

MATCH SURVEY REPORT 2024/25

1 OVERVIEW

The total weight recorded on matches for the season 2024/25 exceeded all expectations by far with 9458lbs 11oz 6dr exceeding the previous season by nearly 1617lbs. There were 77 reports compared to 69 in the previous year which accounts for this and without doubt Willmott's Pool has been responsible as per last season for most matches and weight. Once again, many river matches were lost to flood conditions from October onwards and still the River Kennet continues to give concern in matches. Weather from mid-October meant the rivers were unfishable at a time they are normally most productive, and although conditions eased in November, only two matches were held. The Canal started brightly but again the frosts and variable cold temperatures led to reduced weights.

Year on year comparison all reports - Note RDAA matches included (excluded before 2011)

Year		Total fishing	Anglers per match	Total weight (lbs)		Average wt per match (lbs)		Average wt per man (lbs)
2007		1300	8.7	3642		24.3		2.8
2008		1163	9.2	2884		22.9		2.48
2009		1253	9.28	2581		19.1		2.05
2010		1564	10.2	4583		29.4		2.87
2011		1921	11.78	5303		32.5		2.77
2012		1513	13.5	3428		30.6		2.26
2013		1628	13.91	3768		32.2		2.31
2014		1675	12.22	4105		29.9		2.45
2015		1607	11.47	5017		35.8		3.12
2016		1303	10.68	3710		30.4		2.84
2017		1052	11.56	2867		31.5		2.72
2018		878	10.97	2889		36.1		3.29
2019		1042	13.02	2862		35.7		2.74
2020		519	14.83	1404		40.1		2.71
2021		859	11.93	3304		45.9		3.84
2022		700	10.14	5283		76.5		7.54
2023		775	11.26	7482		108.43		9.65
2024		855	11.1	9458		122.84		11.06

2. BREAKDOWN BY TYPE OF VENUE (COMPARED TO LAST SEASON)

River Kennet total weight of 183lbs was down by 43% (138lbs), River Thames weight of 309lbs was up by 6.92% (20lbs) the canal weight of 354lbs was down by 29.76% (150lbs). Lake weight of 8674lbs was up 27.98% (1883lbs). Willmott's Pool continues to contribute significantly to the overall total and this venue's weight rose to 8540lbs an increase of 28.88% (1914lbs) but with more matches held there, this is hardly surprising.

Number of matches held on the River Kennet (12) was down by 5 and the Thames saw an increase of 2 to 10. The Canal saw a decrease of one match to 15. The lakes saw an increase of 11 (10 of which were on Willmott's Pool) to 39. There was one match held on River Loddon at Whistley Mill.

The number of anglers fishing matches decreased by 28.88% (52) on the River Kennet, and by 6.8% (5) on the River Thames. The Canal saw a decrease of 6.57% (15) and due to the popularity of Willmott's Pool the lakes saw an increase of 51% (150).

The average weight per match was down on the River Kennet by 19.43% (3.67lbs), the River Thames also saw a decrease of 14.34% (5.18lbs). The Canal was also down by 25% (7.88lbs) and the Lakes also saw a decrease of 8.1% (19.48lbs) despite the success of Willmott's Pool.

The average weight caught per man tells a familiar story for the River Kennet down by 19.66% (0.35lbs) but the River Thames rose by 15.44% (0.61lbs). The Canal saw a reduction of 24.88% (0.55lbs) and the lakes also decreased by 15.29% (3.5lbs).

3.RIVER KENNET

With all the indicators showing a fall against the previous season, the river is not performing well for the match angler, and it is difficult to see how this will improve in the coming years. The numbers participating are not likely to increase given the demographics. The average age of the match angler competing and the general decline in sport could see matches reduce further. Hope lies in the Kennet Hatchery project, but there is still a few seasons before any improvement takes place. The best winning weight recorded was only 5lbs 7ozs in August on a Prestcold match held at Theale. The September RDAA match showed the best total weight of 45lbs 12ozs.

