

Bristol Water Fishery Report

May 1st – 28th

BW Lakeside

Weather and Fishing Conditions – May 1st to 28th



The start of May brought bright and clear weather with predominantly steady North Easterly breezes, perfect for consistent drifting conditions across the lakes although not the most conducive to fly fishing! Mornings and evenings have been the most productive as expected.

Although bright sunshine dominated much of the period, it didn't stop anglers from putting in some fantastic catch returns. Chew in particular saw high activity on the eastern side, with hotspots stretching from Hollow Brook to Moreton Bank. The NE wind allowed for drifts from Hollow Brook to Wick Green, where many anglers reported successful sessions.

Buzzer hatches continued in strong numbers, with floating and tip lines proving to be the most effective approach throughout.

We saw some unsettled conditions towards the end of the month with changeable wind and some rain, this coincided with the fish moving into slightly deeper water. Woodford, Walley, the Sailing club and the Cages have all started to produce.

Nunnery has also been productive for our bank anglers.

Chew Valley Lake:

Fish Caught:

- **Top Patterns:** Small buzzers, Muskies and Diawls on a floating or midge tip line. The most productive was a 3 or 4 foot slow tip line. Another popular method was to use a Di3 line with Blobs and Boobies on a fast retrieval to target some of the more recently stocked fish.
- **Best Areas:** Hollow brook to Moreton Bank.
- **Rod Averages:**

Boat 3.43

Bank 3.15

Boat Number	Booking Name	Date	Fish Returned	Fish Dispatched	Total Bags Weight	Comments
28	WATER	28/10/18	18	1		POES / HUNTERS
36	WATER	28/10/18	15	0	3814	
58	WATER	28/10/18	10	0		
46	WATER	28/10/18	14	1		CIND BJS
39	WATER	28/10/18	10	0	1414	All Pike 10 Trout
37	WATER	28/10/18	22, 154	3		WICK

Competitions:

BRFFA Open 2025 – Match Report & Results



FULL RESULTS

	NO. ANGLERS:	40	NO. FISH	167		4.2	Rod Average
	NAME	NO FISH	HEAVIEST	FISH	TOTAL	BAG	
			LBS	OZS	LBS	OZS	
1	Mark Miles	15	0	0	31	7	
2	Martin Burgess	12	0	0	25	6	
3	Tom Pitchford	11	0	0	23	10	
4	Graham Currie	10	3	9	22	10	
5	Gordon Smith	8	0	0	19	0	
6	Ron Howard	8	0	0	18	11	
7	Alan Hughes	8	0	0	17	3	
8	Mark Kennedy	7	0	0	16	1	
9	Matt Russell	6	0	0	14	12	
10	Ron Thomas	6	0	0	14	7	
11	John Harris	6	0	0	14	1	
12	John Bowen	6	0	0	13	13	
13	James Rice	5	3	10	13	3	
14	WJ Wellman	5	0	0	12	1	
15	John Humphrey	4	0	0	10	0	
16	Tim Wellman	4	0	0	9	15	
17	Tony Torrington	4	0	0	9	8	
18	Dave Reynolds	3	4	6	9	5	
19	Louis Pearn	3	0	0	8	15	
20	Callum Russell	3	0	0	8	5	
21	John Gumbleton	3	0	0	8	4	
22	Jesse Gale	3	0	0	8	2	
23	Alex Bobba	3	0	0	8	0	
24	Richard Elms	2	4	7	7	12	
25	Paul Brace	3	0	0	7	10	
26	Alan Williams	3	0	0	7	6	
27	John Otter	2	0	0	6	0	
28	Joan Russell	2	0	0	5	14	
29	Bill Pugh	2	0	0	5	11	
30	Colin Poole	2	0	0	5	10	
31	A Banner	2	0	0	5	3	
32	John Braithwaite	2	0	0	5	1	
33	John Piper	1	0	0	3	6	
34	Dan Vince	1	0	0	2	13	
35	Sean Torrington	1	0	0	2	12	
36	Steven floyd	1	0	0	2	4	
37	Alastair Garner	0	0	0	0	0	
38	Jeff Mason	0	0	0	0	0	
39	Joshua Richens	0	0	0	0	0	
40	Sean Glover	0	0	0	0	0	

