



The Association of Major Flyfishing Clubs

2010 Newsletter

All the Results –All the Reports – Each Month

September

What Makes a Good Day's Fishing? A Problem of Catch and Release.

The other day I watched a bank angler catch a fish every four or five casts ALL DAY!

I counted well over twenty fish. I was in a drifting boat and since there were long periods of the day when I could not watch him I can only guess at his total catch.

One angler I know is reputed to have caught over ninety fish in the day, on dries, from a drifting boat, on the same water.

When I fished Bewl regularly there were numerous claims of anglers catching over thirty fish in a day.

At the Spring Association Match on Grafham this year if we had not had a time bonus policy I am sure anglers would have been catching over forty fish on the day.

If I don't catch anything I know it is not a good day. Where does the line between a blank and a good day lie.

I think catch and release is a good thing. Many years ago when very few waters allowed C&R many dead fish went into the dustbin. That was unacceptable.

A ticket which allows the angler to kill the few fish he needs for the table and then continue fishing adds to the enjoyment of the day.

Of course there is so much more to a 'good day' than the number of fish you catch.

The aesthetics of the perfectly timed cast – The atavistic excitement of the chase and kill – The intellectual and knowledge based decision making, which leads to success – and the environment in which we fish.

But! What is the limit that turns a good day's catch into unacceptable slaughter?

A few years ago I decided that unless I was fishing in an unlimited catch competition (*and they have virtually disappeared – thank goodness!*) I would try to stop after a double limit. Bewl used to have a six fish ticket. Other still waters had a limit of eight fish so between twelve and sixteen fish is when I now stop.

The efficacy of the Dry Fly

At the Round Five – Group Three match on Grafham fished on Wednesday 8th September, Simon Newman of Iver F.C showed how, given decent conditions, the dry fly sorts out the better fish.

Fishing dries in Savages Creek his eight fish weighed, on average, half a pound more (*apart from Joan Russell, who had the biggest fish and Si Gaines who also had a four pound fish*) than anyone else's eight fish bag.

At least one angler who fished regularly in AMFC and other competitions has spoken to me about abandoning the time bonus and just weighing in the fish caught.

In the unlikely event of this happening it would, I am sure, lead to more anglers developing their skills and knowledge about fishing dries.

Not a bad thing I think!



Simon Newman
Best Bag
Group Three –Round Five
Caught on Dries

Results

Name No Weight

Bewl Bridge F.C. 'A'

Ray Burt 2 3lbs 14oz
 Steve Collins 4 8lbs 2oz
 John Dunmall
 John Hancock 3 6lbs 9oz
 High Frew 4 9lbs 10oz
 Phil Thompson 8 17lbs 10oz
TOTAL 45lbs 10oz

Bristol Reservoirs F.A.

Paul Sharman 8 17lbs 5oz
 Paul Evans 7 12lbs 15oz
 Pete Ford 2 3lbs 14oz
 Arwel Williams 5 10lbs 4oz
 Andrew Hedger 2 4lbs 1oz
 Graham Currie 3 5lbs 9oz
TOTAL 53lbs 8oz

Fish Hawks 'A'

Mal Bruce 4 7lbs 2oz
 Col Martin 2 3lbs 7oz
 Al Grice- Jackson 3 5lbs 3oz
 Kerry Richardson 8 17lbs 11oz
 Kim Green 8 16lbs 9oz
 Ian Whiteside 7 11lbs 3oz
TOTAL 58lbs 3oz

Hanningfield F.A.

Leigh Pond 8 20lbs 11oz
 Garry Morris 8 19lbs 6oz
 John Stevenson 8 18lbs 5oz
 Phil Shaw Brown 4 8lbs 6oz
 Clive Morgan 7 14lbs 10oz
 Richard Cooper 4 7lbs 4oz
TOTAL 88lbs 10oz

Rutland Water F.F.

