

# Bristol Water Fishery Report

## March 1st – 31st

### BW Lakeside

The tail end of February always feels like the calm before the storm, but this year, it carried an even greater sense of transition as we bid farewell to four incredible members of our team.

- **Paul Barnfield (Barney)** – A familiar face to many, Barney has been a key contact for anglers seeking the latest insights on where to find the best sport. His knowledge and passion for fishing have left a lasting impact to anglers and rangers on our waters.
- **Toby Leighton-Trew** – A valued team member and a highly skilled angler, Toby was always happy to point fellow anglers in the right direction. Well-rounded fishing knowledge and his constant willingness to help made a valued member of the team.
- **Lisa Draper** – The heart of Woodford Lodge, Lisa's warm smile and company experience kept everything running smoothly behind the scenes. Her attention to detail and problem solving ensured the seamless operation of the fisheries.
- **Alan Dymock** – Our Fisheries Operations Manager, Alan dedicated an incredible 47 years to Bristol Water. Over his tenure, he oversaw the passage of more than four million trout through the farm, playing a pivotal role in building the outstanding reputation Bristol Water holds today.

With these farewells, there was little time to slow down! February was a month of intense preparation:

- The Blagdon boats were returned to the water, with engines refitted and kitted out with anchors and oars before launching into the moon pool.
- Woodford was a hive of activity as bookings surged and Barrow Tanks opened.
- Chew's boat fleet expanded from just over 20 during the Pike trials to a full 30, ready for the eagerly awaited start of the fly season.
- The final fish destined for Chew and Blagdon were delivered, with the initial Barrow stocking completed earlier in the month.

As we move into the season ahead, we reflect with gratitude on those who have shaped our fisheries and look forward to another fantastic year on the water.

The start of the season was greeted with mild temperatures and very low winds. Making for a fantastic start to the season. Bank fishing around Blagdon was incredible with a rod average of 6 per angler in the first week and the average weight being 3.8lb. The most popular areas were green lawn and rainbow point. Some anglers reporting catches of 5 x 5lb+ to the net. Chew bank anglers also saw a strong start, an average of 8.4 fish per angler with an average weight of 2.8lb per fish. The hot spots being Woodford and Wick Green.



On the 6<sup>th</sup> of March the Boat fishing at Chew returned in spectacular fashion with some impressive catch returns.



During the week between Chew boats and Blagdon boats starting the temperature dropped, and the winds picked up slightly. Causing the bank fishing at blagdon to slow and made for a quieter start to the return of the Blagdon boats. Although this didn't last long, and it wasn't long before we saw healthy returns from the boats with averages of 9.6 fish per angler for the 26<sup>th</sup> of March.

We also saw one of the most impressive Chironomidae hatches that the lakes have seen in recent years which made the buzzer fishing exceptionally good across all the waters.



## Chew Valley Lake:

### Fish Caught:

- **Top Patterns:** Buzzers, Muskies, Black booby, Fabs, Blobs, Cormorants and Damsels.
- **Best Areas:** Herons, Wick Green, Spring Bay, East Shore and Hollow Brook.
- **Rod Averages:** Boat - 8.39 Bank – 5.33

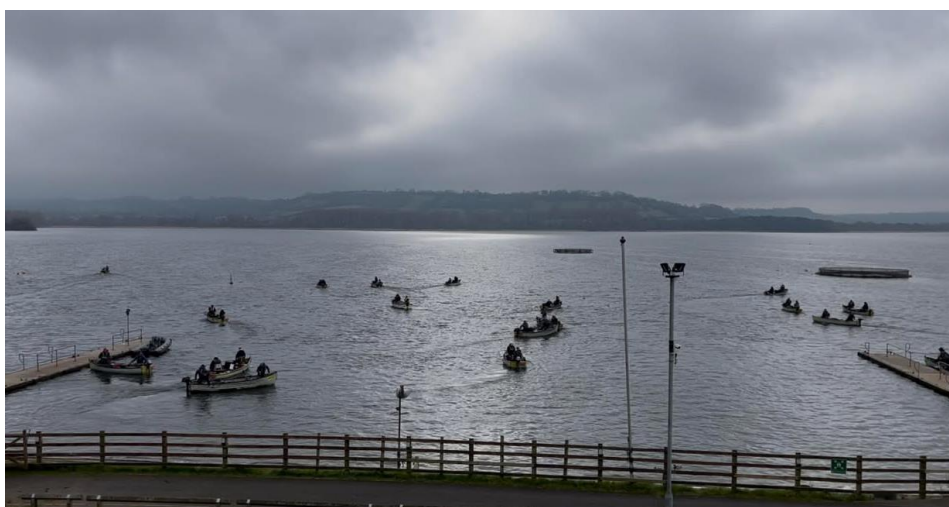
### Notable Trout Catches:



