers 'A' Team
Winners Group One and Best Team Overall***