Graham Pearson 8 15lbs 6oz
 Al Owen 5 8lbs 13oz
 Andrew Flitcroft 2 4lbs 8oz
 Mike Gunnell 5 10lbs 5oz
 Mike Barratt 5 9lbs 3oz
 Paul Wild 5 8lbs 8oz
TOTAL 56lbs 11oz

Best Bag 20lbs 11oz

Leigh Pond (Hanningfield)

Best Fish 3lbs 9oz (Brown)

Hugh Frew (Bewl Bridge)

Rod Average 4.2

Hanningfield F.A. Have Easy Win in Group One - Round 5 On Windy Day at Rutland

A frustrating and windy day on Rutland for the match on Saturday 11th. September.

Frustrating because the main bowl, especially around the aerators, was full of fish and this was right in the middle of the racing course set up by the sailors.

Their racing started about 10.30 am and continued all day.

Doubly frustrating was that in the cloudy morning the fish were high (in the top two feet) in the water. With 40/50 keels slicing through the water at that depth the fish soon disappeared.

this meant taking short drifts into the Dam. *For some this meant too short drifts and the wardens had to come out and remind anglers that they were not to fish inside the buoys.*

This result meant that nothing is certain in Group One

Group Two fished on the same day and details of the fishing will be in that report



Hugh Frew Best Fish



Hanningfield F.A. - Winners

The fishing boats had to concentrate on the margins of the shoal of fish. For most,

<i>Bewl Bridge F.C. 'A'</i>	1	5	2	4	1	13	4
<i>Bristol Reservoirs F.A.</i>	3	3	1	1	2	10	5
<i>Fish Hawks 'A'</i>	2	2	5	2	4	15	3
<i>Hanningfield F.A.</i>	4	1	4	5	5	19	1
<i>Rutland Water F.F.</i>	5	4	3	3	3	18	2

Results

Name No Weight

Bewl Bridge F.C. 'B'

Bob Shaw 7 14lbs 12oz
 Ralph Painter 5 8lbs 14oz
 Ken Holmes 3 5lbs 6oz
 Mick Phipps 3 6lbs 8oz
 Martyn Gray 2 3lbs 5oz
 Howard Colmer 1 1lb 5oz
TOTAL **40lbs 2oz**

Grafham Water F.F.A.

Mark Brinkman 3 5lbs 12oz
 Norman Rushton 5 9lbs 14oz
 Peter Hartley 7 13lbs 1oz
 Andy Linwood 5 9lbs 8oz
 John Vincent 1 2lbs 5oz
 Derek Bravington 3 6lbs 4oz
TOTAL **46lbs 12oz**

Queen Mother F.F.

Alan Murphy 6 10lbs 8oz
 Steve Radcliffe 8 14lbs 14oz
 Phil Hall 5 9lbs 1oz
 Tony Kirkham 5 9lbs 1oz
 Al Munns 1 2lbs
 Danny Peet 8 22lbs 10oz
TOTAL **68lbs 2oz**

Royal Navy/Marines

Neil Jones 5 8lbs 11oz
 Charlie Bowers 2 3lbs 7oz
 Mark Close 4 8lbs 5oz
 Tony Wilkinson 5 10lbs
 Chris Anderson 2 4lbs 1oz
 Dave Morton 3 6lbs 1oz
TOTAL **40lbs 9oz**

Soldier Palmers 'A'

Andy Croucher 7 15lbs 12oz
 Lindsey Simpson 3 5lbs
 Jim Douglas 3 8lbs
 Andy Draper 3 5lbs 3oz
 Del Spry 7 15lbs 8oz
 Graham Lumsden 3 5lbs 3oz
TOTAL **54lbs 10oz**

Best Bag 22lbs 10oz

Danny Peet (Queen Mother)

Best Fish 4lbs 4oz

Jim Douglas (Soldier Palm)

Rod Average 4.2

Sorry about the quality of the photos – Camera misbehaved!

Only One Point Each Between Top Four Teams Group Two Round Five

With both Group One and Two fishing on the same day there were a lot of AMFC boats out.

At the start almost every boat headed for the centre of the main bowl.