River Kennet year on year comparison

Year	No of matches	No of anglers	Average anglers per match	Total weight (lbs)	Average weight per match (lbs)	Average weight per angler (lbs)
2016	43	513	11.93	876	20.37	1.7
2017	27	405	15	1049	38.85	2.59
2018	19	258	13.57	719	37.84	2.78
2019	27	392	14.51	1053	39	2.68
2020	14	258	18.42	444	31.73	1.72
2021	17	247	14.52	379	22.28	1.53
2022	17	186	10.94	416	24.44	2.23
2023	17	180	10.58	321	18.88	1.78
2024	12	128	10.66	183	15.21	1.43

Venue breakdowns below.

BEAT 3				
Date	Club	Win Weight	Total Weight	No. Fishing
15/12/2024	Sundial	0-00-0	0-00-0	3
TOTALS	1	0-00-0	0-00-0	3

BEAT 4				
Date	Club	Win Weight	Total Weight	No. Fishing
07/07/2024	RDAA	3-15-8	7-05-8	9
04/08/2024	RDAA	4-14-0	16-07-8	6
01/09/2024	RDAA	4-11-0	10-04-0	5
TOTALS	3	4-14-0	34-01-0	20

BEAT 5				
Date	Club	Win Weight	Total Weight	No. Fishing
07/07/2024	RDAA	1-03-0	3-15-8	9
04/08/2024	RDAA	2-08-8	17-14-8	12
01/09/2024	RDAA	5-06-0	35-08-8	15
TOTALS	3	5-06-0	57-06-8	36

CALCOT				
Date	Club	Win Weight	Total Weight	No. Fishing
22/09/2024	Reading Fishing Club	3-02-0	11-00-0	8
06/10/2024	RDAA	3-08-0	6-12-0	4
17/11/2024	Reading Civil Service	1-01-0	1-01-0	5
TOTALS	3	3-08-0	18-13-0	17

LOWER BENYONS				
Date	Club	Win Weight	Total Weight	No. Fishing
14/07/2024	Prestcold	0-14-0	3-00-0	9
06/10/2024	RDAA	3-14-8	5-13-8	4
TOTALS	2	3-14-8	8-13-8	13

THEALE RIVER				
Date	Club	Win Weight	Total Weight	No. Fishing
14/07/2024	Reading Fishing Club	2-15-0	11-12-0	7
11/08/2024	Prestcold	5-07-0	16-01-0	7
06/10/2024	RDAA	4-07-0	10-01-0	4
TOTALS	3	5-07-0	37-14-0	18

UFTON RIVER				
Date	Club	Win Weight	Total Weight	No. Fishing
11/08/2024	Sundial	1-15-0	4-15-0	7
22/09/2024	Prestcold	2-08-0	5-04-0	5
06/10/2024	RDAA	4-07-0	15-07-0	5
TOTALS	3	4-07-0	25-10-0	17

4. RIVER THAMES

In pure contrast to the Kennet the Thames continues to show good weights. Unfortunately, access to the river is not always easy for the match angler with all their gear. Traditionally the Thames fishes best from September but some days were lost in October and from mid-November to high water levels. The number of matches did rise, and with RDAA looking to share venues the future looks good. 10 matches took place, eight at Wallingford, one at Northmoor (in flood conditions) and one experimental match at South Stoke, a new shared venue which performed well. Weights were encouraging at Wallingford but the numbers participating reflect the access, and the poor return at Northmoor on a match that should probably not have taken place, given the conditions, reduced the average weight figures considerably. The best winning weight was 17lbs at Wallingford on a Reading Fishing Club match on 10 November.

