

Fishery News: Week ending 2 May 2010

- **Grafham Water does it again!**

Rod average for the week of 5.5

Plus fantastic GWFFA versus EDFA match

- **Rutland Water fishing its socks off!**

Rod average of 5.2 for the week.

www.anglianwater.co.uk

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

Grafham Water

Fish week 1,815 (season 5,752) Returns 328 (1,158) Rod average 5.53 (4.96)

The fishing at Grafham Water has continued to be absolutely fantastic with a rod average of 5.53 and 33% of anglers managing to catch their limits. Many of these fish have been over 3lb. Once again the boat anglers have had the cream of the sport with the vast majority of trout being caught on black or green buzzers, pheasant tail nymphs, Diawl Bachs and small gold head damsel nymphs on floating or sink tip lines. The main areas of the reservoir producing this incredible fishing have been the western end, Savages Creek, L and H buoys, Lymage bank, Valley Creek and the lodge frontage with the bowl and the south end of the dam also producing very consistent fishing.

Bank anglers have also had some superb sport this week with the Bowl and south end of the dam, Hill Farm, Gaynes Cove, Lodge Bank and the Harbour Arms all producing good fishing on floating lines with black or green buzzers or fast sink lines with gold head damsel nymphs or Cats whisker boobies.

The biggest brown trout caught this week was by season ticket holder Leighroy MacDonald from Bassingbourn. Leighroy caught and released a cracking over wintered Brown of 6lb 3oz from the Hill Farm area.

Competition news

GWFFA versus EDFA

This popular match was fished on Sunday 25 April, hosted by GWFFA with help from a few of the other local clubs like Invicta and East Midlands. It was great to see a large contingent of disabled anglers from Wales. GWFFA anglers are each paired with an angler from EDFA and fish to a straight 8 fish limit without time bonus. With hot weather and a gentle south westerly breeze anticipation was high (especially amongst those who had been out practicing the week beforehand). Most boats headed out of the Harbour and turned left towards the west end of the lake from Valley Creek to Savages, all along the front of the Nature Reserve, fishing mainly floating or midge tip lines with either black or live buzzers.

The quality of the fish was the main talking point at the weigh in, along with the rod average of 6.38. Anglers had a terrific day with hard fighting fish, which were silvering up and coming on to the natural food. There were some hot contenders for the best fish of the match with prizes for both the best rainbow and the best brown.

John Clarke of Winwick took the best rainbow with a fine Grafham specimen of 5lb 2oz and the prize for best brown went to Andy Newman of Cambridge with another fine specimen of 4lb 6oz. Best individual bag went to co organiser the one and only 'clever Trevor' (Ashby) of Wing. Trevor's 8 fish weighed in for a staggering 22lb 1/8oz.

1st Horace Wood & Brian Calvert 16 fish for 41lb 3¾oz

2nd Trevor Ashby & Harley Smith 16 fish for 39lb 9¾oz

3rd Harry Owen & Roy Palmers 16 fish for 39lb 3¾oz

4th Harold Pritchett & Andy Newman 16 fish for 39lb 1¾oz

Best Rainbow 5lb 4oz taken by Dave Ladbury of Ware.

Best Brown 6lb 3oz taken by Leighroy MacDonald of Bassingbourn.

Best boat areas L, H Buoys, Savages Creek, south and bowl of dam, lodge frontage, Valley Creek.

Best bank areas South and bowl of dam, Gaynes Cove, Lodge bank, Harbour Arms.

Best methods See report.

Mid week boat winner: R Pryor of Histon.

Fish stocked 2,000

Forthcoming events:

Troutmasters final, (no bank fishing for non competitors), 10 May (reservoir closed to all non-competitors, bank fishing available from 5pm).

Invicta Tuesday Night boat league commences 11 May

Anglian Water Airflo Individual Final 21 & 22 May (all boats booked)

Beginner's courses: 8, 23 & 27 May; 6, 12, 24 & 27 June and other dates throughout the season.

Rutland Water

Fish week 2,538 (season 8,977) Returns 488 (1,765) Rod average 5.2 (5.1)

Rutland Water continues to fish its socks off with a rod average for the week of 5.20. Fish are coming out from most areas with only the bottom of the South Arm fairly quiet. Huge hatches of buzzers have been witnessed, ranging from microscopic to good numbers of the larger variety showing well. Overwintered fish are steadily being caught in most areas with Rainbows in the 3 to 4lb bracket, long, lean and fighting extremely hard. Another 6,000 fish were stocked bringing the season's total to 36,500.

