

23rd April – 28th May Bristol Water Fisheries Report



It seems we completely bypassed Spring and went straight into Summer! The settled weather really switched the fish on with good hatches of Buzzers on both Chew and Blagdon, the Barrow tanks also having had some rather impressive evening hatches!

With the water levels now stabilised we are pleased to allow fishing to return to all three tanks!

Whilst the fish have been grateful for the abundance of food it has made for some testing conditions. We have seen early Corixa, Buzzers, Pin-fry and even Damsels emerging. This coupled with the filamentous algae and increased light levels have made the anglers really have to work at their fishing to have consistent sport through the day.

Our stocking programme is in full swing with another 5150 Going into Chew 3000 into Blagdon and 1200 Into barrow in the past few weeks.

The eagle eyed will have noticed one of the cages has been floated from its mooring ready to be stocked with 5000 fish ready for our late summer stockings.

The cages not only free up valuable space on the farm but allow us to mitigate the stress on the trout during the warmer months as it removes the need to transport the fish in the trailers prior to stocking.

The cages also offer a great halfway house, allowing the fish to acclimatise to the lake temperature, they will also start to adjust their feeding habits as anything that passes through the cages become fair game to the hungry Trout!

CHEW

Chew started the month in fine form with plenty of reports with 20+ fish to the boat and our bank anglers catching consistently from Walley and Woodford banks!

Our Stocking plan is to introduce 1000-1200 every week for the next eight weeks to keep those fish coming in the inevitable warmer spells!

We have seen plenty of fish high in the water on Chew, washing lines and dries made up the mainstay of the catches in early May. The mighty Muskies still seemed to be a favoured dropper fly with our anglers, with Hi Viz and UV being replaced with more natural black and brown patterns. Small back boobies and fabs made an excellent point fly fished in conjunction with a floating line or midge tip.

As the month progressed, we have seen more pin-fry and Damsels showing particularly around Denny Island, Hollow brook, East Shore and even around the jetties. As you would expect the fish didn't miss a free meal and could be found very tight into the margins and reed lines.

As the month progressed another wave of 1000+ fish were stocked between Nunnery and the Sailing club. Those stocked from Nunnery have started to show in open water and those from the Sailing club seem to have taken residence in the Dam basin bolstering the numbers of fish holding off Walley bank.

Rod Averages were incredible at the start of the month with the first week producing a rod average of 8.30.

The great returns continued in our competitions with a huge average of 10.5 in the Blagdon Fly Fishers Spring Cup and 7.5 in the Airflo Celtic League.

Our rod average has dropped down in the latter part of the month due to the current conditions to 3.64; With the average size sitting at just above 2.6lbs we are seeing some superb fish coming out of Chew including this lovely 6.75lb Rainbow caught by Terry Feest and this 9lb Rainbow by Peter Holdsworth, well done Terry and Peter!



COMPETITION RESULTS

Sunday 28th April ATTEFF Qualifier Blagdon angling trust

3 Fish Kill 13 Release

The ATTEFF England Qualifier was held on Blagdon with our resident guide John Horsey leading the pack with 7 fish for 15lb 10oz, John Piper was a very close second just a few ounces behind again with 7 fish for 15lb 6oz and John Bowen taking 6 fish for 3rd with a weight of 14lb 7oz!

It was great to see some familiar faces all qualifying for the next round so well done to all who took part!

Saturday 4th May Spring Cup Blagdon fly fishers Chew

What a busy match with multiple bag ups! 168 Fish landed and a rod average of 10.5!

1st Graham Currie (16 Fish) 13:44 finish

2nd Alan Clark (16 Fish) 14:00 finish

3rd Paul Golding (16 Fish) 14:06 finish

An incredible string of full bags all claiming podium places in the Blagdon Fly Fishers Spring Cup!

Well done to all that fished so well with a mention to Nikki Long who also took 16 fish for 4th place.

