

Reading & District Angling Association

Match Scene 13 February to 11 March 2024



WILLMOTT'S BACK ON FORM

Thirteen anglers took advantage of mild February temperatures to fish the Tuesday Club's match at Willmott's on 13 February. Any thoughts about fish escaping elsewhere during the floods were soon forgotten as 376lbs was brought to the scales as the venue returned to its good form. The winner was John Berry with 63lbs 8ozs with Andy Bridge second with 47lbs. The six large carp caught were removed by the Fisheries team and moved to another lake in the complex.

PRESTCOLD DRAW A BLANK

On a reasonable day with mild temperatures and a bit of sun to boot, hopes were high for the 7 anglers of Prestcold when they took on Padworth Canal on Sunday 18 February. Always a venue that can throw up a bonus big perch or two, it appears that this wasn't the case as all blanked on the day. Prestcold like Reading Civil Service haven't had the best of seasons as their match at Froxfield in January was cancelled due to ice.

AND READING FISHING CLUB ALSO STRUGGLE

Also, on Sunday 18 February, 8 anglers from Reading Fishing Club went to Froxfield. In past seasons Froxfield B stretch (below the road bridge) often threw up a good weight but this season it has consistently performed badly on RDAA matches. This proved the case as only three anglers took fish to the net. Tony Roberts managed 6oz to win with George Callaghan second 1oz behind. Richard Rozinski's 1oz took third as only 12ozs was caught in total.

TUESDAY CLUB MAKE UP FOR LOST FIXTURES

On Tuesday 20 February the Tuesday Club made a quick return to Willmott's to atone for lost fixtures in January, but they found the venue could not respond to the 18 anglers that turned up on a mild day. Only 215lbs were shared between them and the winner was John Nichols with 45lbs 2ozs. John Ambrose came second with a mere 27lbs 8ozs. Perhaps the sheer numbers fishing affected the fish, but this must rank as a disappointing result for the venue.

READING FISHING CLUB RETURN TO CANAL

On Sunday 3 March, Reading Fishing Club returned to the canal, this time nearer to home at Padworth. Again 8 anglers supported the match but faced a harder task than at Froxfield two weeks before, and so it proved, as all failed to catch a fish. Extremely disappointing.

PRESTCOLD TRIED BUT FAILED

On Sunday 3 March, Prestcold tried to have a match but when the Thames at Northmoor proved unfishable with all the rain that had fallen, they decided to come up with a cunning plan. They travelled instead to Callows Pool but unfortunately their plan turned into a Baldrick's as all the pegs were also under water, so they cancelled altogether.

LAST RDAA MATCH OF SEASON.

With the match at Wallingford cancelled on Sunday 25 February due to flooding (again!), the team match at Froxfield on Sunday 11 March is the only RDAA match to report on this month. The teams of four for the Senior Team Championship is always popular and with seven teams entered it proved to be a close affair. The canal was a little out of sorts with plenty of rain before the day so the total weight of 52lbs 10ozs 4dr was disappointing. Having secured the weights and points championships this season, it came as no surprise when the individual winner was Phil Allen fishing for the Reading Civil Service "Not Second Again" team. Fishing in the middle of the straight on Froxfield "A", (Wides), section. Phil banked four Bream to 4-0-0 and one Perch, fishing a combination of Wagglers and Bomb tactics, feeding maggot and caster with double pinkie and worm on the hook to weigh 11lbs 7ozs, and complete a fine season for him personally. Association Chairman Graham Hawkins, also fishing for Reading Civil Service "Not Second Again" was second overall. Fishing the first peg below Lock 69 on the "Short Pound" on Froxfield "A" Section. Graham banked Skimmer Bream to 2-0-0 and small fish, using pole tactics, feeding pinkie with groundbait, with worm, and pinkie on the hook to weigh 8lbs 12ozs. Duncan Bales representing Team Yotac/21 Club "Blue" finished third. Also on the wides of section A, he managed to scale 5lbs 6ozs. With Phil and Graham winning their sections the third and fourth sections on the turning bay stretch and Froxfield B were won by Mark Hornblower for Reading Fishing Club "Blind Chickens" and Martin Hutchins representing Pangbourne & Whitchurch "Slapheads" respectively, both weighing a mere 7ozs each.

The team results showed that **Pangbourne & Whitchurch "Slapheads"** with 21 points came first, with all their members scoring. Second came **Reading Civil Service "Not Second Again"** with 17 points. Third on total weight of 4lbs 12ozs and with 15 points were **Reading Fishing Club "Blind Chickens"**. Fourth, and the only other team where all members scored, came **TRBLAS "Muppets"** also on 15 points but with a lower total weight of 3lbs 8ozs 8dr. Fifth place was also decided on weight countback as the two YOTAC/21 Club teams finished on 12 points each. **YOTAC/21 Club "Blue"** prevailed with 6lbs 14ozs leaving **YOTAC/21 Club "Green"** in sixth with 2lbs 7ozs 8dr. Bringing up the rear were **Pangbourne & Whitchurch "Misfits"** with 11 points and the only team to record two blank returns.

So, another season is over, and a difficult one overall for our Match Secretary, Mike Sheasby, who would like to thank his Match Team who consisted of Alan Hughes, Graham Hawkins, and Andy Chapman. A big thank you also goes to Fred Jones, Steve O' Keefe and Gordon McGee, for checking, clearing, and pegging the Kennet venues. Thanks, must also go to Piers Kernaghan for providing bacon rolls and tea and coffee in the Match Hut on the mornings of the Kennet matches. Thanks also go to all the Clubs and Members who supported the matches and, finally, his thanks go, as ever, to the fellow EC Members for their continued help and support.

The Match Secretary requests that all current trophy holders return the club trophies to him as soon as possible. Next RDAA match is on Sunday 23 June 2024 at Wallingford B. In the meantime, remember to keep checking the booking sheet for matches during the close season.