

Reading & District Angling Association

Match Scene 5 September - 2 October 2023



THAMES FISHES WELL....

September is always a good month on the rivers and Reading Fishing Club fished the Thames at Wallingford on 10 September with high expectations. They were not disappointed as the 8 anglers produced 63lbs 1 oz between them. The winner was Pete Budagi with 18lbs 12ozs of Bream on the ground bait feeder. Richard Rosinski was second and Nick Stephens third.

.... BUT KENNET RETURNS TO NORMAL

Prestcold's match on Sunday 17 September at Beat 4 B section only saw six anglers compete despite the good return of the September RDAA match two weeks earlier. However, Beat 4 once again proved to be a difficult nut to crack. All drawn below Rose Kiln Lane Bridge caught but worryingly above the bridge no fish were caught and these traditionally are good swims. Roy Green was pegged on the last swim of the venue, by the white bridge, and he had a reasonable day to win with 5lbs 5ozs of small Roach, Dace and Perch using the traditional stick float method with maggot over maggot and hemp feed. Mick Plank was second using similar tactics two pegs downstream of Rose Kiln Lane Bridge where he also caught small fish for 1lb 5ozs. Total weight on the day was a disappointing 8lbs 12ozs.

THAMES DIPS IN FORM...

On Sunday 17 September it was Newtown's turn to fish the Thames at Wallingford. Fielding an impressive 11 anglers the river continued to produce but the total weight of 30lbs 10ozs was a little disappointing compared to other days. Martyn Connelly won with a bonus bream to add to his bag of silvers, to record a weight of 8lbs 11ozs Stewart Howe was second with 7lbs 2ozs of silvers with Alan Powell third with another bag of silvers for 2lbs 12ozs.

...BUT COMES ROARING BACK

Faced with a stiff downstream wind, fast flow, and murky water, the prospects at Wallingford for the RDAA match on Sunday 24 September must have put some trepidation in the minds of the 9 anglers that competed. However, this was all forgotten when they managed to weigh 76lbs 7ozs between them. Spencer Couzens drew the last downstream peg on the venue and fished a combination of bolo float and ground bait feeder tactics with a single grain of sweetcorn, tare or worm on the hook, over ground bait and hemp feed, to weigh 19lbs 2ozs. A bonus Bream of 7lbs 12ozs towards the end of match was the telling factor. Spare a thought, though, for Pete Godfrey who finished second with 14lbs 14ozs. Drawn on the sandbags peg, he decided to use a short pole approach,

with a single red maggot on the hook for the bleak, and it nearly paid off as he banked over 600 of the species – a remarkable effort.

TEAM MATCH PRODUCES CLOSE ENCOUNTER

The RDAA Teams of Four Championship took place on 1 October and the six teams were spread over Beat 4B and Beat 5 of the Kennet. After the good result last time, hopes were high for the 24 anglers, but the river couldn't quite manage the previous month. The total weight caught of 65lbs 13ozs 8dr was respectable and it led to one of the closest fought team matches in its 55-year history. Three teams ended up tied at the top with the same number of points and so the winners were determined on weight, and even that was close. Yotac/21 Club Blue represented by Duncan Bales, Mick Donahue, Paul Mason and Rob Stephens, took the overall title with 16 points and a total weight of 12lbs 3ozs between them. In second place Prestcold and Reading Civil Service No Hoppers defied their title with 16 points and 11lbs 9ozs between them and third were TRBLAS Dreamers with 16 points and 10lbs 12ozs between them. TRBLAS Muppets were fourth with 15 points, last year's winners, Reading FC Blind Chickens, came fifth with 12points and Yotac/21 Club Green finished sixth with 6 points. Individually EC member Fred Jones representing TRBLAS Muppets won the whole match with 11lbs. Fishing on the first peg downstream of Berkley Avenue Road Bridge on the "sedges" on Beat "5B" section, Fred banked two Chub - including a specimen of 6lbs 6ozs - and bits using maggot feeder tactics with maggot and worm on the hook, over hemp, caster and maggot feed. Mick Donohoe of Yotac/21 Club "Blue" was second overall. Drawn on the "sandbags" peg on Beat "5A" Section, Mick fished stick float tactics, with maggot on the hook, over hemp, caster and maggot feed, to catch two Chub to 2lbs 8ozs along with a few Perch to record a weight of 7lbs 7ozs. Phil Allan representing the No Hoppers won the top of Beat 4B section with 3lbs 5ozs and George Callaghan representing Yotac/21Club Green won Beat 4B bottom section with 5lbs. As always with these matches organisation is key, and thanks go to Graham Hawkins and Alan Hughes for aiding Mike Sheasby with the results and draw, Fred Jones for pegging the match, our Deputy Fishery Officer Jim Stansfield for giving the venue a strim (particularly from the Beat 4 car park to the river) and last, but not least, Piers Kernaghan for the breakfast catering.

Once again it will be good to see old and new anglers at the next RDAA matches. These are on Sunday 29 October at Wallingford B (book in direct with Mike Sheasby), and the RDAA match (last one on the river for this season) is on Sunday 5 November on Beats 4 and 5, book through your affiliated club or Mike Sheasby.