

READING AND DISTRICT ANGLING ASSOCIATION

MATCH SECRETARY'S REPORT

Sunday 1st March 2026

R & D.A.A. Senior Team Championship

(Kennet & Avon Canal: Froxfield "A" & "B" 20 Pegs)

This was the fifth and final R & DAA senior match to be held on the Kennet and Avon Canal at Froxfield this season.

Five Teams of Four, making a total of twenty Anglers were booked in for this match with no pegs remaining in the draw bag. The match day weather was overcast with occasional light rain showers and some sunny spells and mild and there was a slight cold breeze blowing. The Kennet and Avon Canal had a slight colour, and was towing slightly.

Total match weight on the day was 6lbs 5ozs 8drms, (at an average weight of 5ozs per Angler). There were eleven dry nets on the day.

This is the worst result ever recorded on a Reading and District Association Match from Froxfield Canal in all of the years we have been utilizing this venue.

Many thanks to all those that turned out on the day and thanks also go Alan Hughes for assisting me at the draw.

Team Winners:

1st	Reading Fishing Club "Blind Chickens"	Pete Budaji, Mark Hornblow, Steve Palmer, Richard Rosinski.	16 Points
2nd	Pangbourne and Whitchurch "Slapheads"	Martin Hutchins, Paul Leek, Pete Leek, Ernie Maylon	9 Points

Full Team Results: (See Attachment).

Individual Winner:

The Match was won by Duncan Bales fishing for Yotac/21 Club "Blue". Fishing between the moored up boats on Froxfield "A", (Wides), section. Duncan banked a mixture of small Skimmer Bream, Roach, Gudgeon and Bleak during the course of the match. Fishing pole tactics, feeding groundbait with pinkie, with fluro maggot on the hook to record a weight of 3-1-0.

Ernie Malyon, fishing for Pangbourne & Whitchurch "Slapheads" was second overall. Fishing the third peg below Lock 69 on Froxfield "A", (Short Pound), Section. Ernie banked Roach and Gudgeon during the course of the match. Fishing whip and waggler tactics, feeding liquidized bread, and groundbait with pinkie, with bread punch and red maggot on the hook to record a weight of 0-15-0.

Super Pool Money Winners:

1st	Duncan Bales	Yotac/21 Club "Blue"	3lbs	1ozs	0drms	Froxfield "A" (Wides)	Skimmers, Roach, Gudgeon, Bleak.
2nd	Ernie Malyon	Pangbourne & Whitchurch "Slapheads"	0lbs	15ozs	0drms	Froxfield "A" (Short Pound)	Roach, Gudgeon.

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MATCH SECRETARY'S REPORT (Cont)

Section Money Winners:

"A" Section	Froxfield "A": Wides.
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1st	Duncan Bales.	Yotac/21 Club "Blue"	3lbs	1ozs	0drms
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"B" Section	Froxfield "A": Short Pound.
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1st	Ernie Malyon.	Pangbourne & Whitchurch "Slapheads"	0lbs	15ozs	0drms
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"C" Section	Froxfield "A": Turning Bay.
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1st	Steve Palmer.	Reading Fishing Club "Blind Chickens"	0lbs	0ozs	8drms
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"D" Section	Froxfield "B": Road Bridge to First Ash Tree.
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1st	Pete Budaji.	Reading Fishing Club "Blind Chickens"	0lbs	3ozs	0drms
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Total Section Weights:

"A" Section	Froxfield "A" (Wides).	4lbs	1ozs	0drms
"B" Section	Froxfield "A" (Bottom of Wides and Short Pound).	2lbs	1ozs	0drms
"C" Section	Froxfield "A" (Turning Bay).	0lbs	0ozs	8drms
"D" Section	Froxfield "B" (Road Bridge to First Ash Tree).	0lbs	3ozs	0drms

My thanks must go to my Match Team this Season who consisted of Alan Hughes, Graham Hawkins and Andy Chapman.

A big thank you also goes to Fred Jones, Gordon McGee and Andy Chapman for checking, clearing and pegging the River Kennet and the River Thames Venues for me this season.

Thanks also go to all the Clubs and Members who supported these matches this season.

Finally my thanks go, as ever, to my fellow EC Members for their continued help and support this season.

Mick Sheasby

Reading & District Angling Association - Match Secretary
 (Mobile: 07802 414317 E-Mail: mike_sheasby@yahoo.co.uk)

READING AND DISTRICT ANGLING ASSOCIATION

MATCH SECRETARY'S REPORT

SEASONS MATCH STATISTICS 2025-2026

Introduction:

Due to the rapid decline in form of the River Kennet over the past five seasons, the Match Committee took the unenviable decision to run only two Matches on the River Kennet this season with the remaining River Matches switched to the River Thames, as an experiment, to try and improve match weights and match attendances this season. After holding many discussions and meetings between both the match committee and with the match anglers that still competed in these matches, we came to the conclusion that if changes were not made we probably would not have enough attendees to run these matches in a few years time.

