

## 23<sup>rd</sup> March – 23<sup>rd</sup> April Bristol Water Fisheries Report



What a windy spell we've had! No less than 12 cancelled days of boats on Chew and Blagdon since the last report. The frustration has been that the days which have been fishable have been fishing very well. This weather hasn't stopped our work though, we've managed to stock circa 5000 fish across our reservoirs at 9 different locations, with scope to stock at more locations once the water levels drop and the ground becomes firmer.

Fish continue to remain relatively high in the water across both lakes and are taking to nymphs as well as the usual blobs and fabs. We've seen rod averages up to 15.33 on Chew at the end of March, Blagdon's been similar when the weathers been good, like it was for a few days at the beginning of April we saw best boats catching up to 20+ fish. Barrows continues a steady weekly average of around 3 with some weeks going up to 4.5.

Unfortunately, due to planned pumping work the water levels at Barrow 1&2 dropped to the point that they were too dangerous to fish. The positive news is these are now safe to fish and back open. Barrow 3 remains open, but please be careful as this one is still refilling. North Shore on Chew remains closed however we have completed a health and safety audit and have works planned to open Northshore in the near future. We will notify all anglers once this is safe to fish once more. Thank you for your patience.

## CHEW

Fishing on Chew towards the end of March and beginning of April was understandably mixed due to the weather conditions. However, the back end of April and the moments of calm we fleetingly saw provided some quality fish and world class angling.

The fish continued to remain high up in the water which was capitalised on with floating lines and midge tips. Nymphs have been incredibly popular with small black buzzers, olive/black muskies and diawl bachs all proving to be working well.

With the change in our stocking policies pockets of fish have been caught all over the lake. Areas that fished well include Denny Island, False Island, Roman Shallows, Walley Bank, Herons Bay, and North Shore. Its all been about covering water and being able to target those trout.

### **Chew Competition results:**



### **24/03/24 Airflo Celtic League Round 1 Chew – 34 Anglers**

1<sup>st</sup> Mark Miles, Funky FF – 16 Fish (12:10)

2<sup>nd</sup> John Horsey, BRFFA Red Emergers – 16 Fish (14:36)

3<sup>rd</sup> John Otter, Welsh Wizards – 15 Fish

4<sup>th</sup> Dave Reynolds, Funky FF – 14 Fish

5<sup>th</sup> Paul Morris, EN Fluff Chucker's – 14 Fish

### **31/3/24 Ospreys Boat Comp Chew – 30 Anglers**

Total caught 124 fish with a rod average of 4.13.

1<sup>st</sup> Alice Davies – 7 Fish 19lb 6oz

2<sup>nd</sup> Darren Williams – 7 Fish 18lb 9oz

3<sup>rd</sup> Neal Anthony – 7 Fish 17lb 2oz

4<sup>th</sup> Tim Llewellyn – 7 Fish 17lb 3oz

5<sup>th</sup> Matthew Griffiths – 7 Fish 16lb 12oz

### **13/04/24 BRFFA Spring Shield – 32 Anglers**

1<sup>st</sup> Dave Reynolds – 14 Fish

2<sup>nd</sup> Andy Stones – 12 Fish

3<sup>rd</sup> Jay Curry – 11 Fish

4<sup>th</sup> Tim Wellman – 11 Fish

5<sup>th</sup> John Braithwaite – 10 Fish

### **21/04/24 Airflo Open Chew Heat – 60 Angler**

323 fish caught with a rod average of 5.38.

#### Individuals

1<sup>st</sup> John Horsey (BRFFA Emergers) – 16 Fish

2<sup>nd</sup> Kieron Jenkins (FM Nymphos) – 14 Fish

3<sup>rd</sup> Lee James (FM Nymphos) – 13 Fish

4<sup>th</sup> Andrew Banner (Hogs) – 12 Fish

5<sup>th</sup> Paul Goldin (Blagdon Flyfishers) – 11 Fish

#### Teams

1<sup>st</sup> – Fulling Mill Nymphomaniacs – 55 Fish

2<sup>nd</sup> – BRFFA Emergers – 37 Fish

3<sup>rd</sup> – Hogs – 36 Fish

4<sup>th</sup> – Blagdon Flyfishers – 35 Fish

5<sup>th</sup> – Stocks Falcons – 35 Fish

### **BLAGDON**

Blagdon hasn't suffered quite as badly as Chew with regards to days lost to the Weather but has had its fair share.

Similarly to Chew fish are high in the water and close into the bank. North shore fished particularly well with Pegs Point into Rugmoor bay proving to be a hot spot with many bank anglers bagging up after a couple of hours. Top End switched on towards the end of April with lots of fish moving but getting them to take a fly has been the real challenge (isn't it always).

Nymphs again have proven to be the best choice with small black buzzers, diawl bachs and muskies the pick of the lot. We are noticing a change from fish targeting colour to feeding heavily on naturals.



## Blagdon Competition results:

### 8-10/4/24 English Fly Fishers Association

Having had to settle for bank fishing at Chew the EFFA had a great day out on Blagdon with lots of fish being caught all the way along north shore into Rugmoor and to top it all off a lovely brown coming out of top end.

### 14/4/24 BRFFA Bank Competition Blagdon – 10 Anglers

47 fish caught.

1<sup>st</sup> Martin Ansty – 10 Fish (Pictured)

2<sup>nd</sup> Sean Torrington – 10 Fish

3<sup>rd</sup> Simon Page – 7 Fish

## BARROWS



Barrows have continued their form from the beginning of the season by impressing anglers with some brilliant over wintered fish. Even with the closure of tanks 1 & 2 we've had some great sport on tank 3 so much so even one of the migratory Ospreys got involved.

Lures and nymphs fished well on tip and floating lines. The pipe and the ladder to the left of the entrance have been the fishing spots.

All tanks are now open with 1 & 2 having been stocked so fishing is to resume normally at the tanks.

### **31/3/24 BRFFA 3 Lakes Challenge Barrow Bash**

1<sup>st</sup> Sean Torrington – 6 Fish

2<sup>nd</sup> Ron Howard – 4 Fish

**14/04/24 Charfield Angling Association** had a great day out on the Barrows with lots being caught on dries, an osprey being spotted and Tony Reddiford taking the biggest fish with a whopping 4.5lbs!!!!