Greg Bates – 5lb 01oz

# Competitions On Chew:

## The Celtic League



The 22<sup>nd</sup> of March marked the return of our boat competitions on Chew with the first round of the Celtic League kicking off in style! 24 boats with teams of 4 anglers, this catch-and-release competition was set for a 16 fish. Chew Lake was on fire with seven anglers hitting their limits. Congratulations to Matt Russell, who bagged up first by 12:45pm!

Competition Team Results:

Winners: Team Tightlines

Runners-up: Funky Fly Fishers

Third place: Fluff Chucker's

A massive thank you to Mike Kayes for ensuring a smooth and successful start to the 2025 competition season on Chew Valley Lake.

**Airflo Celtic League 2025  
Individual Result Round 1  
Chew Valley 22/03/2025**

TEAM	Angler	Total Fish	Time 2 FISH	TIME LIMIT	Position	PTS
FULLING MILL NYMPHOMANIACS	Matt Russel	16	10.22	12.42	1	1
TEAM TIGHTLINES	Tony Baldwin	16	10.10	14	2	2
TEAM TIGHTLINES	Scott Graham	16	11.00	14	3	3
E.N FLUFF CHUCKERS	Paul Morris	16	12.30	14.33	4	4
FUNKY FF	Gary Haskins	16	11.27	15	5	5
TEAM TIGHTLINES	Andrew Lewis	16	11.15	15.41	6	6
SNOWBEE	Graham Curry	16	10.45	16.15	7	7
FUNKY FF	Mark Miles	15	10.30	0	8	8
E.N FLUFF CHUCKERS	Stuart Watkins	15	10.33	0	9	9
OSPREYS FFA	Bob Hemmings	15	11.30	0	10	10
WELSH WIZARDS	Mark MCarthy	15	13.00	0	11	11
FUNKY FF	Mark Stevens	14	10.22	0	12	12
OSPREYS FFA	Marco Orsi	14	13.20	0	13	13
TEAM EGLWYS	James Graham	13	11.30	0	14	14
FULLING MILL NYMPHOMANIACS	Alan Hughes	12	10.40	0	15	15
BLAGDON FF	Alan Clark	12	10.41	0	16	16
WELSH WIZARDS	Steve Docherty	11	11.08	0	17	17
FUNKY FF	Dave Reynolds	10	10.39	0	18	18
E.N FLUFF CHUCKERS	Jeff Thomas	10	11.00	0	19	19
TEAM EGLWYS	Robert Tucker	10	11.30	0	20	20
TEAM TIGHTLINES	Mike Keyes	10	12.55	0	21	21
DRIFTERS	Paul Sharman	9	10.36	0	22	22
BRFFA RED EMERGERS	Andy Weeks	9	11.07	0	23	23
SNOWBEE	Martin Barrett	9	11.45	0	24	24
BRFFA RED EMERGERS	Andy Stones	9	11.47	0	25	25
DRIFTERS	Geoff Thompson	8	10.20	0	26	26
SNOWBEE	Paul Sweatman	8	11.20	0	27	27
E.N FLUFF CHUCKERS	Keith Tanner	8	12.48	0	28	28
WELSH WIZARDS	James Rice	8	13.10	0	29	29
BLAGDON FF	Paul Golding	7	10.57	0	30	30
FULLING MILL NYMPHOMANIACS	Lee James	7	11.13	0	30	31
FULLING MILL NYMPHOMANIACS	Callum Russel	7	13.00	0	32	32
BLAGDON FF	Dale Burgess	7	13.40	0	33	33
TEAM EGLWYS	Peter Moruzzi	7	15.45	0	34	34
WELSH WIZARDS	Rich Elms	6	10.53	0	35	35
BLAGDON FF	John Piper	6	11.35	0	36	36
DRIFTERS	Andrew Roynan	6	11.42	0	37	37
TEAM EGLWYS	David Graham	6	13.00	0	38	38
DRIFTERS	Andrew Banner	6	14.30	0	39	39
OSPREYS FFA	Alan Banwell	5	11.00	0	40	40
OSPREYS FFA	Darren Williams	4	10.45	0	41	41
RED LION	Sean Torrington	4	10.56	0	42	42
BRFFA RED EMERGERS	Andy Hoffrock	3	11.37	0	43	43
RED LION	Chris Fuller	2	12.30	0	44	44
RED LION	John Gumbleton	2	12.55	0	45	45
RED LION	Jim King	1	17.00	0	46	46
SNOWBEE	Paul Roach	1	17.00	0	46	46
BRFFA RED EMERGERS	Ron Howard	0	17.00	0	48	48