River Thames year on year comparison

Year	No of matches	No of anglers	Average anglers per match	Total weight (lbs)	Average weight per match (lbs)	Average weight per angler (lbs)
2016	34	262	7.7	1237	36.38	4.72
2017	26	181	6.96	705	27.11	3.89
2018	29	244	7.37	871	30.03	4.07
2019	14	124	8.85	366	26.11	2.94
2020	10	93	9.3	383	38.34	4.12
2021	18	176	9.77	563	31.26	3.19
2022	12	101	8.41	293	24.41	2.9
2023	8	73	9.12	289	36.12	3.95
2024	10	68	6.8	309	30.94	4.55

Venue breakdowns below

NORTHMOOR				
Date	Club	Win Weight	Total Weight	No. Fishing
13/10/2024	Prestcold	0-15-0	1-04-8	6
TOTALS	1	0-15-0	1-04-8	6

SOUTH STOKE				
Date	Club	Win Weight	Total Weight	No. Fishing
17/09/2024	Tuesday Club	9-14-0	41-06-0	9
TOTALS	1	9-14-0	41-06-0	9

WALLINGFORD				
Date	Club	Win Weight	Total Weight	No. Fishing
30/06/2024	Prestcold	12-00-8	32-01-8	8
11/08/2024	Newtown	7-08-0	18-01-0	6
18/08/2024	RDAA	11-14-0	41-09-0	7
01/09/2024	Sundial	10-11-0	16-15-0	4
08/09/2024	Reading FC	12-04-0	64-04-0	9
15/09/2024	RDAA	13-15-0	27-09-0	4
10/11/2024	Reading FC	17-00-0	48-02-0	10
17/11/2024	RDAA	7-08-0	18-02-0	5
TOTALS	8	17-00-0	266-11-8	53

5.KENNET & AVON CANAL

15 matches were held on the canal this season with mixed results and some testing conditions for anglers in the winter. There were 13 matches held at Froxfield, one at Salmon Cut and one at Padworth. Froxfield has been a saviour for the match angler during the winter months and has performed well over the years but are there cracks starting to show? It started well in November but faded towards the end with weights significantly down. The section below the road bridge was almost void of any fish, and above the bridge the fish proved to be shoaled up in certain pegs. Sport above the RDAA venue on Marlborough's stretches has also fished badly, which gives some cause of concern to an underlying problem. Padworth produced a large Perch over 3lbs, but little else and Salmon Cut saw 13 anglers struggle, for just under 5lbs. The best winning weight of 16lbs 12oz came at Froxfield on a Newtown AC match on 17 November.

Canal year on year comparison

Year	No of matches	No of anglers	Average anglers per match	Total weight (lbs)	Average weight per match (lbs)	Average weight per angler (lbs)
2016	31	411	13.25	1064	34.31	2.58
2017	27	377	13.96	812	30.07	2.15
2018	24	329	13.7	934	38.93	2.84
2019	28	435	15.53	1216	43.41	2.79
2020	6	110	18.33	345	57.46	3.13
2021	16	252	15.75	710	44.4	2.81
2022	11	181	16.45	529	48.08	2.92
2023	16	228	14.25	504	31.5	2.21
2024	15	213	14.2	354	23.62	1.66

Venue breakdowns below

PADWORTH				
Date	Club	Win Weight	Total Weight	No. Fishing
27/10/2024	Reading Civil Service	4-07-0	5-03-0	7
TOTALS	1	4-07-0	5-03-0	7

FROXFIELD				
Date	Club	Win Weight	Total Weight	No. Fishing
03/04/2024	Non-Affiliated Club	8-07-8	29-06-0	6
09/06/2024	Reading Civil Service	1-14-0	7-00-0	8
03/11/2024	RDAA	13-04-0	90-00-8	32
06/11/2024	Non-Affiliated Club	12-04-0	45-08-0	10
17/11/2024	Newtown	16-12-0	30-11-0	17
01/12/2024	RDAA	9-10-0	49-05-8	28
08/12/2024	Reading Fishing Club	0-01-8	0-01-8	6
29/12/2024	RDAA OPEN	9-07-0	24-14-8	20
05/01/2025	RDAA	5-12-0	13-14-8	14
26/01/2025	Reading Fishing Club	1-01-0	2-01-0	6
02/02/2025	RDAA	2-00-0	7-01-0	12
02/03/2025	RDAA	4-06-0	20-08-12	24
09/03/2025	Newtown	2-01-0	3-11-14	10
TOTALS	13	16-12-0	324-04-2	193

