

The angling close season for rivers and fenland drains may be upon us but there is still work to be done by local angling clubs to keep their waters in good shape, not least to clear all the litter and rubbish swept along and over the bank during the recent floods. At the weekend members of the Peterborough DAA had their first outing of the close season along the banks at Castor and in a few hours collected a huge amount of rubbish. I should add that it was not all anglers' rubbish!! A really good effort from those attending, only another eight miles of river bank to sort out now before the season gets underway on 16th June! It's also the time of year where our local clubs hold their AGM's, coming up shortly are the Tydd Gote and Peterborough DAA meetings. There will be a lot of interest in the Tydd Gote one as I hear there are changes about to be made. It could also be a time for change at Peterborough too. Dates and times are as follows; Tydd Gote AC, Tuesday 8th April, 2014 at 7.30pm, at the Butchers Arms, Parson Drove. Peterborough DAA, Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> April at Fletton Ex-Servicemen's Club at 7.45pm. More and more anglers are heading to Decoy Lakes on a Friday to fish the popular Over 55's Summer league. Although the weather was far from ideal the leading weights in the latest match saw some fine nets recorded none better than the 104lb 6oz put to the scales from match winner Dave Thornton. Dave drew peg 21 and fished a feeder with corn and maggot on the hook to see off the challenge of Steve Dawkes. Steve drew peg 9 and caught on the pole with meat close in for 97lb 10oz followed by Will Hadley on 96lb 2oz.

With more and more matches being held at Decoy through the spring and summer weekends JVAC could well see themselves fishing the one lake as they did on Sunday as opposed to the two they have spread out on throughout their winter campaign. They fished both banks of the Cedar Pool which saw Mike Mitchell a clear winner from peg one putting a very respectable 82lb 7oz to the scales, all taken on the pole with soft pellet on the hook. Joint second on 59lb 14oz was Steve Dawkes and Will Hadley, Steve caught on the feeder, while Will fished the pole with pellet.

Deeping St James AC held a well-attended sweepstake on their Horseshoe Lake at Wansford on Sunday, but the recent drop in temperatures have made the fish shoal up in certain areas and the peninsular was the place to draw. Leading the field with his first win with the club was Dave Thorpe. He drew on peg 19 and fished to the middle of the lake on the Method feeder, taking 40lb of carp on sweetcorn and meat plus some silver fish which included a fine bream of 7lb to weigh 47lb 13oz. Runner up from peg 17 was Brian Ogden who caught on similar tactics and bait, but fished tight to the far bank to take 33lb 14oz of carp. In third place was Mike Atherton on peg 15 who weighed 26lb 4oz. Yaxley rod Stan Dow topped a good field in the Tuesday open match fished on the Beastie pool, catching carp on sweetcorn on a nine metre line weighing in 96lb 10oz. Second place went to Afe Edgley with 91lb 3oz followed by Tony Dawson with 80lb 5oz. There was another big turnout for the Saturday open match at Decoy lakes with both the Horseshoe and Beastie Lake being used. Top rod from peg 13 on the Horseshoe pool was Andy Schuzerk, with a gentle breeze blowing into his corner peg he fished short for most of the day on the pole alternating pellet and meat on the hook to finish with 104lb 3oz.

Result: 1 A Schuzerk, Sheffield, 104lb 3oz; 2 P Lamdin, 96lb 13oz; 3 S Godfrey, Decoy, 91lb 13oz.

Venue newcomer Chris Hill topped the Sunday open match fished on the Beastie pool and Elm, he drew 11 on Elm and caught on the long pole with corn and pellet for 119lb 10oz. Runner up on 106lb 10oz was Whittlesey rod Simon Godfrey followed by Andy Schuzerk with 97lb 13oz. The last Cock Inn winter match before the summer series starts in two weeks was fished on the Four islands Pool at Decoy and it looks like some of the regular rods that fish for this club had better up their game as Sundays winner was new club member Andy Kew from peg 9, with 60lb

14oz, he caught big carp on meat close in on the pole. Second place went to current club champion Steve Smith with 48lb 10oz from peg 3, all his fish caught on corn from open water, followed by another new rod, Lee Eudale with 35lb from peg 10, he caught close in on maggots. Ramsey & District Angling Society fished on Six Islands at Decoy Lakes at the weekend and found the fish feeding well in most of the noted pegs. Top rod with 96lb 4oz from peg 15 was John Hazelden, he fished sweetcorn in the margin, followed by Kieran Payne with a level 90lb and Keith Rayment on 65lb.