The 25th of March saw the start of the 2025 evening league. This event runs through the season every other Tuesday for the last 4 hours of daylight. We saw a huge turnout with 11 boats and 22 anglers enjoying some spectacular sport. 97 fish were caught and safely released! Well done all, but especially our 2024 returning champion who grabbed top spot with a well angled 11 fish. Well done, Graham!

Here are the individual results below:

<b>Evening League 25th March 14:30 - 18:30</b>					
Position	Angler	No. of Fish	Points	Time of 1st fish	Time of 3rd fish
1	Graham Currie	11	22	14:45	15:40
2	Paul Golding	8	19	15:40	16:40
3	John Gumbleton	7	16	14:48	15:04
4	Luke Cox	7	13	15:24	15:41
5	Dave Gregory	7	11	15:05	16:36
6	Adam Dresher	7	9	16:19	16:42
7	Richard Walker	6	7	15:05	16:10
8	Tony Coxhead	6	5	16:15	16:47
9	Chis Fuller	6	3	16:55	17:10
10	James Roberts	4	2	15:44	17:16
11	Mark Kennedy	4	1	15:45	17:45
12	Cole	4	1	16:53	17:53
13	John Piper	3	1	14:57	15:41
14	Gordon Smith	3	1	16:18	17:35
15	Robin Parker	2	1	14:59	
16	Paul Roach	2	1	15:05	
17	Gary Jarvis	2	1	15:26	
18	Joe Donlin	2	1	15:40	
19	Andrew Maisey	2	1	16:00	
20	Iain Scadding	2	1	17:25	
21	Paul Brace	1	1	17:43	
22	Ethan Roberts	1	1		
In the event of a tie, position was calculated by time of 1st and 3rd fish					
<b>Total Fish Caught:</b>		<b>97</b>			
<b>Average per rod:</b>		<b>4.41</b>			
(this average is based on a 4 hour match)					

Thanks to the Stoke Inn, in Chew Stoke, for sausage and chips afterwards! The Stoke Inn are sponsoring the event this year and will be providing food at the final free of charge!

Interested in some regular light-hearted banter and a few hours on the water? Then this is a great series for the novice and experienced anglers alike!