SALMON CUT				
Date	Club	Win Weight	Total Weight	No. Fishing
20/10/2024	Newtown	1-12-8	4-14-4	13
TOTALS	1	1-12-8	4-14-4	13

6.LAKES

Willmott's Pool continues to perform well. The extra matches that the Tuesday Club held there have seen a rise in total weights but even during the cold spell of January and February the venue struggled. 34 matches were held on the venue, 4 on Brown-Lee Pool and one at Cottage Lane, which was the first for many years. Weights at both Brown-Lee and Cottage Lane were somewhat disappointing, but Willmott's Pool has maintained form. The best winning weight of 86lbs 8ozs was at a Tuesday Club match at Willmott's Pool on 1 October.

Lakes year on year comparison

Year	No of matches	No of anglers	Average anglers per match	Total weight (lbs)	Average weight per match (lbs)	Average weight per angler (lbs)
2016	14	117	8.35	533	38.07	4.55
2017	11	89	8.09	309	28.09	3.47
2018	6	65	10.83	363	60.56	5.59
2019	11	91	8.27	228	20.75	2.5
2020	5	58	11.6	232	46.32	3.99
2021	21	184	8.76	1652	78.68	8.98
2022	29	232	8	4045	139.5	17.43
2023	28	294	10.5	6728	240.28	22.89
2024	39	444	11.8	8611	220.8	19.39

Venue breakdowns below

BROWN-LEE POOL				
Date	Club	Win Weight	Total Weight	No. Fishing
30/04/2024	Tuesday Club	2-04-0	5-12-0	6
23/06/2024	Reading Fishing Club	11-07-0	37-07-0	12
21/07/2024	Newtown	9-10-0	18-07-0	13
09/03/2025	Reading Fishing Club	0-10-0	1-05-0	10
TOTALS	4	11-07-0	62-15-0	41

COTTAGE LANE				
Date	Club	Win Weight	Total Weight	No. Fishing
23/06/2024	Sundial	8-00-0	8-00-0	5
TOTALS	1	8-00-0	8-00-0	5

WILLMOTT'S POOL POOL				
Date	Club	Win Weight	Total Weight	No. Fishing
17/03/2024	Reading FC	37-00-0	105-12-0	12
19/03/2024	Tuesday Club	58-00-0	306-00-0	12
16/04/2024	Tuesday Club	30-04-0	165-00-0	14
23/04/2024	Tuesday Club	33-02-0	268-00-0	16
30/04/2024	Tuesday Club	79-14-0	366-00-0	11
07/05/2024	Tuesday Club	84-06-0	418-00-0	10
19/05/2024	Reading CS	61-08-0	284-08-0	10
21/05/2024	Tuesday Club	49-08-0	349-00-0	14
28/05/2024	Tuesday Club	61-12-0	412-00-0	14
04/06/2024	Tuesday Club	49-02-0	305-00-0	12
11/06/2024	Tuesday Club	50-00-0	262-00-0	18
16/06/2024	Newtown	27-03-0	118-09-0	13
18/06/2024	Tuesday Club	64-02-0	335-00-0	12
14/07/2024	Sundial	57-11-0	164-06-0	7
18/08/2024	Non-Affiliated Club	78-00-0	367-04-0	8
27/08/2024	Tuesday Club	65-12-0	406-00-0	10
01/10/2024	Tuesday Club	86-08-0	487-00-0	10
08/10/2024	Tuesday Club	78-00-0	220-00-0	10
15/10/2024	Tuesday Club	48-12-0	364-00-0	13
29/10/2024	Tuesday Club	58-10-0	464-00-0	16
19/11/2024	Tuesday Club	51-00-0	196-00-0	11
26/11/2024	Tuesday Club	62-02-0	223-00-0	11
03/12/2024	Tuesday Club	52-02-0	245-00-0	10
10/12/2024	Tuesday Club	58-10-0	288-00-0	14
17/12/2024	Tuesday Club	37-04-0	228-00-0	11
14/01/2025	Tuesday Club	57-00-0	176-00-0	16
21/01/2025	Tuesday Club	53-00-0	164-00-0	9
28/01/2025	Tuesday Club	36-08-0	71-00-0	9
11/02/2025	Tuesday Club	65-14-0	186-00-0	12
16/02/2025	Newtown	27-02-0	41-05-0	10
18/02/2025	Tuesday Club	34-02-0	96-00-0	11
25/02/2025	Tuesday Club	42-06-0	146-00-0	15
09/03/2025	Sundial	22-15-0	36-12-0	4
11/03/2025	Tuesday Club	61-08-0	276-00-0	13
TOTALS	34	86-08-0	8540-08-0	398

