

Bristol Water Fishery Report

24th August – 26th - September

BW Lakeside

BW Lakeside A busy month has passed at the fisheries with exciting fishing happening across all our waters. Chew Valley and Blagdon Lakes delivered consistently high catch returns, and Barrows Tanks continued to fish brilliantly, just as they have all year! We also carried out our largest individual stocking of the year, introducing 4,500 fish into Chew from our net cage in preparation for this month's competitions.

The weather has been very favourable since the last report, with consistent high-teen temperatures and overcast skies, contributing to an increase in fish caught and improved water clarity at Chew.

With the start of September, we introduced our half-annual birdwatching tickets! These allow wildlife enthusiasts to access the hides around Bristol Water sites and observe the fantastic flora and fauna thriving near the lakes. Notable sightings include ospreys, warblers, spoonbills, hobbies, and more.

Memberships can be purchased at Woodford Lodge, online, or over the phone. Members must be affiliated with a wildlife trust such as the RSPB.

Photography by wildphotographer.co.uk

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BRISTOL
WATER

Half Annual Birdwatching Permit are now available!
Get access to the hides around Chew and Blagdon
Lake from September – March for only £20.

Permits
available online
or at Woodford
Lodge

BristolWaterFisheries
BW_Fisheries
01275332339
www.bristolwaterfisheries.com

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Chew Valley Lake:

Weather Conditions:

Chew Valley experienced a mix of bright sunshine, occasional overcast skies, and light breezes—perfect for top-of-the-water fishing. The water temperature remained stable, creating ideal conditions throughout August and into September.

Fish Caught:

- **Top Patterns:** Dark colours, black-eyed booby variants, cormorants, crunchers, and dark Diawl Bachs were highly productive. Anglers had great success with these patterns, using floating lines with long leaders.
- **Best Areas:** Nunnery to Walley Bank were particularly productive. Anglers found plenty of rising fish, especially during early mornings and late afternoons.
- **Catch Report:** Anglers landed an impressive number of fish, with many reporting multiple catches during the event. The average trout size was around 2 lbs, with some standout specimens over 6 lbs. Most fish were caught on the surface.

Notable Catch:

Adam Palmers 7lb
Rainbow caught off
Woodford bank!



Blagdon Lake:

Weather Conditions:

Blagdon experienced slightly windier conditions than Chew, making boat control a key factor for anglers. Cooler weather encouraged trout to move into shallower areas.

Fish Caught:

- **Top Patterns:** Floating lines and dark colours were very productive, and lures like damsels and blobs also did well in deeper parts of the lake.
 - **Best Areas:** The Lodge and across the Dam were the best spots for both quantity and size.
 - **Catch Report:** Blagdon produced a solid number of catches, with fish sizes averaging 2-4 lbs. The rod average over the month was 7.2.
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Barrows Tanks

Weather Conditions:

Barrows had ideal weather, especially in early September, with overcast skies and shelter provided by the high walls. The cooler conditions encouraged trout to move into shallower areas.

Fish Caught:

To Fish Caught:

- **Top Patterns:** Floating lines or tips with dark colours worked well, especially the black Diawl Bach booby or popper hopper on the point, paired with small dark muskies or cormorants on the droppers. The black booby imitated snails, which trout were reported to be feeding on around the tanks.
- **Best Areas:** The inflows of water remained the most productive spots.
- **Catch Report:** The rod average for the month was 6.94.



Notable Catch: Lewis Pilkington's fish from Barrows 2.

Competitions:

Cortland Fly Fishing Team Championships 2024

Cortland Fly Fishing Team Championships 2024

The Cortland Fly Fishing Team Championships took place at Chew Valley and Blagdon Lakes under excellent conditions. Both lakes offered a challenging yet rewarding experience, with varied weather and water conditions.

The competition saw 96 participants across 16 teams over two days, with two boats on Chew and one on Blagdon each day. This year marked the debut of a junior team, all members of the BRFFA Youth Pathway, who showed great skill, catching 42 fish during the event.

- **Day 1 Highlights:** Team Tightlines led with 55 fish for a total weight of 113 lbs, with the FM Nymphomaniacs close behind in second, and Northern Drifters in third.



- **Day 2 Results:** The FM Nymphomaniacs edged ahead, with a total of 93 fish and a weight of 188 lbs, leaving Tightlines in second and Northern Drifters in third.
- **Notable Catch:** A stunning 6lb 10oz rainbow trout caught by Lee James of the Nymphos was the largest fish of the event.