Contact Woodford Lodge for more info: 01275 332339

## BRFFA Floating Line Competition



BRFFA RED LION FLOATING LINE RESULTS					
RANK	NO. ANGLERS: 36		NO. FISH 131		Rod Avrg 3.6
	NAME	TOTAL NO. FISH	TIME		TIME FINISHED
			1st FISH	4th FISH	
1	Paul Golding	12	10:53	11:52	N
2	Graham Currie	8	10:30	13:35	N
3	Tim Wellman	7	11:13	11:29	N
4	Jay Curry	7	10:55	11:30	N
5	John Piper	7	12:37	13:10	N
6	Alex Johnstone	7	12:49	14:25	N
7	Andrew Banner	6	10:58	13:17	N
8	Richard Elms	5	10:30	13:06	N
9	Dave Johns	5	11:40	14:00	N
10	Steven floyd	5	13:30	14:00	N
11	Dave Reynolds	5	11:30	14:20	N
12	Andrew Maisey	5	13:33	15:30	N
13	Alan Williams	5	14:48	15:30	N
14	Barry Hawyes	4	13:12	14:12	N
15	Louie Pearn (j)	4	11:40	14:17	N
16	Ron Thomas	4	13:02	14:58	N
17	David Green	4	14:12	15:36	N
18	John Horsey	4	11:23	17:43	N
19	Bill Pugh	3	12:45	N	N
20	Paul Bond	3	13:24	N	N
21	Tony Torrington	3	15:13	N	N
22	Andrew Weeks	2	11:32	N	N
23	John Otter	2	13:00	N	N
24	Jesse Gale (j)	2	13:19	N	N
25	Sean Torrington	2	13:31	N	N
26	Will Wellman (j)	2	14:32	N	N
27	Adam Drescher	1	N	N	N
28	Andy Stones	1	N	N	N
29	John Bowen	1	N	N	N
30	John Braithwaite	1	N	N	N
31	Mark Kennedy	1	N	N	N
32	Martin Watts	1	N	N	N
33	Simon Lucas	1	N	N	N
34	Stephen Ellis	1	N	N	N
35	Jim King	0	N	N	N
36	Jody Gale	0	N	N	N

Sponsored by Red Lion  
Carpets

## Match Summary

The first BRFFA competition of the season took place on Chew Valley Lake on Saturday, 29th March. With mild spring conditions and an early-season buzzer hatch, anticipation was high as anglers set out across the lake.

The most productive area was the Boot at Herons Green Bay, where many competitors stayed all day, avoiding the increasing afternoon winds. Elsewhere, anglers struggled as conditions cooled, with some finding success in sheltered spots like the back of Denny Island.

Paul Golding took 1st place with an impressive 12 fish, winning an Airflo Airlite V2 Comp Rod. Graham Currie secured 2nd place with 8 fish, while Tim Wellman edged out Jay Curry for 3rd place by just one minute, both catching 7 fish. Junior anglers also put in a strong performance, with Louie Pearn landing 4 fish to claim the top junior prize.

A total of 131 fish were caught, giving a rod average of 3.6. Congratulations to all competitors!

Next up: The BRFFA Open on May 3rd, with a £1,000 cash prize for the winner. For the full write up of this event, visit the BRFFA Facebook page. Thank you to all involved and congratulations to Paul Golding.

## Improvements:

### Coming Soon. New Dip Tank Procedure at Chew & Blagdon

Many of you will have noticed the new dip tanks installed at Chew and Blagdon Lake. These will soon be introduced as part of our commitment to protecting the fisheries from invasive species and preventing cross-contamination between waters.



Once in effect, all anglers will be required to clean and disinfect their nets, waders, and equipment before fishing. This vital step will help safeguard the delicate ecosystems of our lakes, ensuring they continue to thrive.

We appreciate your support in keeping Chew and Blagdon at their best. Stay tuned for further updates!

## Blagdon Lake

- **Top Patterns:** Buzzers, Muskins, Crunchers, Fabs, Blobs and dry flies including Foam Daddies.
- **Best Areas:** Rainbow Point, Wood Bay, Rugmoor, Butcombe
- **Rod Averages:** Boat – 5.49 Bank 4.2

As mentioned, Blagdon bank started very strong with some great fish coming out from the green lawn and in front of the lodge. The 13<sup>th</sup> of March saw the return of the boats, which kicked off with a freezing, windy opening day, but conditions quickly improved, and so did the fishing! A shift in the weather saw anglers enjoying incredible sport, with Bryan Brown and Ed Greenwood (pictured below), guided by John Horsey, landing hard-fighting rainbows, all over 3lbs, several exceeding 4lbs, and a standout at 5lbs. As the sun broke through, the lake came to life, and fish were charging into backing on floating lines. With buzzer hatches increasing and more settled weather ahead, April promises even more fantastic sport!



With the warmer weather at the end of the month, blagdon came into its own and was fishing extremely well. Some returns stated as many as 50 C&R fish in a day and an additional 16 fish bag limit.

The peak of Blagdon's fishing came around the end of the month. Even the ranger team couldn't resist an after shift session:





## Barrow Tanks

Unlike Chew and Blagdon, The Barrows had a very quiet start to the season. Over 3000 fish have been stocked into the tank's pre-season, however, most stayed in the deeper water in the middle of the tanks. Despite the more challenging fishing, that didn't stop anglers giving it a try and persisting. Often, persistence was the key, multiple anglers reporting to have caught low numbers of big fish when being patient and persistent.