7. CLUBS

Club reports are listed below: -

NEWTOWN				
Date	Venue	Win Weight	Total Weight	No. Fishing
16/06/2024	Willmott's Pool Pool	27-03-0	118-09-0	13
21/07/2024	Brown-Lee Pool	9-10-0	18-7-0	13
11/08/2024	Wallingford	7-08-0	18-01-0	6
20/10/2024	Salmon Cut	1-12-8	4-14-4	13
17/11/2024	Froxfield	16-12-0	30-11-0	17
16/02/2025	Willmott's Pool	27-02-0	41-05-0	10
09/03/2025	Froxfield	2-01-0	3-11-14	10
TOTALS	7	27-03-0	236-11-2	82

PRESTCOLD				
Date	Venue	Win Weight	Total Weight	No. Fishing
30/06/2024	Wallingford	12-00-8	32-01-8	8
14/07/2024	Lower Benyons	0-14-0	3-00-0	9
11/08/2024	Theale	5-07-0	16-01-0	7
22/09/2024	Ufton River	2-08-0	5-04-0	5
13/10/2024	Northmoor	0-15-0	1-04-8	6
TOTALS	5	12-00-8	57-11-0	35

RDAA & OPEN MATCHES				
Date	Venue	Win Weight	Total Weight	No. Fishing
07/07/2024	Beats 4&5	3-15-8	11-05-8	18
04/08/2024	Beats 4&5	4-14-0	34-06-0	18
18/08/2024	Wallingford	11-14-0	41-09-0	7
01/09/2024	Beats 4&5	5-06-0	45-12-8	20
15/09/2024	Wallingford	13-15-0	27-09-0	4
06/10/2024	Ufton/Lower Benyons/Theale/Calcot	4-07-0	37-07-8	21
03/11/2024	Froxfield	13-04-0	90-00-8	32
17/11/2024	Wallingford	7-08-0	18-02-0	5
01/12/2024	Froxfield	9-10-0	49-05-8	28
29/12/2024	Froxfield	9-07-0	24-14-8	20
05/01/2025	Froxfield	5-12-0	13-04-8	14
02/02/2025	Froxfield	2-00-0	7-01-0	12
02/03/2025	Froxfield	4-06-0	20-08-12	24
TOTALS	12	13-15-0	384-14-12	223

READING CIVIL SERVICE				
Date	Venue	Win Weight	Total Weight	No. Fishing
10/05/2024	Willmott's Pool	61-08-0	284-08-0	10
09/06/2024	Froxfield	1-14-0	7-00-0	8
27/10/2024	Padworth Canal	4-07-0	5-03-0	7
17/11/2024	Calcot	1-01-0	1-01-0	5
TOTALS	4	61-08-0	297-12-0	30