Team Results:




2024 GRAND FINAL - CHEW & BLAGDON LAKES

Match Statistics:

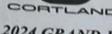
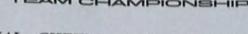
Anglers:	96	
Total fish caught:	854	
Rod average:	4.45	
Average fish weight:	2 lb	1 oz
Largest fish:	6 lb	10 oz
Best Total Bag with bonus:	45 lb	4 oz

**LEE JAMES
ANDY HOFFROCK**

Team Results

	Fish	Total Weight
1 FM NYMPHOMANIACS	93	188
2 TEAM TIGHTLINES	81	165
3 NORTHERN DRIFTERS	75	153
4 BRFFA RED EMERGERS	65	133
5 STOCKS FALCONS	64	127
6 TEAM SNOWBEE	57	115
7 BLAGDON FLY FISHERS	55	112
8 ELINOR	48	98
9 WELSH WIZARDS	47	97
10 NORTHUMBRIAN BADGERS	47	93
11 TEAM OPTIMISTS	40	84
12 CHEW VALLEY MELON TWISTERS	42	84
13 TURRALL YOUTH TEAM	42	83
14 WALTHAMSTOW WULFFS	38	77
15 WEST COUNTRY RAIDERS	35	71
16 MERLINS FLY FISHERS	25	51

Individual Results:

2024 GRAND FINAL - CHEW & BLAGDON LAKES

Individual Results

	Fish	Lbs	Ozs
1 BF ANDY HOFFROCK	22	45	4
2 EE GARETH JONES	20	43	1
3 EF LEE JAMES	19	42	13
4 KF MALCOLM HUNT	20	41	4
5 GF JOHN HOOD	19	39	11
6 EA KIERON JENKINS	19	36	15
7 LF ANDREW LEWIS	16	33	10
8 BE ANDY STONES	15	32	14
9 GD SCOTT GRAHAM	17	32	13
10 LB MARK STEVENS	16	31	8
11 LD PAUL MORRIS	16	31	3
12 EB MATT RUSSELL	16	29	13
13 IB LIAM GASKELL	15	28	14
14 AF DALE BURGESS	14	28	4
15 MF TOM MOESEL	14	28	1
16 KE GRAHAM CURRIE	13	27	14
17 IE BOB FITZPATRICK	13	27	5
18 CF PUGH JARDINE	12	26	12
19 GA MIKE LAYCOCK	13	26	10
20 HE SIMON BIRD	12	26	1
21 DE RICHARD SLATER	12	25	1
22 LA MARK MILES	13	25	0
23 ED ALLEN HUGHES	13	24	12
24 AE PAUL GOLDING	12	24	9
25 BA RON HOWARD	12	24	8
26 GE MARTIN GRIFFITHS	11	23	5
27 IC SHAUN GASKELL	12	23	4
28 DF GRAHAM WILLIS	11	22	15
29 IF IAN GASKELL	11	22	8
30 LC TONY BALDWIN	10	22	5
31 OB JAMES RICE	11	22	0
32 OD ANDREW BANNER	10	21	9
33 LE GARY HASKINS	10	21	7
34 NF ANDREW SMITH	10	21	1
35 MB DAN OWEN	11	20	13
36 IA MARK THOMAS	11	20	9
37 NE TONY FOX	9	20	9
38 JB BRUCE BLACKSHAW	10	19	15
39 DC PADDY MOUNTER	9	19	7