Although the Association has sufficient River Thames venues in their portfolio, unfortunately the distance between these venues would prove to be a logistical nightmare for the match organizers to run an Association Match on these venues. However thanks to the patience and persistence of our President, (Martin Salter), we managed to secure the use of the London Anglers Association River Thames venue at South Stoke and the Jolly Anglers River Thames venue at Cholsey. Both of these venues are sufficiently close enough to each other and by also utilizing the Association's own venue at Wallingford we finally had enough venues close enough together to organize three Reading and District monthly matches on the River Thames this season.

River Kennet Matches:

The River Kennet suffered again this season. A lack of rain during the summer months meant that we had to cope with a River that was experiencing abnormally high water temperatures, which in turn meant very low dissolved oxygen levels in the River, this coupled with very low water levels, very little flow and water colour meant an abundance of weed growth in all of the venues we normally utilize on our match days. All of this meant that the fish in the River who were probably suffering from the adverse conditions they were faced with and subsequently refused to feed normally during daylight hours.

The distinct lack of Roach, Dace and Perch being caught all through on these venues is still causing concern, but unfortunately the conditions on the River Kennet this year did not help. Only a few small Chub and a couple of small Barbel were caught during these matches, with the usual mixture of Gudgeon and Bleak helped to make up the majority of weights this season. The highest winning match weight of the Season on the River Kennet was 5lbs 15ozs, a catch of Roach and Dace from Theale River in the August match

Although the Match committee utilized two different venues this season by including Ufton River and Theale River in an attempt to improve results, Ufton River could only be utilized once due to moored up boats leaving insufficient room to peg a section of six or seven pegs.

The total weight caught on the River Kennet this season was 65lbs 5ozs 8drams with 35 Anglers fishing these Matches at an Average Weight per Man of 1lb 14ozs 0drams.

For the record the Association Match Weights per section on the River Kennet for this season were as follows:-

VENUE	SECTION WEIGHTS SEASON 2025-2026
Ufton River:	3-14-0 with 5 Anglers Total Fishing (Average Weight: 0-12-0)
Theale River:	30-7-0 with 12 Anglers Total Fishing (Average Weight: 2-8-0)
Beat "4B" (Bottom):	9-12-8 with 6 Anglers Total Fishing (Average Weight: 1-9-0)
Beat "5A":	21-4-0 with 12 Anglers Total Fishing (Average Weight: 1-12-0)

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MATCH SECRETARY'S REPORT (Cont)

Similarly the River Thames also suffered from a lack of rain during the summer months which also meant that we had to cope with a River that was experiencing abnormally high water temperatures, which in turn meant very low dissolved oxygen levels in the River. This coupled with lower than normal water levels, very little flow and water colour meant an abundance of weed growth in all of the venues we utilized on our match days. However due to the River Thames being much wider and deeper than the River Kennet, this impact was lessened to a degree.

A good number of Skimmer Bream, small Chub, Roach, Dace and Perch were caught all through on these venues with the occasional larger Bream making up the weights, but again, unfortunately the conditions on the River Thames this year did not help. The large shoals of Bleak in the River were a nuisance during the September and October matches and avoiding these to get at the better stamp of fish was the key to success.

The highest winning match weight of the Season on the River Thames was 16lbs 0ozs 0drams, a catch of small Chub, skimmer Bream, Roach and Dace from Wallingford "B" on the October Teams Match.

The total weight caught on the River Thames this season was 335lbs 4ozs 8 drams with 84 Anglers fishing these matches at an Average Weight per Man of 3lbs 15ozs 0drams.

For the record the Association Match Weights per section on the River Thames for this season were as follows:-

VENUE	SECTION WEIGHTS SEASON 2025-2026
Wallingford "B":	93-1-8 with 16 Anglers Total (Average Weight: 5-13-0)
Cholsey:	90-5-0 with 23 Anglers Total (Average Weight: 3-14-0)
South Stoke:	151-14-0 with 45 Anglers Total (Average Weight: 3-6-0)

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MATCH SECRETARY'S REPORT (Cont)

The Kennet & Avon Canal at Froxfield showed a huge decline on previous seasons results this season. The December match returned a reasonable result, however the January, February and March Matches were disastrous.

The shoals of skimmer Bream and larger Bream along with the shoals of Perch which made up the bulk of match weights in previous seasons, seem to have vanished. This left anglers scratching around for the small Roach and Gudgeon that still seem to reside in the Canal.