The 2025 BRFFA Open was held under largely favourable spring conditions at Chew Valley Lake on Sunday 5th May. Anglers were greeted with a light morning breeze and temperatures ranging from 15–19°C, with the wind gradually increasing throughout the day. These conditions created an ideal setting for a competitive and memorable match. As the event unfolded, it quickly became evident that Chew's hard-fighting trout were in peak form, delivering thrilling, arm-wrenching sport throughout. The hotspots this year proved to be Spring Bay and the area off Wick, where anglers found success using static presentations of nymphs and buzzers on floating and tip lines.

Emerging at the top of a strong and competitive field was Mark Miles, who demonstrated outstanding skill and composure to secure the BRFFA Open title and the £1,000 cash prize. His performance was a testament to consistent, top-tier angling in challenging yet rewarding conditions.

It was especially heartening to see youth representation in the competition, with three junior anglers taking part. Leading the charge was Will Wellman, who landed five quality trout and earned the top junior title while finishing an impressive 14th overall.

AIRFLO Celtic League 4th May

Chew Valley Lake played host to the second round of the 2025 Airflo Celtic League on Sunday 4th May, welcoming teams from across the country for what turned out to be another exciting and highly competitive day of fly fishing.

Under clear spring conditions, anglers faced a challenging day with bright skies and changeable pressure, yet Chew's renowned quality trout ensured there was still plenty of action across the water. Despite the testing nature of the day, there were some excellent performances both at team and individual level.

Team Tightlines once again demonstrated their consistency and strength as a unit, securing the top team position for Round 2 with another solid all-round performance. Their ability to work effectively as a team and maximise opportunities throughout the day kept them at the top of the leaderboard.

Individually, it was Graham Currie of Team Snowbee who led the way with a fantastic effort, bringing nine fish to the boat to secure the top angler position on the day. His result was especially impressive considering the conditions and sets a high standard moving into the rest of the league.

Other notable individual performances included:

- **Mathew Griffiths (Ospreys FFA)** – 7 fish
- **Dale Burgess (Blagdon FF)** – 7 fish
- **Jeff Thomas (E.N. Fluff Chuckers)** – 7 fish
- **Scott Graham (Team Tightlines)** – 6 fish
- **Tony Baldwin (Team Tightlines)** – 6 fish

AIRFLO CELTIC LEAGUE 2025 Chew Valley Lake Team Placings

		22nd Mar	4th May	14th June	21st Sept	19th Oct	
Pos	Team	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	Total
1	TEAM TIGHTLINES	32	53	0	0	0	85
2	E.N FLUFF CHUCKERS	60	80	0	0	0	140
3	FUNKY FF	43	101	0	0	0	144
4	FULLING MILL NYMPHOMANIACS	79	72	0	0	0	151
5	WELSH WIZARDS	92	82	0	0	0	174
6	BLAGDON FF	115	70	0	0	0	185
7	OSPREYS FFA	104	85	0	0	0	189
8	TEAM EGLWYS	106	103	0	0	0	209
9	SNOWBEE	104	124	0	0	0	228
10	BRFFA RED EMERGERS	139	134	0	0	0	273
11	DRIFTERS	124	166	0	0	0	290
12	RED LION	177	136	0	0	0	313
13	VALLEY CORMORANTS	192	137	0	0	0	329

- As always, a huge thank you goes out to the organisers, marshals, and competitors who continue to make each round a great success. The league standings are beginning to take shape, with tight margins across the board, setting the stage for a thrilling continuation of the 2025 series.