One or two anglers started in front of Normanton Church to catch a few fish. But these 'dried up' and they joined the majority.

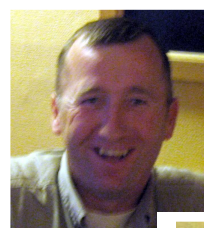
As explained in the Group One report there was not even time for one drift before the sailing yachts ruined the area. This was sad because early on the fish were high in the water and nymphs were catching.

Eventually most of the boats abandoned the centre of the bowl and were forced to fish along Nomanton Shore and close to the Dam.

Nymphs, particularly Dawl Bachs on floating lines worked, but the best bags came to attractors on slow/medium sink lines.

Danny Peet used a *fast glass* with a blob on the point, two nymphs on the middle droppers and a Tequila Sunrise on the top dropper. This was the most successful fly.

In the early afternoon the sun came out and the wind increased. This made the fishing difficult and unpleasant. A number of anglers left the area, but those who stayed on the Dam Wall managed a few fish late in the afternoon.



**Jim Douglas
Best Fish**



Danny Peet

Best Bag



Queen Mother F.F. - Winners

Bewl Bridge F.C. 'B'	1	1	5	1	1		9	5
Grafham Water F.F.A. 'A'	2	4	3	5	3		17	2
Queen Mother F.F.	5	3	1	2	5		16	3
Royal Navy/Marines	3	2	4	4	2		15	4
Soldier Palmers 'A'	4	5	2	3	4		18	1

Results

Name No Weight

Fish Hawks 'B'

Si Gaines	8	17lbs 13oz
Dave Newing	3	5lbs 1oz
Keith Jones	8	19lbs 15oz
Graham Watson	8	14lbs 14oz
Mark O'Neil	5	10lbs 14oz
Dave Graham	5	7lbs 1oz
TOTAL	76lbs	4oz

Grafham Water F.F.A. 'B'

Chris Boby	5	10lbs 1oz
Gorden Alleyne	3	6lbs 1oz
Sheena Gode	2	2lbs 15oz
John Weaver	4	7lbs 9oz
Joan Russell	8	19lbs 13oz
Aubrey MacCulloch	7	13lbs 14oz
TOTAL	60lbs	5oz

Invicta F.C. 'A'

Lawson Wight	3	5lbs 14oz
Chris McLeod	8	16lbs 10oz
Andy Newman	5	8lbs 8oz
Alan Taylor	4	7lbs 7oz
John Mees	8	18lbs 14oz
Mark Searle	4	9lbs 2oz
TOTAL	6lbs	

Iver F.C.

Andrew Green	8	14lbs 8oz
Clive Collier	8	16lbs 10oz
Simon Newman	8	21lbs
Jeff Hickson	4	6lbs 5oz
Eddie Gray	3	4lbs 10oz
Jim Watt	2	3lbs 1oz
TOTAL	6lbs	14oz

Soldier Palmers 'B'

Dave Hussein	7	14lbs 14oz
Alex Caldwell	4	6lbs 8oz
Peter Harrop	6	10lbs 15oz
Brian Perryman	8	16lbs 2oz
Colin Pennington	2	3lbs 13oz
Jim Wright	4	9lbs 9oz
TOTAL	61lbs	13oz

Best Bag 21lbs

Simon Newman (Iver F.C.)

Best Fish 4lbs 10oz

Joan Russell (G.W.F.F.A.)

Rod Average 5.4 fish

Average Weight 1lb 15oz

Group Three - Fish Hawks 'B' Almost Champions after Win In Round Five at Grafham

Provided Fish Hawks 'B' turn up to get just one point they will be the Group Three Champions.

They have had an impressive season, with four firsts and one third place. However their weight advantage over Iver F.C. is quite small being only 36lbs 1oz. They do need the extra point to guarantee their win.

Most people were catching on floating lines or midge tips with nymphs. John Mees used his local knowledge to good effect and at 2pm was the first to a limit pulling on a D13 in the bowl of the dam. However, the best bag was a superb performance by Simon Newman of Iver who took 8 fish for 20lb on dries in Savages.