This Sunday's match is on Willows, plenty of pegs are available and the club could cater for a few more anglers, if you are interested call Keith Rayment on 01487 814077.

The first match of the year for the Hotpoint AC club saw a full house on the Horseshoe Pool on Sunday, unfortunately the wind, rain and hailstones dampened the enthusiasm by the time the final whistle was blown. Well out in front from peg 14 was young Paul Faulkner, he caught steadily on the eight metre line for most of the day fishing pellet at full depth for 81lb 15oz. I managed second place fishing the long pole with pellet up in the water, and then taking a few bigger fish in the margins late on with red maggot to finish with 51lb 3oz from peg 19. Third place went to Dave Langridge on peg 10; he fished chopped worm and caster for 41lb 7oz. The dominance of Stamford rod George Bates at Haddon Lodge Fishery makes me wonder if anyone is going to beat him at present, he is not just winning matches he is head and shoulders above the chasing pack. I must remember to ask about these special pellets he is supposed to be using as they seem to be working. This week he won with 34lb 10oz, and then came Tony Moulds with 18lb 7oz who caught on the feeder with red maggot, followed by Martin Harwood on 15lb 5oz.

Peterborough Conservative club fished on Saturday, the venue was the Six Islands Pool on the Decoy Complex. Most of the club's members turned out to brave the elements in expectation of a good days fishing but once again the weather won the day. With a cold bitter wind making the lake more suited to surfing than fishing at times everyone involved was in total agreement when the suggestion was made to finish earlier than planned. A shame as the pool is regarded by many as being one of the best on the complex right now. Top rod from peg 24 was Richard Crown, he caught most of his fish on a maggot feeder putting 36lb 13oz to the scales. Terry Tribe came second, he fished the margins with sweetcorn for 30lb 7oz from peg 15, followed by Peter Huddleston with 28lb 7oz taken on red maggot.



## TROUT

Rutland Water has had a bright start to the new season, despite the return to much colder weather bank anglers around the shoreline have taken fish close in. The fish are feeding exceptionally well on small buzzers, with nymph anglers using floating lines and long leaders reaping their rewards. Hotspots are Finches Bank, Normanton, Whitwell, Sykes Lane and East Creek. Browns, which are out of season, have been showing with the best quickly weighed and returned at 8lb 8oz, caught by bank angler Michael Dorr fishing off the Normanton bank At Grafham Water season ticket holder Keith Gilchrist landed the biggest fish of the week and also he season. Keith caught a superb conditioned over wintered rainbow of 7lb 2oz whilst boat fishing at the North End of the Dam on a black and green booby with a Di5 line. Bank anglers have once again had an exceptional week's fishing with plenty of areas producing consistent catch rates. Boat anglers have also had a good week with plenty of bag limits being caught mainly around the margins, with Hill Farm, Willows/North Dam, Lodge Bank and Gaynes Cove proving the best areas.

The Bob Church Open will be fished at Grafham Water on Saturday 19th April this year. The competition will be fished to International rules to an eight fish limit. The entry fee of £58 (£34.50 for season ticket holders) includes a hot meal at the end of the match. Entries close on 1st April.

For more information and to make an entry please call 01480 810531.

Two stockings this week at Elinor should ensure some improved sport as the fishing was difficult with high winds, rain and at times hailstones. Lures are working best during the morning but anglers fishing nymphs from mid-day onwards are catching well in the more sheltered areas. Best fish of the season so far fell to Dan Sugars, a 9lb 8oz rainbow, taken on a black buzzer with a slow intermediate line from the bank. Ringstead Grange had another good week although the weather was changeable with lots of good quality fish coming out; the largest fish of the week went to Dave Strudwick, weighing in at 9lb 2oz caught on a Gold Head Damsel.