**Airflo Celtic League 2025
Individual Result Round 2
Chew Valley 04/05/2025**

Name	Team	Total Fish	Time 2 Fish	PTS
GRAHAM CURRIE	SNOWBEE	9	13.40	1
MATHEW GRIFFITHS	OSPREYS FFA	7	10.53	2
DALE BURGESS	BLAGDON FF	7	11.17	3
JEFF THOMAS	E.N FLUFF CHUCKERS	7	12.07	4
SCOTT GRAHAM	TEAM TIGHTLINES	6	10.22	5
TONY BALDWIN	TEAM TIGHTLINES	6	11.20	6
PAUL BOND	FUNKY FF	6	12.20	7
PAUL MORRIS	E.N FLUFF CHUCKERS	6	12.30	8
TOM PITCHFORD	FULLING MILL NYMPHOMANIACS	6	15.04	9
STEVE DOCHERTY	WELSH WIZARDS	5	13.05	10
JAMES GRAHAM	TEAM EGLWYS	5	13.20	11
STEPHEN JONES	OSPREYS FFA	4	10.49	12
JAMES RICE	WELSH WIZARDS	4	12.07	13
PAUL GOLDING	BLAGDON FF	4	12.43	14
ALLENHUGHES	FULLING MILL NYMPHOMANIACS	4	12.45	15
ANDREW LEWIS	TEAM TIGHTLINES	4	13.30	16
IAN SHANAHAN	VALLEY CORMORANTS	4	14.35	17
JOHN PIPER	BLAGDON FF	3	11.34	18
MARCO ORSI	OSPREYS FFA	3	12.20	19
MARK KENNEDY	BRFFA RED EMERGERS	3	12.40	20
MARK BARTON	WELSH WIZARDS	3	12.50	21
MARK MILES	FUNKY FF	3	12.58	22
MATT RUSSELL	FULLING MILL NYMPHOMANIACS	3	13.02	23
RON THOMAS	BRFFA RED EMERGERS	3	13.09	24
CALLUM RUSSELL	FULLING MILL NYMPHOMANIACS	3	13.49	25
MIKE KEYES	TEAM TIGHTLINES	3	14.00	26
ROBERT TUCKER	TEAM EGLWYS	3	14.15	27
JOHN GUMBLETON	RED LION	3	14.45	28
MARTIN GRAHAM	TEAM EGLWYS	3	14.55	29
STEVEN NICHOLS	VALLEY CORMORANTS	3	15.10	30
STEWART WATKINS	E.N FLUFF CHUCKERS	3	16.30	31
LEE WILLIAMS	RED LION	2	12.12	32
PAUL SWEATMAN	SNOWBEE	2	13.20	33
DAVE REYNOLDS	FUNKY FF	2	14.45	34
SEAN GLOVER	BLAGDON FF	2	15.21	35
PETER MORUZZI	TEAM EGLWYS	2	16.10	36
KEITH TANNER	E.N FLUFF CHUCKERS	2	16.25	37
ANDREW WEEKS	BRFFA RED EMERGERS	1	0.00	38
ANDREW BANNER	DRIFTERS	1	0.00	38
ANDREW ROYNAN	DRIFTERS	1	0.00	38
GEOFF THOMPSON	DRIFTERS	1	0.00	38
MARK STEVENS	FUNKY FF	1	0.00	38
SEAN TORRINGTON	RED LION	1	0.00	38
BILL PUGH	RED LION	1	0.00	38
MARTIN BARRETT	SNOWBEE	1	0.00	38
MARK MCCARTHY	WELSH WIZARDS	1	0.00	38
SAM WILLIAMS	VALLEY CORMORANTS	1	0.00	38
DAN VINCE	BRFFA RED EMERGERS	0	0.00	52
PAUL SHARMAN	DRIFTERS	0	0.00	52
BOBHEMMINGS	OSPREYS FFA	0	0.00	52
JEFF MASON	SNOWBEE	0	0.00	52
STEVE SMITH	VALLEY CORMORANTS	0	0.00	52

