

• **Amazing Opening Day for Allan as he lands Rutland Water's biggest Brown for years**

Allan Wood of Owston, Oakham, wins Independence Day Trophy with superb 13lb 8oz Brown

• **Season's best so far at Ravensthorpe**

12lb 3oz Rainbow for Ian Tearle of Dunstable

And another season's best to date ... this time at Pitsford

• **12lb 2oz Rainbow at Pitsford Water for Ashley.** Ashley Cooper of Great Bowden take the best fish at Pitsford this season.

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

Rutland Water

The opening day of the new season at Rutland Water was a day to remember for Allan Wood. Allan, of Owston, near Oakham, had hoped to boat fish on his own, but the strong winds meant he made for the bank instead. And in Stockie Bay his initial disappointment turned to joy as he landed a fantastic Brown with a floating line and black and silver humungus. Rutland Water Fishing Lodge was buzzing with excitement when this lovely Brownie tipped the scales at 13lb 8oz. Allan was congratulated by a number of witnesses including Fisheries Manager Jon Marshall and senior warden John Seaton. John presented Allan with the Independence Day Trophy and £130 in tackle vouchers.

At first light there were stories of anglers losing big fish. Early limits were recorded by Rod Humphrey and Martin Hearth (Hambleton), who found fish in the Sailing Club Bay. Martin who used to warden at Rutland Water commented that sport was hectic and the fish were of excellent quality he took 7 over 2lb, the best at 3lb 4oz. Rod also had fish over 3lb with another five over 2lb. On the other side of the reservoir at Whitwell M Robinson (Notts) caught his eight fish limit down the far end of the creek.

Winds strengthened during the day with boat anglers having to put up with very cold strong west/south Westerlies restricting the areas that could be fished comfortably. Bank fishing was limited, however, the Sailing Club, Whitwell Creek, Stockie Bay, Carrot and Barn Hill Creek all produced a lot of limits.

One or two overwintered fish are showing in cloudy conditions with some nice silver browns in the 3-4lb bracket.

Anglers will miss the familiar face of Susan Noble, who has recently taken retirement from her post as Retail Assistant at Rutland Fishing Lodge. Friends and colleagues got together last week to wish Susan all the best for the future and to present her with some lovely gifts.

Alan West Memorial Trophy 2 April

This match was held on the second day of the season in much kinder weather conditions with a steady southerly wind with some rain.

82 Anglers caught 304 fish for a rod average of 6.14. Top rod was Mick Angell with 8 fish weighing 20lb 14oz. North Luffenham angler and season ticket holder Mark MacLeod who caught a 6lb 7oz Rainbow took the best fish of the match. The best areas on the day were drifts onto Sykes Lane, Sailing Club, East Creek and Normanton

Forthcoming events:

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

Lexus European individual Qualifier 16 April

Lexus European team Qualifier 17 April

Bob Church Classic 5 May

Dave Hodgson Memorial 9 May.

Tuesday Evening Boat League commences 11 May

Vision Pairs 23 May

England Qualifier 'Odds & Sods' 30 May

Grafham Water

Fish week 275 (season 741) Returns 68 (184) Rod average 4.04 (4.02)

Grafham Water has continued to fish well this week for both bank and boat anglers, with the vast majority of trout being caught on sinking lines with black or black and green lures or nymphs fished slowly.

Boat anglers have been enjoying some superb sport this week with the main areas being the points along the north, Hedge End, Deep Water Point and Pylon Point being the most productive and consistent. The majority of trout being caught have been hooked just off the bottom mainly on Pitsford Peas, Vivas, Montanas and cormorants on fast sunk lines. The afternoon is proving far more productive than the morning. Bank anglers have had some excellent sport by fishing intermediate or slow sunk lines with a Pitsford Pea being the deadliest fly pattern of the week. The best time for the bank again is the later afternoon with Plummer Park and Sailing Club Bay being the two main hotspots on the Reservoir. Mander Car park frontage and the harbour have also produced some good sport this week but have not been so consistent.

Saturday saw the start of the EYFA match days with the whole of this year's team, and some of the stars of the future, getting together for a formal coaching session with their manager Rob Edmunds. Following a good practice day the lads took on the Prison Service on Sunday. This was an inaugural match that looks set to become an annual event. The English Youth ran out winners this time but the Prison Officers are determined to up their game next year.

Best boat areas Deep Water Point, Pylon Point, Hedge End.

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

Mid week boat winner: G Worth of Desborough, Northants.

Fish stocked 2750

Forthcoming events:

Bob Church Open for the Frank Cutler Memorial Trophy 11 April.(All boats booked)

Spring Rudder Match Sunday 18 April (30 boats)

AMFC Spring Match 23 April (40 boats)

EDFA vs GWFFA: 25 April (all boats booked).

Beginner's courses: 10 & 21 April; 2, 8, 23 & 27 May and other dates throughout the season.

Pitsford Water

Fish week 477 (1,697) Returns 133 (404) Rod average 3.5 (4.2)

On Sunday afternoon Ashley Cooper of Great Bowden, Market Harborough, took the best fish of the season to date at Pitsford Water. Ashley, a season ticket holder, took a superb 12lb 2oz Rainbow on the bank in North Farm Bay.

The opening of the Small Half this week gave a good result as it always does. With a generous stocking to liven up those resident Rainbows, season permit holders bank fished on the lodge bank with some success. Boat anglers also caught well fishing just out from the pontoon. There have also been some fish seen rising in the daytime before we stocked.

The reservoir water temperature is still very cold although the spring like forecast for the week ahead should give some warmer days. With temperatures into double figures this should lead to an increase in fly activity. One season permit holder said fish have been feeding on small buzzers size 12 to 16 but he cannot catch on larger sizes. We will just have to wait until May.

Restricted access

Please note that there will be no access along the front of the Pines at present, the ground is far too wet and we have had to tow out season permit holders, which has cut up the ground. When ground conditions dry up it will re-open. This week we will be undertaking the annual track upgrade along with some stone being put into wet areas along the Pines.

Best Rainbow 12lb 2oz taken by Ashley Cooper

Best boat areas Small Half/Causeway and Bog Bay

Best bank areas Gravels/Sermans, Rigbys Point, North Farm Bay

Mid week boat winner Mike Sullivan of Slough

Fish stocked 1,000

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

Ravensthorpe Reservoir

Fish week 115 (1,832) Returns 37 (365) Rod average 3.1 (5.0)

Ian Tearle of Dunstable took the best fish of the season so far at Ravensthorpe this week. Ian, boat fishing off Hickmans, took a superb 12lb 3oz Rainbow. Mike Whittingham took a 9lb Rainbow off the bank with a black buzzer.

Best Rainbow 12lb 3oz taken by Ian Tearle of Dunstable.

Best boat areas Willows and Hickmans.

Best bank areas Lodge bank.

Mid week boat winner: E Edwards of Milton Keynes.