Sunday 5th May Celtic League Round two Chew

Pure catch and release (16 Fish)

1st Calum Russel 16 Fish: 13:57 finish

2nd Steve Docherty 16 Fish: 14:13 finish

3rd Mark Miles 16 Fish: 14:32 finish

Congratulations to Callum Russell for taking first, with 16 fish caught by 2pm! Steve Docherty was hot on his heels following with his 16th fish only 16 minutes behind him, and Mark Miles taking 3rd with his 16 fish within 19 minutes!

This incredibly close round finished with a rod Average 7.5!

The Welsh Wizards were the top team on the day, with the lowest team score of the year so far with just 40 points!

Funky FF have a narrow lead over the Fulling Mill Nympho's, with just 4 points separating the top 2 teams. It's still all to play for with 3 more rounds to go - the next round is June 16th.

Sunday 12th May Floating Line BRFFA Chew

BRFFA Floating Line match on Chew, sponsored by Red Lion Carpets.

1st Paul Roach 11 Fish

2nd Jeff Mason 6 Fish

3rd Andrew Banner 6 Fish

The conditions on the day pushed the fish lower in the water, the nature of the competition meant it would really test our anglers!

Paul Roach showed everyone the way landing an impressive 11 fish nearly doubling the total of second place, Paul's teammate Jeff Mason took second with 6 fish. Third (Andrew Tanner) and fourth (John Piper) also finished with 6 fish showing how close the competition was!

Sunday 26th ATTEFF England

Congratulations to Andrew Weeks for coming 1st place on the ATTEFF England Qualifier at Chew, Mike Walker taking 2nd and Mark Miles coming in 3rd!

1st Andrew weeks: 5 Fish 12lb 12oz

2nd Mike Walker: 5 Fish 11lb 7oz

3rd Mark Miles: 3 Fish 9lb 0oz

Testing conditions from changing atmospheric pressure bringing the threats of thunderstorms made the fishing very tough so a huge congratulations to all that qualified for the National at Rutland in September!

BLAGDON

Blagdon has had a great spell of bank fishing earlier in the month with many bank anglers focusing their attention on North Shore in particular Pegs point!



As the month has gone on the feeding spells seemed to have become concentrated around first and last thing.

As evidenced by the catch returns there are seemingly tons of fish, high in the water and topping, in Rugmoor and Top End. Getting them to take a fly on the other hand has been proving frustrating for many anglers, but such is the fickle nature of fishing.

With the changeable weather coupled with the abundance of food in the form of large black buzzer, corixa and damselfly and the added challenge of the same filamentous algae, we have seen on other lakes. These factors have left the anglers having to really think about timing to maximise on the early and late feeding spells.



Our Boat anglers have found fishing very similar with Top End being productive, we have seen some good numbers of fish also holding up in Butcombe especially when we were on the receiving end of the powerful southerly winds!

With a rod average of 4.09 in May the fishing was consistent. We stocked a total of 3000 rainbows over the past few weeks. with more planned over the coming weeks!

As previously mentioned, the ATTEFF England Qualifier was held on Blagdon with our resident guide John Horsey leading the pack with 7 fish for 15lb 10oz, John Piper was a very close second just a few ounces behind again with 7 fish for 15lb 6oz and John Bowen taking 6 fish for 3rd with a weight of 14lb 7oz!

It was great to see some familiar faces all qualifying for the next round so well done to all who took part!

BARROWS

We are incredibly pleased to say that all three tanks are now open for fishing once more!

Due to the period of ongoing works and the closures to the Tanks we have managed to conduct some much-needed maintenance work and schedule in the removal of the willow withies. Again, thank you for your patience.

With 1200 fish stocked across all the tanks in the past month and further stockings scheduled for next month we are looking forward to a great summer of fishing!

The current trend seems to be evenings being the most productive time in usual tanks fashion.

Covering rising fish with dries such as bobs bits has been very effective, the addition of a foam daddy as a point fly could give you a second chance if the fish passes by as a quick twitch can draw the trout's attention!

During the day a small lure retrieved at pace can evoke a response when all else fails!

The Barrows Bash was hosted with the BRFFA with young Jesse showing everyone how it was done taking a fish in the first few minutes of fishing!

The rest of the day proved difficult on Tank three.

Well done to all who took part and for braving the sun to make the event a great success.