		22nd Mar	4th May	14th June	21st Sept	19th Oct	
Pos	Team	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	Total
1	TEAM TIGHTLINES		53	0	0	0	
2	BLAGDON FF		70	0	0	0	
3	FULLING MILL NYMPHOMANIACS		72	0	0	0	
4	E.N FLUFF CHUCKERS		80	0	0	0	
5	WELSH WIZARDS		82	0	0	0	
6	OSPREYS FFA		85	0	0	0	
7	FUNKY FF		101	0	0	0	
8	TEAM EGLWYS		103	0	0	0	
9	SNOWBEE		124	0	0	0	
10	BRFFA RED EMERGERS		134	0	0	0	
11	RED LION		136	0	0	0	
12	VALLEY CORMORANTS		137	0	0	0	
13	DRIFTERS		166	0	0	0	

Evening League:

The Bristol water evening league takes place every other Tuesday and is fished for the last four hours of the day this informal catch and release match is fished with unweighted, comp legal, barbless flies and floating or tip lines.

We have seen the evening league go from strength to strength over the past few months with Graham Currie now at the helm carrying on from Andy Stones great work!

May 6th

On the 6th we saw 26 anglers compete on Chew. The conditions on the evening where light winds coming from the North east with bright sun.

Despite the less than favourable wind direction fish were caught from the off with the first fish falling to organiser Graham Currie just 20 minutes after leaving the jetty!

61 fish were caught in total giving us a rod average of 2.34 over the four hours.

Graham Currie landing a very impressive 11 fish for 1st place, followed by Adam Drescher with 8 fish taking second and Paul Roach showing his ever-consistent ability bringing 6 to the boat.

No standout method unfortunately this week as Graham was fishing a 4ft tip line with a team of Diawl Bach nymphs, Adam favoured a 3ft tip and washing line with most of his fishing coming to his point fly in the shape of a Foam Daddy and Paul chopping and changing between the Washing line and the Bung!

Location for most boats was a long drift from the East shore towards Wick.

May 20th

The next evening league match took place on the 20th of May with 24 anglers taking to the water. Chew was the host again but in similarly poor conditions. The wind started off from the East with bright Sun, most boats ventured straight to the Dam before a sudden wind change and little action sent the boats scattering in all directions looking for a change of luck!

The evening turned into a real grueler, with only 12 fish falling to 24 rods. Come 8:00pm most where ready to retire to the comfort of the Stoke!

Pete Yarrow managed to land 3 which this week was enough to take 1st place, closely followed by his boat partner Gordon Smith in 2nd with 2 fish. 3rd was tight as 7 other anglers had caught meaning times

had to be reviewed; Robin Parker had it landing his fish at 18.55 and Cole Bowden narrowly missing out on a place on the podium by just 11 minutes!

Methods seemed to be clearer cut this week with a floating line and washing line set up utilising a booby on the point seemed to be the way to go!

The next evening league will take place on Blagdon and run from 5:00pm-9:00pm if anyone wishes to take part in this great informal and relaxed competition you can express your interest to the Lodge and we can put you in contact with Graham.

Winners of each section win a complementary mid-week boat ticket courtesy of Bristol Water, along with those all-important league points!

Blagdon Lake

Fish Caught:

- **Top Patterns:** Much like Chew Muskins Dwials and Buzzers seemed to be the mainstay for May, although dropping down to size 12 or even 14s seemed to produce when the fish were proving difficult! The fish seemed to want the flies almost static so Muskins or light weight buzzers seemed to out fish the much heavier epoxy buzzers as they would descend slowly through the water. The addition of a buoyant point fly to hold things up in the layers was often key. Floating lines or 3ft tips ensured the flies didn't fall too quickly.
- **Best Areas:** Pegs, Rugmore and Wood bay continued to be productive for both bank and boat anglers. The Boats also had good success around the spit in front of the lodge. As the month pushed on the fish have moved into deeper water with the Dam and Cheddar water starting to produce.
- **Rod Averages:**

Boat 3.53

Bank 2.6

As the spring progresses into summer our minds often wonder, and we start to think of what food source or hatch will come available next! One of the most exciting hatches must be the Damsel.