### Fish Caught:

- **Top Patterns:** The patterns used in the tanks varied drastically from lures to boobies and nymphs.
- **Best Areas:** The most productive areas of the tanks were either tank 1 or 2,
- **Rod Averages:** 1.23

### Notable Catches At The Barrows



Mark Warne 6lb 2oz



Pete Brodrick 5lb 6oz from Tank 1



Bernie Weaver – 6lb 12oz from Tank 1

## Barrows Events

One of our first events after our last report was the BRFFA Barrow Bash. 40 anglers turning out for the event on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of March. A great way to kick off the season, the weather played its part, offering settled conditions, though the fish proved tricky to tempt.



Early on, it became clear that the key to success was fishing deep. Anglers who opted for fast-sinking lines and worked their flies along the lake bed were the ones who found action. While there were periods of inactivity, those who persisted with the right approach were rewarded. In the Youth Section, Jesse Gale took top honours, showing skill and patience beyond his years. Meanwhile, in the senior category, it was James Rice who emerged victorious, finding the right method to stay ahead of the competition catching quickest.



The results were:



1. James Rice with one fish at 08.53
2. Sean Glover with one fish at 08.56
3. Garry Wharton with one fish at 09.05
4. Sean Torrington with one fish at 10.10
5. Rick Anderson with one fish at 11.37
6. Jake Wenman with one fish at 12.17
7. Jess Gale (J) with one fish at 12.21
8. Will Wellman (J) with one fish at 12.43

Great show by the juniors two out of the three catching.

Thank you to the BRFFA members for their continued events and quality anglers.

Since the Barrow bash we have now experienced some much improved fishing returns. Tank 3 appears to have switched on with catches into the double figures. Tank 1 and 2 remain consistent with the best advice being to cast and move a couple of steps. This ensures you're effectively covering the water to locate the famous Barrow Bullets.

## Stocking – March/April

Over the past month, we have been busy ensuring our waters are well-stocked for the season ahead. Both Chew Valley and Blagdon Lakes received 1,500 prime rainbow trout each, carefully distributed across two locations per lake to keep as many different fishing areas going as possible. Additionally, 1,000 more fish were stocked into the Barrow Tanks, boosting the already thriving sport. More stockings are planned in the coming weeks to maintain the excellent fishing. A huge thank you to all anglers who have submitted catch returns—these are invaluable in helping us manage fish stocks effectively and provide the best possible fishing experience.



**Season to date:**

**Chew: 10,000**

**Blagdon: 8,500**

**Barrow Tanks: 4,000 (split: Tank 1 25%, Tank 2 25%, Tank 3 50%)**

## Coming Events Include...

- Airflo Open Championship – 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> of April (Chew)
- The AMFC Competitions – 12<sup>th</sup>/13<sup>th</sup> of April (Chew 12<sup>th</sup>/Blagdon 13<sup>th</sup>)
- The Tri Series Match – 15<sup>th</sup>/16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> of April.
- ATTEFF Qualifier at Blagdon – 26<sup>th</sup>/27<sup>th</sup> of April.

## Women In Fly Fishing

We've been working with our local fly-fishing club to host a special event for women who are either already in the sport or looking to get started. The BRFFA will be running this event on 21st April from 12pm, at Woodford Lodge, Chew Valley Lake—a great opportunity to learn, connect, and enjoy a day on the water! 🎣





## WOMEN IN FLYFISHING

# It's not just for the boys...

**Fly fishing is a sport everyone can enjoy.**

**BRFFA would like to invite aspiring, improving or expert women Fly Fishers to a lunchtime social get together at midday on 21st of April 2025 at Woodford Lodge, Chew Valley Lake . BRFFA is keen to promote the sport and find ways to encourage more women to join our club and share the fun.**

There will be a short presentation, casting demonstration and an opportunity to discuss all things fly fishing. A complimentary cream tea will be provided. Please register your interest by emailing [rc.howard@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:rc.howard@hotmail.co.uk)

Woodford Lodge, Chew Stoke, Bristol BS40 8XH

[www.brffa.com](http://www.brffa.com)