40 ND IAN WATTS	9	19	6
41 OF MARK MCCARTHY	9	18	8
42 KA ANDY COTTAM	9	18	5
43 OC STEVE DOCHERTY	9	18	2
44 GC STEVE COCHRANE	8	17	11
45 AD TIM WELLMAN	7	17	8
46 IC GORDON SMITH	9	17	6
47 IIC NEIL HODGSON	9	17	1
47 HB ALICE DAVIES	9	16	10
49 CE JEFF MASON	8	16	4
50 FA GARY MURRAY	8	15	12
51 PC NIGEL EVANS	8	15	3
52 AA ALEX JOHNSTONE	8	14	12
53 JC PAUL HASKINS	7	14	11
54 PF TONY CHIPMAN	7	14	10
55 DB PAUL HASKEY	7	14	9
56 AC JOHN PIPER	7	14	8
57 HF PAUL TWEDDLE	7	14	7
58 HD JOHN BECK	7	14	3
59 CB SEAN GLOVER	7	14	1
60 JA CHRIS MEADOWS	7	13	13
61 PE STEVE EBDON	6	13	13
62 MC JESSE GALE	7	13	8
63 GB PETE EVILLE	7	13	6
64 ME WILBUR LEIVIRIYAKIT	6	13	6
65 KC PAUL SWEATMAN	7	12	15
66 JD JAMIE SCOTT	7	12	2
67 AB NIK LONG	7	12	13
67 CC SHANE JONES	7	12	13
69 PB PAUL JONES	6	12	1
69 JE CHRIS MARTIN	5	11	14
71 IC CALLUM RUSSELL	6	11	5
72 CD LEE WILLIAMS	6	11	3
73 JF GRAHAM MORGAN-PLUMB	4	11	1
74 OE JOHN OTTER	4	10	10
75 PA PETER KEMPTON	5	10	6
76 FB MARK KENNEDY	4	8	14
76 FE GARY MARTIN	4	8	14
78 DA ED FOSTER	5	8	11
79 NA PETER BAKER	5	8	6
80 KB RICHARD WALKER	4	8	6
81 BD BARRY HAWYIS	4	8	2
82 DD LLOYD PALLET	4	7	6
83 OA RICHARD ELMS	4	7	2
84 KD MARTIN BARRETT	4	6	10
85 FJ GWYNETH MOONEY	3	6	10
86 MD JONNY MOESEL	3	6	0
87 FC IAIN SCOTT	3	5	9

88 FD STEVE MARTIN	3	5	7
89 BH JOHN BRATHWAITE	3	5	6
90 PD ANDY GOODING	3	5	3
91 HA GUTHRIE GUMBLETON	3	5	2
92 ND JOHN FERGUSON	3	5	0
93 ID BOB COOPER	2	4	9
93 NC MATT MCCOLL	2	3	8
95 CA JEREMY CLARK	2	3	1
96 MA WILL WELLMAN	1	1	11

We want to thank all participants of the Courtland event and the fisheries staff for their hard work making the competition possible. We also want to thank the organiser John Horsey for such a brilliant two days.

Overall Competition Summary:

Both Chew Valley and Blagdon provided excellent sport for the Cortland Fly Fishing Team Championships, testing the skill of all anglers. The blend of surface action at Chew and the deeper, more tactical fishing at Blagdon ensured that versatility was key to success. The event saw impressive catch rates, with teams landing multiple fish across both lakes. With a rod average of 4.45 for the competition.

Airflo Shield Final

September also saw Chew host the Airflo Shield final with 13 teams and a total of 78 anglers! Fishing was tough at times with a cold wind and bright sunshine, but Chew didn't disappoint with a rod average of 4.72 with some cracking fish caught. Well done to Mark Miles who was top individual!

Team Tightlines stormed away to take the title with 50 fish for the team.

Local team Blagdon Flyfishers finished in a credible second beating Greenwells Persuaders who finished third.

Thank you to all competitors and anglers on creating a well-run competition with a brilliant atmosphere!



2023 Airflo Open Shield Final			
Team Results 14-Sep-23			
	No. of Fish	Total Weight	
1 Tightlines	50	101 lb	1 oz
2 Blagdon Flyfishers	40	80 lb	2 oz
3 Greenwells Persuaders	36	71 lb	6 oz
4 CWM FF	32	61 lb	14 oz
5 Froggies Fly Fishers	29	58 lb	13 oz
6 Llanilar AA	27	56 lb	8 oz
7 Elinor	28	54 lb	6 oz
8 Stocks Falcons	25	48 lb	0 oz
9 Munster Mavericks	24	47 lb	11 oz
10 Welsh Wizards	21	42 lb	2 oz
11 Tanahill	21	39 lb	13 oz
12 Reel Hookers	18	36 lb	11 oz
13 Select Fly Fishers	17	32 lb	7 oz
No of anglers		78	
No. of Fish Caught		368	
Rod Average		4.72	
Best Bag			
Mark Miles (Tightlines)		23 lb	15 oz

Celtic league

September also saw the hosting of the Celtic league competition on Chew.