Unfortunately the Canal at Froxfield was de-watered during the Christmas period by an inconsiderate Boater who left all of the Lock Paddles open and I feel that a lot of the fish that normally reside in our Sections took up residence further downstream in the Hungerford Town Sections as a result.

The total weight caught on the Kennet and Avon Canal at Froxfield this season was 78-9-0 with 75 Anglers fishing these matches at an Average Weight per Man of 11b 0ozs 0drams.

For the record the Average Association Match Weights per section on the Kennet and Avon Canal at Froxfield for this season were as follows:-

VENUE	SECTION WEIGHT SEASON 2023-2024
Froxfield "A" (Wides):	19-11-0 with 26 Anglers Total (Average Weight: 0-12-0)
Froxfield "A" (Short Pound):	39-10-0 with 27 Anglers Total (Average Weight: 1-7-0)
Froxfield "A" (Turning Bay):	2-13-0 with 11 Anglers Total (Average Weight: 0-4-0)
Froxfield "B"	16-7-0 with 11 Anglers Total (Average Weight: 1-8-0)

The total match attendance for this season was 194 anglers against 208 anglers last season, a decrease of 14 anglers.

The total weight caught on these matches this season was 479lbs against 391lbs last season, an increase of 88lbs.

The average match weight this season was 54lbs against 43lbs last season, an increase of 11lbs.

The average weight per angler this season was 2.46lbs against 1.88lbs last season, an increase of 0.58lbs.

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MATCH SECRETARY'S REPORT (Cont)

THE BEST TOTAL MATCH WEIGHTS FOR THE SEASON WERE:

1.	158-8-0	October 2025	River Thames
2.	97-7-0	September 2025	River Thames
3.	79-5-8	November 2025	River Thames
4.	51-5-8	December 2025	Kennet and Avon Canal - Froxfield

THE BEST INDIVIDUAL MATCH WINNING WEIGHTS FOR THE SEASON WERE:

1.	16-0-0	Martin Hutchins	Excelsior	River Thames - Wallingford "B"	Oct 2025
2.	10-14-0	Mick Donohoe	Yotac/21 Club	Froxfield Canal "A" (Short Pound)	Dec 2025
3.	10-4-0	Dave Ward	Individual	River Thames - Cholsey	Nov 2025
4.	8-8-0	Luke Wilcox	Individual	River Thames - Wallingford "B"	Sept 2025

THE VENUES THESE MATCHES WERE WON FROM WERE:

Ufton River	
Theale River	2
Calcot "A"	
Calcot "B"	
Burghfield River	
Beat "2"	
Beat "3A"	
Beat "3B"	
Beat "4A"	
Beat "4B"	
Beat "5A"	
Beat "5B"	
Froxfield "A" (Wides)	1
Froxfield "A" (Short Pound)	3
Froxfield "A" (Turning Bay)	
Froxfield "B"	
Froxfield "C"	
River Thames - Wallingford "B"	2
River Thames - Cholsey	1
River Thames - South Stoke	

Mick Sheasby

Reading & District Angling Association - Match Secretary
 (Mobile: 07802 414317 E-Mail: mike_sheasby@yahoo.co.uk)

RDA – March Match Results

March

Apart from the Tuesday Club there is only one other Club match that took place in March as this was on Willmotts. All the other matches had to be cancelled due to them being on Rivers and they were in flood for the last couple of weeks of the season.

Tuesday 3rd

The Tuesday Club were once again on Willmotts and the 16 anglers returned a weight of 386lb 14oz. Leading the way this week was Geoff Lewendon with 50lb, runner up was John Ambrose with a close 48lb 2oz and 3rd was John Nichols with 46lb 4oz.

Sunday 8th

Pangbourne & Whitchurch were on Willmotts and the 16 anglers returned a combined weight of 285lb 4oz. Winner on the day was P Booth with 50lb 4oz, 2nd was J Nicholls with 48lb 4oz and 3rd was S Fairbrother with 41lb 6oz.

Tuesday 10th

Geoff Lewendon continued his winning streak for the latest Tuesday Club match on Willmotts. His winning weight was 77lb 8oz followed by Tony Holdsworth with 37lb 4oz and 3rd with 35lb was Mark Hornblow. 15 anglers returned a combined weight of 390lb 8 oz.

Tuesday 31st

Sixteen anglers were out for the Tuesday Club match on Willmotts and they returned a combined weight of 259lb 9oz. Making it 3 wins on the trot. Fishing Willmotts was Geoff Lewendon weighing in a weight of 37lb 10oz, 2nd was John Berry with 36lb 6oz and 3rd was George Callahan with 29lb 2oz.

With the end of the river season at a close and less clubs fishing matches at this time of year, I will be doing the match reports every other month until the rivers re-open.