John Caldwell reports

Round 5 for Group 3 took us to Grafham which was on good form with a rod average of 5.4. Conditions seemed perfect at the start with a gentle breeze from the north. However, the fish were down in the water and action was slow. As the conditions warmed up a bit, fish began to appear close to the southern bank from the sailing club to the seat and along the sludge

Joan Russell Wins Best Fish

It is not very often that we have a Lady Winner. Julie Emmerson had the best fish of the season in 1997. These are the only two I can remember.



<i>Grafham Water F.A. 'B'</i>	2	3	4	1	1		11	4
<i>Fish Hawks 'B'</i>	5	5	5	3	5		23	1
<i>Invicta F.C. 'A'</i>	4	1	2	5	3		15	3
<i>Iver F.C.</i>	3	4	3	4	4		18	2
<i>Soldier Palmers 'B'</i>	1	2	1	2	2		8	5

Very Close Results in Group Four – Round Five Just Two Ounces Separates First and Second

Results

Name **No** **Weight**

East Midlands T.F.A.

Graham Bodsworth 4 8lbs
Mick Facey 5 9lbs 8oz
John Duffield 4 7lbs 10oz
Tim Leach 8 17lbs 12oz
John Clark 7 13lbs 9oz
Ashley Cooper 7 13lbs 4oz
TOTAL **69lbs 1oz**

England Police F.F.A.

Doug Skins 8 17lbs 3oz
Chris Reeves 4 8lbs 3oz
Dave Summers 8 15lbs 8oz
Bob Eaton 6 10lbs 11oz
Dick Spicer 6 10lbs 1oz
Steve Short 6 11lbs 6oz
TOTAL **73lbs 0oz**

Invicta F.C. 'B'

John Andrew
Alan Prevost 1 1lb 6oz
Bob Ayres 5 8lbs 2oz
Simon Sells 3 4lbs 12oz
Peter Oldham 4 7lbs 10oz
Gary How 3 5lbs 14oz
TOTAL **27lbs 12oz**

Tunbridge Wells F.F.A.

Peter Thomason 4 7lbs 1oz
Keith Nicholson 8 14lbs 1oz
Mick Priest 4 6lbs 11oz
Richard Lovett 6 12lbs 7oz
Mick Dwyer 8 17lbs 13oz
Keith Lawrence 8 14lbs 13oz
TOTAL **72lbs 14oz**

Best Bag 17lbs 12oz

Tim Leach (East Midlands)

Best Fish 3lbs 8oz

Doug Skins (England Police)

Rod Average 5.3

Average Weight 1lb 13oz

Things could not be closer at the top of this Group. A win by two ounces gave England Police the same number of points as Tunbridge Wells F.F.A.

during the day, with small sedges on the water all day and damsels appearing when the sun shone through and the temperature rose during the early afternoon.

England Police F.F.A.



Outside the lodge booms and towards the sailing club fish were rising steadily to these throughout the day. Rods were seen to bend every so often to nymphs on floating and sink tip lines. A windless few hours and dead air during the early afternoon showed the green algae to be quite heavy although a little breeze later on helped fly presentation and boat drift.

The four teams fishing in Group 4 at Grafham began the match in almost windless, misty conditions, with low cloud and very little ripple, especially on the northern side of the reservoir. A few fish showed themselves along this side but few rods were seen to bend. Reports from boats which went to the eastern and southern parts of the water indicated that many fish were caught in the first few hours of the match before things became slower in the afternoon.



Doug Skins – Best Fish

Fly life was fairly abundant

<i>East Midlands T.F.A.</i>	2	2	3	4	2		13	3
<i>England Police F.F.A.</i>	3	3	4	2	4		16	1=
<i>Invicta F.C. 'B'</i>	1	0	1	1	1		4	4
<i>Tunbridge Wells F.F.S.</i>	4	4	2	3	3		16	1=