Airflo Celtic League 2024						
Individual Result Round 4						
Chew Valley 15/09/2024						
Pos	Name	Team	Total	Time 2 Fish	Time Limit	PTS
1	CALLUM RUSSELL	FULLING MILL NYMPHOMANIACS	16	10.08	16.07	1
2	TOM PITCHFORD	FULLING MILL NYMPHOMANIACS	16	10.45	16.12	2
3	KEITH TANNER	E.N FLUFF CHUCKERS	13	11.10	0	3
4	PAUL BOND	FUNKY FF	12	10.34	0	4
5	PAUL GOLDING	BLAGDON FF	12	11.10	0	5
6	GRAHAM CURRIE	SNOWBEE	11	10.15	0	6
7	DAVE REYNOLDS	FUNKY FF	11	10.20	0	7
8	ANDREW LEWIS	TEAM TIGHTLINES	11	10.40	0	8
9	ALAN CLARK	BLAGDON FF	11	11.37	0	9
10	MARK MILES	FUNKY FF	10	10.34	0	10
11	DAREN WILLIAMS	OSPREYS FFA	10	10.50	0	11
12	GARY HASKINS	FUNKY FF	10	11.05	0	12
13	LEE JAMES	FULLING MILL NYMPHOMANIACS	9	10.22	0	13
14	JAMES RICE	WELSH WIZARDS	9	10.42	0	14
15	MARK BARTON	WELSH WIZARDS	9	11.00	0	15
16	PAUL MORRIS	E.N FLUFF CHUCKERS	8	10.17	0	16
17	TIM WELLMAN	BLAGDON FF	8	10.27	0	17
18	STEVE DOCHERTY	WELSH WIZARDS	8	12.25	0	18
19	DALE BURGESS	BLAGDON FF	7	10.36	0	19
20	ROB TUCKER	TEAM TIGHTLINES	7	11.00	0	20
21	MARK KENNEDY	SNOWBEE	7	11.34	0	21
22	ANDREW ROYNAN	DRIFTERS	7	11.15	0	22
23	JOHN HORSEY	BRFFA RED EMERGERS	7	11.47	0	23
24	MARCO ORSI	OSPREYS FFA	7	13.55	0	24
25	STEWART WATKINS	E.N FLUFF CHUCKERS	7	14.20	0	25
26	MIKE KAYES	TEAM TIGHTLINES	6	10.34	0	26
27	ALAN BANWELL	OSPREYS FFA	6	10.53	0	27
28	ALLEN HUGHES	FULLING MILL NYMPHOMANIACS	6	11.50	0	28
29	ANDREW BANNER	DRIFTERS	6	12.24	0	29
30	JEFF THOMAS	E.N FLUFF CHUCKERS	6	12.49	0	30
31	JOHN GUMBLETON	BRFFA RED EMERGERS	5	11.58	0	31
32	GORDON SMITH	BRFFA RED EMERGERS	4	12.09	0	32
33	BOB HEMMINGS	OSPREYS FFA	4	12.40	0	33
34	ANDY WEEKS	SNOWBEE	4	13.54	0	34
35	JOHN OTTER	WELSH WIZARDS	3	13.05	0	35
36	PETER MORUZZI	TEAM TIGHTLINES	3	14.50	0	36
37	MARTIN WATTS	SNOWBEE	3	14.45	0	37
38	ANDY STONES	BRFFA RED EMERGERS	2	12.25	0	38
39	MARK THOMAS	DRIFTERS	2	16.20	0	39
40	GEOFF THOMPSON	DRIFTERS	2	16.30	0	40

This was an individual competition which resulted in Callum Roberts coming first with Tom Pitchford coming a close second.

Blagdon Pike Fly

With only a few days remaining until our Pike Fly Days at Blagdon and Dead Bait and Lure Days at Chew, the big fish are stirring. Numerous jacks, mid-teen-sized fish, and a few 25+ lb catches have been recorded, including a 27.5 lb beauty caught by Dan Waters.



Stocking Statistics (August - September)

During the competitions, our rangers worked hard at the pumping station, stocking over 14,000 prime fish across the three waters. This was our final stocking for the year, ensuring exciting fishing through the end of the season and setting the stage for next year.

Overview

In summary, the past month has been a busy and rewarding time at the fisheries. With excellent weather conditions, both Chew Valley and Blagdon Lakes delivered impressive catch rates and memorable moments for anglers. The consistent success across the waters, highlighted by standout catches and well-organized competitions, showcased the vibrant fishing community and the hard work of all involved. As we look ahead to more events, including the highly anticipated Blagdon Pike Fly days, we thank everyone for their participation and look forward to more exciting moments on the water in the coming months.