If we cast our minds back to last year on Blagdon, the sport on Damsels was fantastic! Especially up the top end. Washing lines armed with a small olive booby on the point and a few green nymphs or even Olive cormorants will be sure to get the heart racing as they bow wave behind the flies!

A few Damsels have started to hatch on both lakes so we can only be a matter of days maybe a week or two away, so get ready!

Pike Fly

Blagdon:

The much-anticipated return of our May Blagdon Pike Fly Days has kicked off in style, delivering an unforgettable start to this exclusive event. With tickets selling out early in the season due to incredibly high demand, these limited sessions are among the most sought-after in the predator fly fishing calendar. Blagdon Lake has once again lived up to its legendary status, producing a string of remarkable pike catches, including numerous fish over the 20lb mark and several personal bests. The lake's spring conditions, combined with the skill of the anglers, have resulted in phenomenal sport right from the opening days. These exclusive Pike Fly sessions highlight the unique opportunity that Blagdon offers – quality fishing in a historic and beautifully maintained setting. We're thrilled to see anglers making the most of these rare days and long may it continue.

Here are some of the incredible catches experienced at blagdon lake this month

A 36lb7oz Blagdon leviathan falling to Glen Malpass Glenn temped this PB pike from Wood bay on a small baitfish imitation using a Di3 line.



Bristol water regular Alex mason also got in on the action with his boat partner Robbie Northman landing five 20lb +fish topped with a 31lb4oz specimen!



Valley of the Giants PFFA Event STOP THE PRESS!!!!

At the time of writing, we are eagerly awaiting the full results! Rumours are flying that the overcast cool conditions with a good SW wind have produced a bumper haul across the 10 boats!

An early report from John Horsey suggests that 7 Pike have been landed over the magical 30lb mark! And in his words “possibly the biggest haul of massive pike on the fly-EVER!”

Alan Furguson has confirmed the rumours that a true Blagdon behemoth was landed in the shape of this 38lb specimen a real catch of a life time!

More information will filter through over the next few days and we will hopefully cover these catches in more detail as they emerge.



This concludes our predator fly fishing for Blagdon until our October dates. I'm sure everyone like us can't wait to see what these dates will throw up!

Barrows Tanks



Fish Caught:

- **Top Patterns:** A small black booby fished slowly on a sinking line has scored well in the brighter conditions. In lower light levels the fish will often come up in the water, requiring a change to the washing line and dries. Namely Bobs bits and carrot flies. A top tip from our resident “Tanks Guru” Bernie Weaver is to impart some movement into your dries. Thanks for the image, Bernie.
- **Best Areas:** The road bank of Tank 2 and the pipe of 3
- **Rod Averages:** 2.39

For anyone looking for more information on the tanks or just a good read check-out July’s edition of Fly fishing and fly tying! You will find an eight-page article on the tanks named “Tanks masterclass” written by Charles Jardine featuring our very own Bernie Weaver.



Upcoming Events:

Sunday 1st June	Bristol Reservoirs Fly Fishing Association Spring Shield	Chew
Saturday 7th June	ATTEFF Qualifier Chew Official Practice day	Chew
Sunday 8th June	ATTEFF Qualifier Chew	Chew
Saturday 14th June	Celtic League	Chew

Stocking

Blagdon received a total of 2500 fish through the month with stockings from the dam and either side of green lawn.



Chew has a stocking number of 3500 split between a release from the cages and from the trailers via Nunnery and the boat hard.



The Tanks received a total of 1000 split between the three lakes, 250 into tank 1, 250 into tank 2 and 500 into tank 3!