Joshua Clayton, aged 9, of Stamford caught a superb Rainbow around the 2lb mark from Normanton bank, near the blue pipes. This was the first ever fish Joshua has cast for, retrieved played and landed all on his own. His dad, Nathan (senior warden at Pitsford Water) has obviously taught him well! Nathan was alongside Joshua throughout and says the fish was taken using a large black wolf dry fly and it was late into the evening when the fish finally took.

Most anglers are now starting to use floating/midge tip with various buzzer, Diawl Bach, bloodworm patterns. Lures in various colours are still producing (black/green, cats whisker, Dawson's olive and small blobs and cormorants). A few fish are showing late on top, in settled evenings one or two have been taken on dry fly.

Prospects look excellent with outstanding buzzer hatches this season and a plentiful supply of Daphnia and Corixa, which should see fish rapidly gaining weight.

Competition news

English Police Fly Fishing Championship

An exciting weigh-in, with a close finish. M Barrett took the best fish of the match, which was also the best Rainbow of the week at 5lb 12oz.

1st: P Thompson 8 fish for 23lb 13oz.

2nd: D Summers 8 fish for 23lb 10oz.

3rd: I Fraser 8 fish for 23lb 9oz.

Best Rainbow 5lb 12oz taken by M Barrett.

Best boat areas The main basin, sailing club, Barnsdale, Old Hall, Finches, Gibbet's Gorse.

Best bank areas Sykes Lane, Whitwell, Yellowstone, the Dam, Old Hall, Green Bank

Best methods: Bank - floating line with nymphs and weighted lures.

Boat - As for bank but include various sinking lines with lures.

Mid week boat winner: Michael Lacey of Anstey.

Fish stocked 6,000

Forthcoming events:

May is a busy month - please book boats in advance to avoid disappointment. Very few boats remaining for 23 May. Please remember that from May through to September boat anglers have to cease fishing by 8pm on Mondays and Wednesdays only

Beginners courses: 7,15 & 29 May; 6,9,13,20 & 26 June and other dates throughout the season.

Dave Hodgson Memorial 9 May.

Tuesday Evening Boat League commences 11 May

Vision Pairs 23 May

England Qualifier 'Odds & Sods' 30 May

Don't forget the **Help for Heroes** match Saturday 14 August call 01572 653021 for more information

Pitsford Water

Fish week 900 (4,699) Returns 207 (1,114) Rod average 4.3 (4.2)

On Saturday 1 May Pitsford Water hosted a Midland heat of the Anglian Water Airflo International. This match fished to a rod average of 7 fish per rod. Anglers took better fish in the Small Half with some catching their limit before lunch time! So the Small Half continues to dominate sport at present. Anglers choosing to fish the big half caught smaller fish than their team mates. Two of the three teams fishing won a place at the Midlands final to be fished at Grafham Water in July.

1st Soldier Palmers 45 fish

2nd Greenwell Persuaders 'A' 42 fish

3rd Greenwell Persuaders 'B' 39 fish

Anglers reported that the best methods were either pulling lures or fishing nymphs.

Bank anglers are enjoying good catches with fish feeding throughout the day on buzzers with some prolific hatches on sunny days. Floating lines are best with long leaders and three nymphs to get down deep, as water is clear. There are lots of daphnia present in the water.

Best Rainbow 6lb plus taken by Terry Pancoust.

Best Brown 6lb taken by M Powell of Nuneaton.

Best boat areas Small half, Northfields to Stone Barn.

Best bank areas: Northfields to Stone Barn.

Mid week boat winner: J Dunn of Reading.

Best methods See report.

Fish stocked 714

Forthcoming events:

Beginners courses: 9,12 & 22 May; 4,19 & 23 June and other dates throughout the season.

8 May WIGFIC - Water Industry Game Fishing Competition:

Pitsford Water is hosting this annual event between the Environment Agency and various water companies

on 8 May. Most boats are booked on this date and the bank will be closed to all non-competitors.

Ravensthorpe Reservoir

Fish week 407 (3,764) Returns 97 (784) Rod average 4.2 (4.8)

Fish are feeding on black buzzer and bloodworm. Floating lines and the bung are catching well. Odd fish are falling to lures and sunk lines but buzzers are best.

The best fish of the week was a 9lb Rainbow taken by Neil Evans of Northampton. Neil, fishing the bank, used an olive nymph.

Best Rainbow 9lb taken by Neil Evans of Northampton.

Best boat areas Coton to Island.

Best bank areas Dam and dome bushes.

Mid week boat winner: T Oliver of Luton.

Fish stocked 300