

Fishery News Week ending 21 March

• **Joan rustles up opening day winner at Grafham Water**
Joan Russell of Camberley wins New Lodge Trophy with 3lb 11½oz Rainbow

• **Tremendous sport at Ravensthorpe**
Rod average of 8 and best fish weighs 11lb 8oz
11lb 8oz Rainbow for Nick Mead of Hemel Hempstead

• **Bags aplenty at Pitsford Water**
Good bags with great weights and some over wintered fish

• **Counting down to 1 April**

Rutland Water opens Thursday 1 April

Rutland Water 01780 686441; Grafham Water 01480 810531; Pitsford, Ravensthorpe & Hollowell 01604 781350

Grafham Water

Grafham Water opened on Friday 19 April. Lady angler Joan Russell who partnered Rob Edmunds captured the largest fish of the day a fine Rainbow of 3lb 11½oz to win the New Lodge Trophy. Joan, from Camberley in Surrey, caught the fish on a black booby on a Di7 from Deep Water Point about 70 yards from the shore. There were numerous reports of large browns being caught and returned, with Pat Sweeney returning one of over 6lb from the G buoy area (Brown Trout are out of season until 1 April).

As the first day of the season got under way anglers started to catch along the Seat and the Sailing Club Bay area then later along the Lodge Bank as well as in Plummers and Gaynes Cove. Anglers braving the North Shore along Pylon and Deep Water Point were rewarded with some fine rainbows. Boat anglers also enjoyed success finding the majority of the fish along the North Shore especially at Hill Farm and Hedge End and Deep Water Point. Members of the England Mens Squad were out all weekend catching fish around G buoy, Stumps, and along the Sailing Club Bay.

Prospects for bank and boat anglers are very good for some early season sport, but the fish are lying fairly deep after a hard cold winter. Fish are mainly coming on black and green lures fished close to the bottom in 10 to 12 feet of water. Some anglers have tried and succeeded with floating line/midge tips and long leaders and buzzers fish deep and slow.

Best Rainbow 4lb 6oz taken by D Bowyer

Best boat areas Hill Farm, Deep Water Point, Pylon Point, G Buoy and Hedge End

Best bank areas Lodge Bank, Sailing Club Bay, the Seat, Plummers and Gaynes Cove.

Mid week boat winner Richard Webb of Irchester

Fish stocked 9,000

Forthcoming events:

Bob Church Open for the Frank Cutler Memorial Trophy 11 April.

Beginners' courses: 28 March; 10 & 21 April; 1,8,23 & 27 May and other dates throughout the season.

Pitsford Water

Fish week 514 Returns 121 Rod average 4.2

Both Bank and boat anglers have had a good start to the season with a weekly rod average of 4.2 for the first week. Bank fishing is probably the best option at present as fish are not far out and can be caught with floating or intermediate lines.

Season permit Holder and Pitsford stalwart Nick Nicholson banked a beauty, with an over wintered fish of 6lb 14oz. He caught it on Black and green pea, with an intermediate line. Nick said "I have fished in New Zealand and caught all sizes of Rainbow but nothing pulled like this one".

Boat anglers have recorded some good bags this week with more spring like weather conditions. Martin Howell from Bedford had a limit bag totalling over 26lb! Martin said he enjoyed his day and was looking forward to fishing in the Trout Masters fish off at Pitsford on 17 April.

Regular boat angler John McLellan from Northampton recorded 8 fish for 19lb 4oz. Mark Mathieson from Barton Seagrave took a half day boat and took 4 fish home and returned a further 6 fish from 8 am to 1pm. John Bartram travelled from Edith Weston on the banks of Rutland and fished from the bank and caught his limit, recording 8 fish for over 20lb.

The Mid Northants Trout fishers had their annual bank match on Sunday, 20 anglers caught 94 fish giving an average of 4.7 fish per rod. Ashley Cooper was in top spot with 8 fish for 19lb 14oz. Ashley also caught the best rainbow of the match at 3lb 8oz.

Best Rainbow 9lb 1oz taken by J Hoskins of Bromsgrove

Best boat areas Causeway – Bog Bay – Stone Barn Bay

Best bank areas Stone Barn, Gravels, Bog Bay, Stilton Point, Sailing Club bank

Mid week boat winner S Carter of Wilstead, Milton Keynes

Fish stocked 1600

Forthcoming events

Beginners courses: 3,7 & 24 April; 9, 12 & 22 May and other dates throughout the season.

Ravensthorpe Reservoir

Fish week 630 (900) Returns 79 (214) Rod average .0 (4.2)

There has been tremendous sport at Ravensthorpe this week with a massive rod average of 8. Warmer temperatures have sparked Ravensthorpe's Rainbows into action with fish moving into the shallows in search of food both boat and bank anglers are taking fish on floating lines. Black peas, Montana's, black buzzer and red tag stick flies are working well.

Nick Mead of Hemel Hempstead returned the week's heaviest Rainbow at 11lb 8oz. His bag of 32 included fish of 8lb and 5lb. His boat partner Ian Teare boated 28 with fish of 8lb, 6lb and 5lb.

Adey Greenho caught 20 fish to 5lb in three hours from Platform 11 using floating line and nymphs. Trevor Heseltine boated two fin perfect 5lb Rainbows in his double figure bag.

Ravensthorpe's barley straw bales are currently being removed; work should be completed in the next few days.

Best Rainbow 11lb 8oz taken by Nick Mead of Hemel Hempstead.

Best boat areas All areas, shallows are best.

Best bank areas All areas.

Mid week boat winner: Paul Thompson of Leicester.

Fish stocked 500

Rutland Water opens Thursday 1 April with the Independence Day Trophy for the biggest fish.

Beginners' courses: 11,14 & 18 April; 1,7,15 & 29 May and other dates throughout the season.