

## Match Reports 7 February – 14 March 2023

On 7 February the Tuesday Club anglers again ventured out to Willmotts for some more pole action. This time it was Tony Holdsworth who took the honours with a 40lbs winning weight, way ahead of Andy Bridge in second place with 17lbs 10oz. 10 anglers still managed to catch 112lbs between them which given the cold weather and time of the year is very respectable.

A week later they were out again when only 7 anglers braved the cold snap to deliver 96lbs to the scales. This time Paul Leek was on the winning peg with a catch of 30lbs 8oz just 6oz ahead of Mark Kislingbury in second place.

21 February saw only 6 anglers turn out for the Tuesday Club but they were rewarded in the mild weather with bumper weights. Paul Leek took the honours once again with 54lbs from Tony Holdsworth with a respectable 36lbs 8oz in second. The total weight of 149lbs was outstanding.

On 28 February given the good result a week before 11 anglers turned out but the extra pressure told although a total weight of 128lbs is still good. This time Phil Lush romped home with 56lbs 8oz with 2<sup>nd</sup> place shared between two anglers with 21lbs 8 oz.

RDAA held its Team of 4 Senior Team Championship match on 5th March on the canal at Froxfield. Seven teams entered but there was some worry that with a cold night before and the start of a very cold wind from the east making conditions difficult.

This proved to be the case with a disappointing 70lbs 4oz 8drs in total caught. The individual winner was Tony Franklin representing the team of Pangbourne & Whitchurch Slapheads. Tony drew peg two above lock 69 on Froxfield wides and fished pole tactics with single red maggot or caster on the hook feeding pinkie and caster to catch all Perch for 11lbs 5oz. RDAA Chairman Graham Hawkins fishing for Richard's Allsorts from Reading Civil Service was second with a weight of 8lbs 8oz. Also drawn on the wides of Froxfield A section Graham managed to find two proper Bream among a mainly skimmer catch. Alan Clark representing Reading Fishing Club Blind Chickens who was drawn on the Short Pound was third overall with 5lbs 6oz.

The winning team overall and taking the winners Shield was Reading Fishing Club Blind Chickens (Pete Budaji, Alan Clark, Mark Hornblow and Richard Rosinski) with 23 points. Second were Reading Civil Service "Richard's Allsorts" (Phil Allen, Graham Hawkins, Gordon McGee and Terry Smith) with 17points just one point ahead of TRBLAS Dreamers in third.

Once again Mike Sheasby has delivered a great match programme for the season and was ably assisted by Alan Hughes, Graham Hawkins and Andy Chapman. Thanks, must also go to the peggars and swim clearers, Fred Jones, Gordon McGee, and Steve O'Keefe, and no match would be the same without Piers Kernaghan in the Farnham Flint Match Hut serving bacon rolls on River Kennet matches, and to the proprietors and staff of The Pelican Inn for the Canal matches.

Overall, Mike would like to thank all those that took part and we hope to see all the trophy winners receive their prizes at the RDAA Open Day on 15 July 2023.

With snow forecast for the next day and with the temperatures low, The Tuesday Club had only 4 brave souls venture out on 7 March to continue their assault on the carp at Willmotts. John Ambrose took the honours with 46lbs with Phil Lush second with 29lbs. Only two other fish were weighed in for a total of 78lbs.

Due to the long-term closure of the bridge at Benson Weir, Wallingford, Prestcold switched their final match of the season to Northmoor on Sunday 12 March. Unfortunately the conditions proved too difficult for the six anglers that made the long trek and only 8ozs in total was taken to the net. The winning weight was 7ozs made up of one small chub and a gudgeon. Amazingly three other anglers managed to weigh 1oz between them with 5 minnows and 2 bullheads on a tough day.

The final hurrah of the standard fishing season saw the Tuesday Club return on 14 March to Willmotts. 8 anglers took on the carp and they were not disappointed. 219lbs was taken to the scales and Mark Hornblow took the honours with a winning weight of 73lbs. Jerry Hewitson was second with 38lbs 8oz.