



## *Reading & District Angling Association*

### *Match Scene 4 February to 14 March 2025*

#### **WILLMOTT'S BACK TO FORM**

The Tuesday Club's first visit to Willmott's Pool in February attracted a healthy turnout of 12 anglers, given the cold dank weather on Tuesday 11 February. However, after the disappointing return of the previous match the venue seemed to fish surprisingly well. Tony Roberts won the contest with 65lbs 14ozs with Phil Lush second with 31lbs 12ozs and the 12 anglers went home happy having landed 186lbs between them.

#### **NEWTOWN PAY WILLMOTT'S A VISIT**

There was a change of scene for the carp at Willmott's Pool when Newtown fielded 10 anglers for their match there on Sunday 16 February. The cold weather seems to have dulled the appetite of the fish however and only 41lbs 5ozs were brought to the scales. Terry Smith took the win with 27lbs 2ozs with Richard Hermon in second and Steve Kinsella third. Perhaps the previous Tuesday match affected the result.

#### **TUESDAY CLUB SUFFER ANOTHER BAD DAY AT WILLMOTT'S**

The second visit by the Tuesday Club in February saw them struggle again when the 11 anglers only managed 96lbs between them on Tuesday 18 February. Obviously, the cold weather is taking a toll on the fish but, with three matches in a week, perhaps it should be expected that weights will be affected. It didn't help that the cold easterly wind and clear water made conditions tough together with the lilies starting to grow which accounted for many lost fish. George Callaghan wasn't complaining though as he took the win with 34lbs 2ozs with the consistent Geoff Lewendon back in second with 14lbs 2ozs.

#### **GOOD WEATHER SEES WILLMOTT'S RETURN TO FORM**

In contrast to the last couple of weeks, the Tuesday Club were greeted by much milder weather and a bright sunny day on Tuesday 25 February. With overnight temperatures in double figures – rare for February – all were hoping for more bites and so it proved as the 15 anglers managed to bring a total of 146lbs to the scales. Winner Rob Stephens weighed 42lbs 6ozs and Tony Roberts was second with 28lbs 8ozs.

## **BROWN-LEE POOL PROVES HARD TO FATHOM**

On Sunday 9 March Reading Fishing Club paid a visit to Brown-Lee Pool. 10 anglers were looking forward to a good day given that it was mild and warm for the time of year with no overnight frost. However, the lake proved hard to fish and only Rudd seemed to want to feed, and to be honest not many of them. Only three anglers weighed in with George Callaghan taking the honours with 10ozs from Richard Rosinski on 9ozs 8dr and Steve Tucker with 1oz 8dr. Total weight of 1lb 5ozs can only be described as a disaster!

## **ONCE MORE WEATHER TAKES A HAND AS THE LAST RDAA MATCH OF SEASON DISAPPOINTS.**

On Sunday 2 March the traditional RDAA Teams of 4 were held for the Senior Team Championship at Froxfield and once again the weather played its part with heavy frost the night before. Six teams took place. Total weight of 20lbs 8ozs 12dr with half the anglers failing to weigh in shows that the canal has struggled this season with the different temperatures and wet conditions. The Match was won by Ernie Malyon fishing for Reading Civil Service "Blues". Drawn in the middle of the "Turning Bay" on Froxfield "A", (Turning Bay), section. Ernie banked two Skimmer Bream to 2lbs 8ozs using pole tactics, feeding groundbait and squat with pinkie and worm on the hook to weigh of 4lbs 6ozs. Continuing his good form, Tony Franklin, fishing for Pangbourne & Whitchurch "Slapheads" came second. Drawn at the bottom of the "Straight" on Froxfield "A", (Wides), Section, he banked one Skimmer Bream of 1lb 8ozs and one Perch using groundbait feeder and bomb tactics, feeding pinkie with groundbait, with worm, and caster on the hook to weigh 3lbs 14ozs. There were four sections, and the other two winners were George Callaghan on the Short Pound section with 1lb 5ozs, and Geoff Lewendon managed 2ozs to win the section below the road bridge which continued its poor form this season. The winning team and the only team where all four members scored points were YOTAC/21 Club "Green" with a magnificent 21 points (three seconds and one first). Second with 11 points were Reading Civil Service "Blues" and third were Pangbourne & Whitchurch "Slapheads" with 10 points. Fourth with 9 points and better weight were YOTAC/21 Club "Blue" with Reading Fishing Club "Blind Chickens" fifth with 9 points but with a lower weight. Last were Aldermaston "A" where all four members failed to weigh in to score 0.

Without doubt Mike Sheasby the RDAA Match Secretary and his ever-willing team of helpers will look on this past season with trepidation. As the song says, things can only get better, and we all hope that next season will be an improvement. Well done to all the Trophy winners and participants for keeping faith. The trophies will be presented at the RDAA Open Day on Saturday 5 July 2025 and all deserve a big round of applause.

## **FROXFIELD CONTINUES TO FISH BADLY**

On Sunday 9 March, Newtown paid a visit to Froxfield but unfortunately the canal once again proved to be a tough nut to crack. The 10 anglers only managed 3lbs 11ozs 14drs (impressed by the accuracy of the scales), and the winner caught most of that weight as Stewart Howe managed to find 2lbs 1oz of fish. Robin Reynolds came second and Dermot Murphy was third.

## **MEANWHILE BACK AT WILLMOTT'S**

The Tuesday Club was back on Willmott's on Tuesday 11 March and with the warmer weather the thirteen anglers were treated to improved form. 276lbs was shared between them and the winner this time was Tony Roberts with 61lbs 8ozs and organizer John Ambrose came second with 35lbs 4ozs.

**That concludes the match reports for 2024/25 season. Next report will cover the close season and will be posted here during middle of June.**