

Match Reports 16 June – 2 July 2023

With a new season upon us the match action starts to ramp up. On the first weekend of the season towpath work at Padworth unfortunately meant that Reading Civil Service were unable to fish their match on the canal. Prestcold AC traditionally visit Wallingford for their opening fixture and eight anglers were pleased with how the Thames fished as all caught to record a total of 36lbs 4ozs. The respectable winning weight was 10lbs 2ozs. Newtown AC were looking forward for some rod bending action at Willmotts Pool and as usual the venue did not disappoint. The venue isn't used to hosting thirteen anglers in match fishing mode but the total of 209lbs 12ozs was caught with a winning weight of 59lbs 5ozs for Terry Smith. Second was Paul Holland scaling 35lbs 8ozs and Barry Moreton third with 31lbs. There were two dry nets on the day. Meanwhile Tilehurst Royal British Legion AS held their first match on Beat 4 of the Kennet. This venue fished poorly early on last season but the total weight of 8lbs 8ozs was an improvement. John Monaighan took the honours with 3lbs 15ozs made up of mainly small chub with Terry Stretton second with 1lb 9ozs and Spencer Couzens third 4ozs behind.

The Tuesday Club has been holding regular matches through the close season on Willmotts Pool but decided to give that venue a welcome break on Tuesday 20 June, so eight anglers took their chances on Brown-Lee Pool. They still averaged out at over 5lbs per man as they took 42lbs 10ozs to the scales in total with Mark Hornblow taking the honours with 12lbs 7ozs, and Tony Holdsworth second with 6lbs 15ozs.

Sunday 25 June saw a non-affiliated club, Kingston AC, visit Willmotts Pool. The eight anglers managed to weigh in 288lbs 4oz with the winner scaling 62lbs. On the same day RDAA held its first match of the season at Lower Benyons Red Section. Only six anglers turned out for what is a long walk, and, as the venue fished poorly on the corresponding match last season, low expectations. With the weather hot and sunny (29c in the shade) it was no surprise the venue proved hard again, although all managed to catch something. The Match was won by Spencer Couzens fishing the second peg downstream in the "copse", Spencer banked one Perch along with small Dace, Bleak and Gudgeon, fishing a combination of stick float and maggot feeder tactics, with single and double red maggot on the hook, over hemp, caster and maggot feed, to record a weight of 1lb 1oz 8dr. Fred Jones was fishing the first peg on the "straight" and banked small Dace, Bleak and Gudgeon, using similar tactics as the winner to record a weight of 0-12-8 to finish joint second with Terry Stretton. Terry was fishing the last peg in the "copse" and used the same methods for his small Dace, Bleak and Gudgeon catch. In all the total weight was 3lbs 11ozs 8drms which remarkably is an improvement on last season.

The first RDAA points match was held on Sunday 2 July for the Festival and Chronicle Cups on Beats 4 and 5. A disappointing turnout of 21 anglers headed out to enjoy what turned out to be a better match than last year. The total weight on the day was 41lbs 10ozs 8drms with four anglers not weighing in. The Match was won by Association General Secretary Alan Hughes, fishing on the "sandbags" peg on Beat "5A" section, Alan banked six Chub to 2lbs using a combination of stick float and maggot feeder tactics, with single and double red maggot on the hook, over hemp, caster and maggot feed, to record a weight of 10lbs 13ozs. John Monaighan was second, drawn on the "concrete blocks" peg on Beat "5A" section, he tempted four Chub to 1lbs 8ozs using similar tactics as the winner for 4lbs 13ozs.

Section winners, and tied with 10 points in the Aggregate points league, were Steve O'Keefe on Beat 4A with 2lbs 15ozs, Mick Donahoe on Beat 4B with 4lbs 1oz, Alan Hughes on Beat 5A and Spencer Couzens on Beat 5B with 4lbs 9ozs 8drms. The club championship sees TRBLAS taking an early lead with 20lbs 14ozs 8drms from YOTAC/21 Club on 15lbs 1oz 8drms.

Next RDAA matches are Sunday 30 July at Lower Benyons (book in direct with Mike Sheasby), and next points match is on Sunday 6 August on Beats 4 and 5 book through your affiliated club or Mike Sheasby.