

Reading & District Angling Association

Match Scene 3 September to 7 October 2024



WALLINGFORD CONTINUES GOOD FORM

On Sunday 8 September it was Reading Fishing Club's turn to make that long worthwhile walk to the Thames at Wallingford. September is always a great month for river fishing but the heavy rains the week before meant that there was some jeopardy in having a match on a river, but there was no need to worry, and the river was in fine form for the nine anglers who managed to amass a healthy 6lbs per man as the total weight came to 64lbs 4ozs. The winner was Pete Bugadi with 12lbs 4ozs which included a bream of 6lbs, Tony Roberts was second with 10lbs 6ozs and Richard Rozinski third with 8lbs 12ozs. A perch of 2lbs 12ozs was also caught on the day but no details of who caught this were sent.

NEW SHARED VENUE ATTRACTS TUESDAY CLUB

On Tuesday 17 September the veterans from the Tuesday Club ventured on to the River Thames to assess South Stoke, the venue we have a share arrangement with. Nine anglers managed to amass 41lbs 6ozs between them with Dave Clarke taking the honours with 9lbs 14ozs. Second on the day was Tony Roberts with 8lbs 2ozs and third was George Callaghan with 5lbs 15ozs. All anglers caught and it added a welcome change to the constant carp catching at Willmott's Pool.

RARE MATCH AT CALCOT

Back in the past I recall a RDAA match being won with 73lbs of Chub from Calcot. These days, of course, the river has changed and the heady days of hemp and caster catching big weights of Barbel and Chub are long gone. Reading Fishing Club visited Calcot on Sunday 22 September in not the most ideal conditions and the 8 brave souls managed to weigh in a total of 11lbs. The winner was Pete Budagi with 3lbs 2ozs followed by Geoff Lewington with 2lbs 4ozs and George Callaghan finished third (again) with 2lbs 2ozs.

PRESTCOLD CONTINUE SEARCH FOR FISH ON KENNET

Changed from Beat 4 to Ufton River due to towpath work Prestcold AC fielded five anglers on Sunday 22 September to record another disappointing result. RDAA Match Secretary Mike Sheasby continued his good run of form to win the match with 2lbs 8ozs. Pegged in the 'cattle drink' Mick caught mainly small Roach with the odd Gudgeon and Perch using stick float tactics with red maggot over hemp and caster feed. Roy Green had a similar bag of species to come second with 1lb 10ozs. Drawn towards the middle of the venue he used pole tactics to catch his fish. Two anglers blanked on a difficult day.

TUESDAY CLUB SET SEASON RECORDS

Tuesday Club veterans returned to Willmott's Pool on Tuesday 1 October and the ten anglers managed to set a season's record. They amassed the best total weight so far of 487lbs, and John Nicholls plundered 86lbs 8ozs also a best winning weight of the season to take the spoils. Phil Lush was second overall with 80lbs 14ozs which is normally enough to win. The fishing at Willmott's prove Del and Jaimie manage the fishery very well.

THAMES CONTINUES TO SHINE

Even though the Thames has consistently performed well at Wallingford this season the RDAA additional match still struggles to attract anglers which is so disappointing. Yes, Wallingford is a long walk, but the fishing is so good. Only four anglers booked in for the RDAA additional match on Sunday 15 September and they were rewarded with a total weight of 27lbs 9ozs – just short of 8lb per man average on a river!

The winner with the best winning weight so far this season on an RDAA match was new member Mike Dalziel. Mike finished second on the last match here from the 'sandbags' peg at the bottom of the venue so when he drew the same peg again, he knew what to do. Fishing a combination of bolo, waggler and long whip tactics with either sweetcorn or tares as hook bait over groundbait, hemp and tare feed Mike banked a lovely catch of roach and dace weighing 13lbs 15ozs. Andy Chapman was pegged on the 'landing stage' peg also at the bottom of the venue and managed to bank a perch of 3lbs 2ozs among a predominantly dace catch in his total weight of 10lbs 14ozs to come second, using similar tactics to the winner.

RDAA TEAMS OF FOUR.

On Sunday 6 October, RDAA held the 56th Annual Teams of Four match on the River Kennet. Due to towpath work on the Beats the anglers were spread out over four venues not usually used in recent times for such a match. There were 5 teams and one individual taking on the challenge in what proved a very close match. The Kennet, as we all know, is still struggling to provide good weights in matches, but this can mean that anyone can win from anywhere. This time the river played a trump card and delivered for two as joint winners were declared. Paul Mason representing Yotac/21 Club "Blue", returned to his winning form of last year. Pegged just upstream of the middle of Theale River section, he banked mainly Roach along with a couple of Dace using Avon float tactics with maggot on the hook, over hemp, caster and maggot feed. Meanwhile Tony Roberts representing Reading Fishing Club "Blind Chickens", drew the last downstream peg on Ufton River Section. Using Bolo float tactics with double pinkie on the hook, over hemp, caster and maggot feed, Tony banked mainly Roach along with an 8oz Grayling. Both anglers weighed 4lbs 7ozs. The other two sections were at Lower Benyons (Red) where Geoff Eley representing Prestcold & Reading Civil Service "Four Tops" (longer to write than a Four Tops single lasted), took the honours with 3lbs 14ozs 8dr, and Calcot where Pete Budaji, also representing the "Blind Chickens" of Reading Fishing Club, took the section with 3lbs 8ozs. The total weight on the day was 37lbs 7ozs 8dr with one dry net.

The Team Trophy was won by Yotac/21 Club "Blue" (Paul Mason, Duncan Bales, Mick Donahue, Rob Stephens) with 15 points from Prestcold & Reading Civil Service "Four Tops" (Graham Hawkins, Gordon McGee, Geoff Eley, Phil Allen) closely behind on 14 points. Reading Fishing Club "Blind Chickens" despite their two section wins were third with 12 points with Yotac/21 Club "Green" fourth also on 12 points but with lower overall weight. Last, but not least, were "The Muppets" of Tilehurst Royal British Legion on 8 points.

Next RDAA match is Sunday 20 October 2024 on the Thames at Wallingford B which if the weather is kind should be a cracker. Please support this match by booking directly with Mike Sheasby as the Thames continues to fish well. Please also book in the normal way for the next Association match on Sunday 3 November 2024, at Froxfield where hopefully the canal will welcome many and produce good weights.