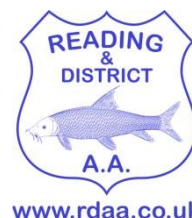


# Reading & District Angling Association



## Match Scene 16 June to 8 July 2024

### **CLOSE SEASON ROUNDUP**

Welcome to another season of match reports and to start us off, a quick round up of what happened during the old traditional close season. Willmott's Pool saw several matches with the Tuesday Club having regular sessions at the venue. In fact, their matches became so popular they had to use Brown-Lee Pool as well as Willmott's on one occasion. Overall, eleven matches took place there, and the best winning weight was 84lbs 6ozs on a very productive 7 May when the total for the day exceeded 400lbs. No records were broken, but the venue continues to fish well. In all over 3000lbs of fish were caught there during the close season. As mentioned earlier Brown-Lee Pool also saw some action but delivered a disappointing 5lbs 12ozs between 6 anglers and there were also a couple of events at Froxfield which produced 36lbs in total.

### **NEWTOWN KICK OFF**

So, with the 16 June being a Sunday it fell to Newtown to open the season with a match at Willmott's Pool. 13 anglers turned out for a close match with Stewart Howe taking the honours with 27lbs 3ozs. Only 5 ounces separated second and third with Barry Moreton just pipping Paul Holland with 22lbs 9ozs and 22lbs 4ozs respectively. Always good to start a season with some rod bending action, and 118lbs 9ozs was the total weight caught on the day.

### **TUESDAY CLUB**

The last Tuesday Club fixture at Willmott's Pool until autumn took place on 18 June. The veterans acknowledge that the school holidays mean many anglers wanting to pleasure fish at the venue, so they hand the summer over to them. They certainly went out with a bang! The 12 anglers amassed 335lbs to the scales with Tony Holdsworth taking the honours with 64lbs 2ozs. Robert Stephens came second with a mere 50lbs, but these guys know how to fish the venue.

### **OLD SCHOOL FOR SUNDIAL**

Now back in the day, before the last Labour Government took office, Cottage Lane used to hold several matches. I cannot recall one being held there in the last thirty years but on Sunday 23 June Sundial decided to take on Lake one to open their match season. The long trek from London saw five anglers take part but only one managed to catch. I assume the majority sat out for the carp, but the winning weight was 8lbs made up with Rudd, Roach and Perch. Good to see some match action back on the venue though.

## READING FISHING CLUB TAKE ON BROWN-LEE POOL

Also on Sunday 23 June, Reading Fishing Club opened their season with a visit to Brown-Lee Pool. 12 anglers delivered 37lbs 7ozs which is a healthy return for what can be a difficult match venue. Geoff Lewendon took the honours with 11lbs 7ozs with Phil Lush second with 11lbs 4ozs and Mark Hornblow maintaining a good start to the season, third with 4lbs 11ozs. Most anglers targeted the bigger fish and two carp were landed, one scaling 11lbs 4ozs, and two were lost. A Tench of 4lbs was also caught.

## PRESTCOLD VISIT WALLINGFORD

It is of course normal for our affiliated clubs to take on the rivers rather than lakes as the Thames and Kennet are still well loved. Prestcold opened their season with a trip to Wallingford on Sunday 30 June and the river didn't disappoint. 8 anglers made the long walk to the bank, and they managed to weigh in just over an average of 4lbs per man with 32lbs 1oz 8dr. The rare dry weather meant many boats, canoes, and bank walkers were about, but it didn't seem to affect the fishing. Graham Walker was pegged on the sandbags swim at the bottom end of the venue, and using groundbait feeder tactics with either worm, maggot or sweetcorn on the hook he won with 12lbs 8dr. which included two Bream of 5lbs 5ozs and 5lbs 3ozs Geoff Eley was on the bottom peg of the high bank, in the middle of the venue, and used similar tactics to weigh 11lbs 12ozs to come second. He also managed two Bream (5lbs 10ozs and 4lbs) with small chub and dace. The lack of Roach caught was surprising but that could be due to the spring weather and late spawning. The total weight could have been more as some anglers caught but didn't weigh in.

## FIRST RDAA MATCH OF SEASON.

With the match at Wallingford cancelled on Sunday 23 June due to lack of numbers booked in (shame) it fell to Sunday 7 July for the first match to take place. 18 anglers competed for the first trophy of the season – The Chronicle Cup – and they were greeted by a strong flowing River Kennet. With a strong wind and heavy showers during the day, the river level rose, causing tough conditions for big weights. The total weight of 11lbs 5ozs was extremely disappointing but conditions and the lack of roach feeding (common throughout the south of England rivers) must have contributed to this and two familiar names from last season continued their good form. The winner on the day was Association Chairman Graham Hawkins. Drawn on the last downstream peg of Beat 4B section, Graham included two Chub to 2lbs 4ozs and small Roach in his winning weight of 3lbs 15ozs 8dr, using stick float tactics, with double red maggot on the hook, over hemp, caster and maggot feed. Phil Allen was second overall. Drawn on the first upstream peg from the confluence of the Holy Brook on Beat 5A section, Phil banked three small Chub and Dace using similar tactics to the winner to take 1lbs 3ozs to the scales. The other two section winners were Dave Finn with 11ozs and Martin Hutchins also with 11ozs. Unfortunately, there were 5 dry nets on the day. It looks like this season is going to be a close affair in all the tables

**Next RDAA match is Sunday 21 July 2024 on the Thames at Wallingford B. Please support this match by booking directly with Mike Sheasby as the Thames is fishing well. Please also book in the normal way for the next Association match on Sunday 4 August 2024 things will get better and hopefully the roach will show on both matches.**