

Reading & District Angling Association



Match Scene 4 July - 7 August 2023

TUESDAY CLUB BREAK RECORDS

On Tuesday 4 July the Tuesday Club fielded 13 anglers for another muscle strengthening exercise at Willmott's Pool. The winning weight fell to Tony Holdsworth with a record 136lbs 8ozs, well clear of Paul Leek in second with a seemingly paltry 63lbs 8ozs. The total weight of 512lbs was also a record for the venue. There will be no surprises if this is surpassed in the coming weeks as the venue continues to fish well.

READING CIVIL SERVICE - BAD LUCK CONTINUES

On Sunday 16 July Reading Civil service were looking forward to their match on the Thames at Sonning, but after the cancellation of their match at Padworth Canal in June, they were faced with more bad luck when they abandoned their match after three hours. Unfortunately, Wokingham Canoe Club were holding a regatta on the same stretch of river and the number of canoeists meant that it was impossible to fish as their racing line took them up close to the bank. RDAA try hard to encompass all other river users when booking matches, but this event has never been on our radar.

BROWN-LEE POOL PROVES TOUGH

On Sunday 16 July Newtown AC fished Brown-Lee Pool but the blustery conditions did not help their cause and the venue proved to be awkward on the day. Richard Herman took the honours with 4lb of mixed species, closely followed by Roger Saunders with a similar catch for 3lbs 10ozs. In third was Richard Herman Jnr with 2lbs 2ozs to make it a good day for the Herman family. In total 11 anglers weighed in 17lbs 2oz for a disappointing return.

THEALE RIVER REMAINS FRUGAL

On Sunday 16 July Reading Fishing Club visited the River Kennet at Theale, a venue not known for throwing up large weights in recent seasons. On a windy day which made bait presentation difficult, Robbie Stephens expertly managed to accumulate small roach, perch and bleak on the stick float to weigh in 4lbs 8ozs to win comfortably from Richard Arkell who managed 2lbs 5oz. The other six anglers managed to bring the total weight caught up to 11lbs 12oz.

ANDY CHAPMAN WINS HARD ENCOUNTER

On Sunday 23 July Tilehurst Royal British Legion AS took on the Kennet at Calcot B section. Despite a coloured river after the rain it proved to be a tough match. EC member Andy Chapman caught small roach and bleak to win with a weight of 1lbs 8oz from Steve O'Keefe with 1lbs 2oz and Spencer Couzens in third with 12oz. No perch or chub were caught, which was a surprise, and all 8 anglers scratched around for the small fish to weigh in a total of 5lbs 12oz.

BARBEL SAVES THE DAY

Also, on Sunday 23 July, Prestcold AC visited Theale on the Kennet in conditions better than previous years but again the fishing proved to be difficult, as only two of the seven anglers caught fish. Mick Steadman won the match with his only bite all day, but it was worth waiting for as a 10lbs 14oz Barbel was tempted to his double red maggot whilst feeder fishing. Association and Prestcold Match Secretary Mike Sheasby came second with 1lb 12oz 8dr made up with very small roach, perch, gudgeon and bleak to stick float tactics. Although it was a tough day, it was good to see a barbel being caught as it is quite a rare event in recent years on matches.

LOW TURN OUT DISAPPOINTING

Maybe due to the river being a little out of sorts or due to the poor weather only 5 anglers booked in for the RDAA match on Sunday 30 July at Calcot 'A' Section. Because of the low numbers, RDAA Match Secretary Mike Sheasby also participated, and this proved to be a good decision as he won with a very low weight of 12ozs. Mike joked afterwards that he will probably be in the record books for the lowest winning weight on an RDAA match. Pegged just downstream of the Ash tree above the motorway bridge. Mike used stick float tactics to tempt mainly gudgeon with some small silvers on red maggot over maggot and hemp feed. Using similar tactics and pegged one upstream of the winner on the Ash tree Fred Jones was second with small Dace for 6ozs. In total only 1lb 6ozs was caught.

The next match on 27 August has been moved to Wallingford in the hope that more anglers will turn up for a more prolific match.

RISING RIVER PROVES A CHALLENGE

On Sunday 6 August, and with storm Antoni passing through on the day before, 22 anglers were met by a rising river on Beats 4 and 5 to fish for the RDAA Preservation Cup and Claw Scaffold Trophy. The wind and passing showers added to the poor river conditions, making the presentation hard, so expectations were low.

The match ended with only 24lbs 7ozs 12 dr weighed in with five anglers failing to bother the scales. However, there is some good news as, after a long period without Barbel being caught in matches, another was caught (buses and all that?) to gain victory for Andy Chapman. Fishing the peg upstream of Rose Kiln Lane bridge on Beat 4B Andy banked small fish and a Barbel of 7lbs 10ozs using feeder tactics with red maggots on the hook to win with 8lbs. The river dictated feeder fishing for many and using a ground bait feeder and red maggot as bait, Martin Hutchins finished second overall with Roach, Perch and Dace from the peg upstream of the Holy Brook on Beat 5 'B' section recording a weight of 3lbs 13ozs. Other section winners were Tony Tibble with 2lbs 2oz and Graham Hawkins with 1lb 1oz.

CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP

Tilehurst Royal British Legion AS lead the overall club championship with 34lbs 12oz 8dr from YOTAC/21Club second with 18lbs 4oz 12dr. Excelsior are third a long way back with 4lbs 1oz 8dr.

INDIVIDUAL STANDINGS AFTER TWO MATCHES

INDIVIDUAL AGGREGATE WEIGHT TROPHY

Alan Hughes	YOTAC/21 Club	10	14	0
Andy Chapman	TRBLAS	8	0	0
Spencer Couzens	TRBLAS	5	7	0
John Monaighan	TRBLAS	4	13	0
Steve O'Keefe	TRBLAS	4	5	0
Mick Donohoe	YOTAC/21 Club	4	1	8
Martin Hutchins	Excelsior	4	1	8
Peter Godfrey	TRBLAS	3	1	0
Duncan Bales	YOTAC/21 Club	2	8	0
Stephen Church	TRBLAS	2	5	0
Phil Allen	Reading Civil Service	2	4	8
Terry Stretton	TRBLAS	2	3	0
Tony Tibble	TRBLAS	2	2	0
Richard Rosinski	Reading F. C	2	0	0
Graham Hawkins	Prestcold	1	10	0

INDIVIDUAL AGGREGATE POINTS TROPHY

Spencer Couzens	TRBLAS	18 Points
Steve O'Keefe	TRBLAS	18 Points
Phil Allen	Reading Civil Service	14 Points
Martin Hutchins	Excelsior	14 Points
Mick Donohoe	YOTAC/21 Club	12 Points
Peter Godfrey	TRBLAS	12 Points
Graham Hawkins	Prestcold	12 Points
Alan Hughes	YOTAC/21 Club	12 Points
Andy Chapman	TRBLAS	10 Points
Fred Jones	TRBLAS	10 Points
Rob Stephens	YOTAC/21 Club	10 Points
Tony Tibble	TRBLAS	10 Points
Duncan Bales	YOTAC/21 Club	8 Points
Stephen Church	TRBLAS	8 Points
John Monaighan	TRBLAS	8 Points

Next RDAA matches are Sunday 27 August at Wallingford B (note change of venue, book in direct with Mike Sheasby), and next points match is on Sunday 3 September on Beats 4 and 5 book through your affiliated club or Mike Sheasby.