READING FC				
Date	Venue	Win Weight	Total Weight	No. Fishing
17/03/2024	Willmott's Pool	37-00-0	105-12-0	12
23/06/2024	Brown-Lee Pool	11-07-0	37-07-0	12
14/07/2024	Theale River	2-15-0	11-12-0	7
08/09/2024	Wallingford	12-04-0	64-04-0	9
22/09/2024	Calcot	3-02-0	11-00-0	8
10/11/2024	Wallingford	17-00-0	48-02-0	10
08/12/2024	Froxfield	0-01-8	0-01-8	6
26/01/2025	Froxfield	1-01-0	2-01-0	6
09/03/2025	Brown-Lee Pool	0-10-0	1-05-0	10
TOTALS	9	37-00-0	217-08-8	80

SUNDIAL				
Date	Venue	Win Weight	Total Weight	No. Fishing
23/06/2024	Cottage Lane	8-00-0	8-00-0	5
14/07/2024	Willmott's Pool	57-11-0	164-06-0	7
11/08/2024	Ufton River	1-15-0	4-15-0	7
01/09/2024	Wallingford	10-11-0	16-15-0	4
17/11/2024	Whistley Mill River	0-15-0	0-15-0	2
15/12/2024	Beat 3	0-00-0	0-00-0	3
12/01/2025	Calcot	Match	Cancelled	
16/02/2025	Padworth Canal	Match	Cancelled	
09/03/2025	Willmott's Pool	22-15-0	36-12-0	4
TOTALS	7	57-11-0	231-15-0	32

TUESDAY CLUB				
Date	Venue	Win Weight	Total Weight	No. Fishing
19/03/2024	Willmott's Pool	58-00-0	306-00-0	12
16/04/2024	Willmott's Pool	30-04-0	165-00-0	14
23/04/2024	Willmott's Pool	33-02-0	268-00-0	16
30/04/2024	Willmott's Pool	79-14-0	366-00-0	11
	Brown-lee Pool	2-04-0	5-12-0	6
07/05/2024	Willmott's Pool	84-06-0	418-00-0	10
21/05/2024	Willmott's Pool	49-08-0	349-00-0	14
28/05/2024	Willmott's Pool	61-12-0	412-00-0	14
04/06/2024	Willmott's Pool	49-02-0	305-00-0	12
11/06/2024	Willmott's Pool	50-00-0	262-00-0	18
18/06/2024	Willmott's Pool	64-02-0	335-00-0	12
27/08/2024	Willmott's Pool	65-12-0	406-00-0	10
17/09/2024	South Stoke	9-14-0	41-06-0	9
01/10/2024	Willmott's Pool	86-08-0	487-00-0	10
08/10/2024	Willmott's Pool	78-00-0	220-00-0	10
15/10/2024	Willmott's Pool	48-12-0	364-00-0	13
29/10/2024	Willmott's Pool	58-10-0	464-00-0	16
19/11/2024	Willmott's Pool	51-00-0	196-00-0	11
26/11/2024	Willmott's Pool	62-02-0	223-00-0	11
03/12/2024	Willmott's Pool	52-02-0	245-00-0	10
10/12/2024	Willmott's Pool	58-10-0	288-00-0	14
17/12/2024	Willmott's Pool	37-04-0	228-00-0	11
14/01/2025	Willmott's Pool	57-00-0	176-00-0	16
21/01/2025	Willmott's Pool	53-00-0	164-00-0	9
28/01/2025	Willmott's Pool	36-08-0	71-00-0	9
11/02/2025	Willmott's Pool	65-14-0	186-00-0	12
18/02/2025	Willmott's Pool	34-02-0	96-00-0	11
25/02/2025	Willmott's Pool	42-06-0	146-00-0	15
11/03/2025	Willmott's Pool	61-08-0	276-00-0	13
TOTALS	28	86-08-0	7420-02-0	349

NON-AFFILIATED CLUBS				
Date	Venue	Win Weight	Total Weight	No. Fishing
03/04/2024	Froxfield	8-07-8	29-06-0	6
18/08/2024	Willmott's Pool	78-00-0	367-04-0	8
06/11/2024	Froxfield	12-04-0	45-08-0	10
TOTALS	3	78-00-0	438-02-0	24