

Fishery News

Week ending 8 March 2009

- **Perfect start to the new season at Pitsford Water**
Early risers rewarded with quick limits and plenty of good quality fish caught in fine spring weather
- **11lb 2oz Rainbow is best to date at Ravensthorpe**
Great Rainbow for Graham Smith of Northampton
- **Bob's brilliant day at Ravensthorpe**
10lb 14oz Rainbow for Bob Day
- **Countdown to opening**
Grafham Water opens Saturday 14 March
New Lodge Trophy for best fish

Rutland Water opens Wednesday 1 April
Independence Day Trophy for best fish

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Rutland Water 01780 686441; Grafham Water 01480 810531;
Pitsford, Ravensthorpe & Hollowell 01604 781350,
Taverham Mills Fishery 01603 861014; Alton Water 01473 589105
Recreation Dept Anglian Water 01572 653021

Pitsford Water

Anglers fishing Pitsford Water on opening day enjoyed a terrific start to the new season with lots of good quality fish caught in the fine spring weather. Andy Taylor, a season ticket holder, travelled from Bury St Edmunds, hoping his 6.30 am arrival would guarantee him a prime spot on the bank. Andy squeezed into a slot and made an impressive start to the season. He estimated that he returned in excess of 25 fish including a rainbow of over 10lb. Andy caught them all on a slimeline and a fritz lure. He fished in the Stone Barn area. Amongst the `names' attracted to Pitsford's opening day were, 2009 England Team Manager Craig Barr who fished with England Ladies International Martha Thompson.

George Thrall of Melton Mowbray fished on Saturday with Terry Newton. The pair enjoyed a great morning, by 7.30am they had both caught fish quickly on lures, then they switched to buzzers to slow up! This didn't work as the pair had taken their limits by 10.30am. Chris Binley bank fished with his son on Saturday, and they both took

their limits easily. Graham Emms, of Spalding, fished on Saturday and took an easy limit. Graham headed away from the other bank anglers in search of some overwintered fish, he was rewarded with a 4lb Rainbow from Sailing Club Bay.

Martin Howell of Maulden, Bedfordshire, caught six fish on a boat on Sunday with one weighing 9lb 15oz. He fished an orange Fritz lure on a di3 in North Farm Bay.

Bank fishing is possibly the best bet at present with the usual early season top spots like the Gorse and Bog Bay and Stone Barn Point and Bay. Boat fishing is best in the areas where the wind is blowing on to the banks. The Causeway, North Farm Bay and Stone Barn Bay are worth a try.

Ravensthorpe Reservoir

Fish week 301 (season 507) returns 60 (93) rod average 5.0 (5.4)

Only days into the new season at Ravensthorpe anglers are taking a number of big fish. Graham Smith, of Northampton, landed the best fish of the season so far - an 11lb 2oz Rainbow taken from a boat with an orange blob. The best fish from the bank to date - a Rainbow of 10lb 14oz, was taken by Bob Day of Silverstone. Mick Foster of Brixworth, fishing from the Dam, took a 10lb 4oz Rainbow with a black Pea. Boat anglers have had the cream of the sport at Ravensthorpe with plenty of hard fighting fish being caught on various methods ie. deep down on sinking lines with orange blobs - black pea - cats whiskers etc, also on floating and intermediate lines with buzzers and diawl bachs etc.

Ravensthorpe regular Pat Flynn, of Northampton, has continued his 2008 season form with many good catches this week. His best tally being 41 fish on Friday, all taken on a Di3 line with black and green and orange lures.

The majority of fish caught were mainly in the 1³/₄lb-2lb bracket with some noteworthy overwintered 3-4lb fish in excellent condition being accounted for.

Bank anglers have found that sport improved later in the day as conditions improved. The Platforms and Dam have all produced fish and have accounted for some of the larger fish. Bank tactics are similar to boat angler tactics.

Best Rainbow 11lb 2oz taken by Graham Smith

Best Brown 3lb

Best boat areas Island, Domes and far side deep water

Best bank areas Mongers and low numbered platforms, also the Dam

Mid week boat winner Cliff Howard of Berwick upon Tweed

Fish stocked 210

Grafham Water opens Saturday 14 March

Grafham Water opens on Saturday 14 March. Anglers can fish for the New Lodge Trophy for the biggest fish caught on Opening Day. The Bob Church Open for the Frank Cutler Memorial Trophy is on 5 April.

Rutland Water opens Wednesday 1 April

Rutland Water re-opens with the Independence Day Trophy for the biggest fish.

Coarse fishing: Taverham

Notable catches recorded this week include Martin Thompson with a 26lb Common. Jon-Paul Thompson had commons of 23lb and 22lb, and Mirrors of 19lb 14oz and 16lb 5oz. Season ticket holder Matthew Dobson is continuing to record some of the best Mirrors at Taverham, his best this week were 20lb 8oz and 17lb 8oz. Mark Gray had a 19lb Mirror.