

# CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

WALTHAMSTOW FLY FISHERS CLUB

JAN-MARCH 2023

## OPENING STATEMENT

Well 2023 is underway, unfortunately I have been unwell recently so haven't been on top of my chairman's duties and haven't fished the Stow very much recently. All good now though.

We had our AGM in February and it all went well and yet again the committee pulled together and made sure the day was a success including the tackle auction. It was good to see Jen Robertson the manager of the Wetlands site pop along and listen to some of our concerns.

There are some benches that have been installed which could have benefited with some input from us as to their positioning, let's hope they don't cause problems.

We have booked the annual Farmoor trip again for the 6th May. The cost for the day (season ticket holders) is only £20. The club subsidise the coach to keep cost low. At the time of writing this there is still one place available.

Recently we had a fly tying evening at the Ferry Boat with Paul Cramp from the Fly Dressers Guild hosting the evening. It was a great success and even some of our experienced tiers learned something from Paul. Thank you Paul.

Please use the Walthamstow Facebook group to share flies you tie that are successful at the Stow, we all like to see flies that work.

The stocking is all on track with hopefully fish distributed fairly between the reservoirs. Myland is keeping us informed regarding fish distribution.

Thames Water are to clarify some of the fishery rules and hopefully some notices will appear in the lodge soon. We should all still try to sign in/out and record accurate catch returns, this does help.



*\*New bench on No.4*



*\*Paul Cramp hosting the fly tying evening*

## THE FISHING



*\*Frank Minoprio's brownie*



*\*Tony's brownie*



*\*Peter's brownie*

## RESERVOIRS 4&5

As I said I haven't been to the Stow in the last month but when I have been there it's fished well. However I hear the fishing as been a bit patchy recently. At the time of writing this a stocking is expected in the next couple of days.

The odd decent Brownies are still being caught on #5.

## EAST WARWICK

The EW doesn't seem to be much better and I understand water quality as been an issue recently. Good buzzer hatches

starting to appear apparently.

Many of you have asked for cheaper catch & release day ticket to be introduced but so far TW have not been keen to do this.

# COMPETITION NEWS

The last competition of the 2022/23 season, the Final Fling, was fished in January. The competition was really

well attended but the fishing was tough. Gary Inwards winning the day fishing Coral boobies.

Gary winning the last of the commemorative fly box, well done Gary.



\*Gary Inwards receiving his trophy



\*Gary's limited edition Richard Wheatley fly box

Looking forward to club competitions this year. A reminder not to be put off by the word "competition" these are friendly social days and beginners are very welcome and can learn lots on the day.

Our loch style boat team gained a sponsor for this coming season. Anthony Fordham of Fordham & Wakefield lives close to the reservoirs

and chose us to promote some of his products. Anthony as been very generous supplying the team with fly lines, tippet marital and some clothing items. The products are Lee Wulff fly line and Seagar and Grand Max tippet. Hence we will be known as the "Walthamstow Wulffs".

The first of our 6x4 league series got underway last weekend with Draycote

fishing it's head off! Lots of fish were caught on both practice day and in the competition, the rod average on completion day was over 21! Our top rod was Ian Watts who caught an incredible 38 fish to gain forth individual spot, top rod on the day caught 41.

We managed a mid table finish.



\*Frank found the pot of gold with 21 fish on match day

		Round 1 Draycote 19-Mar	Round 2 Grafham 23-Apr	Round 3 Rutland 18-Jun	Round 4 Eyebrook 23-Jul
1	The Swifts	Novice	1		
2	Fly Boys	Novice	2		
3	Reservoir Dogs	Expert	3		
4	Renegades	Novice	4		
5	WCC Aquaholics	Expert	5		
6	Last Casts	Novice	6		
7	Ospreys	Expert	7		
8	Walthamstow Wulffs	Novice	8		
9	England Ladies	Novice	9		
10	High Peak Drifters	Novice	10		
11	Kingfishers	Novice	11		
12	Soldier Palmers	Novice	12		
13	The Merlins	Novice	13		
	Fish Caught	1,115			
	Rod Average	21.4			
	Team Winners	The Swifts			
	Top Rod	Scott Graham			

\*Mid table after round 1

We have entered the 6x4 series, Airflo team championship, Cortland team championship and the Grand Max this coming year.

Any member interested in fishing in the team should get in touch

# MEMBER PROFILE



## Member profile - Ray Taylor

Ray first started fly fishing at Walthamstow in the mid 60's and has been a regular there ever since. Ray was a bailiff for Thames Water between 1990 & 96.

As a younger man Ray was a regular on the competition scene winning various comps in his time fishing Hanvingfield and the midlands reservoirs. Nowadays Ray is retired (he is 84) and

concentrate's his efforts on the Stow and can be found there a few times a week (weather permitting). He is so passionate about his fly fishing and is always ready to help anyone who seeks his advice, especially beginners. I have witnessed him tying leaders and giving flies to newcomers and helping them on their way to catch what maybe their first fish. I think we have all benefitted from his advice at one time or another.

*\*Ray catching on his deadly bung method*

With the buzzer season about to kick off I have asked Ray to share some tips on a method he is well known for, the bung!

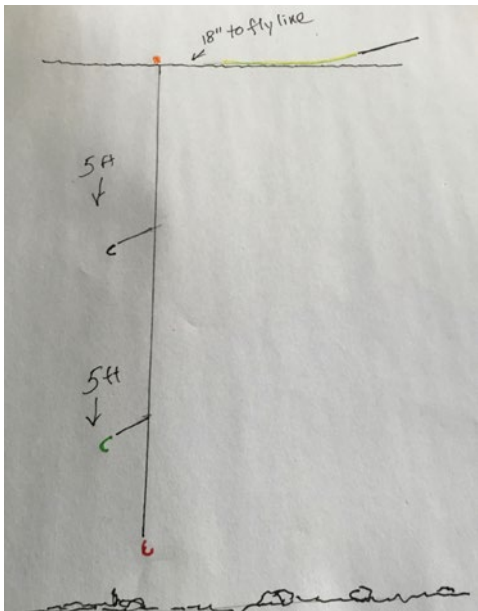
There are so many permutations to fishing buzzers on the bung but Ray as shared his basic early season bung set up assuming the water level is at its regular level.

Ray says the ideal conditions would be

a westerly wind which as been constant for a few days. He says the depth of water where he intends to fish would be approx 14 feet deep, he would set his point fly at between 12 to 13 feet usually a bloodworm pattern early season.

Two further buzzers placed 5 foot and 10 foot from the bung. The top buzzer would probably be a black buzzer with a red arse and an olive buzzer on the middle dropper. Ray keeps the length of his droppers very short, maximum 4

inches in length. He uses 8lb fluorocarbon. Ray prefers a curved hook for his buzzers when fished on the bung and straight hooks when freelineing, mostly size 12.



*\*Rays bung set up diagram*

The above is only a guide as the method Ray shared will vary as the season goes on and fish move up and down the water column.

As the season goes on the bung will probably give way to freelined buzzers.

Ray's top tips:



*\*A selection of buzzers Ray would use through the year.*

- No.1 Observation
- No.2 Concentration
- No.3 Experimentation

If you don't know Ray, stop and say hello when you see him next as he has so much knowledge of the fishery to give and as many stories to tell.

Ray is also a keen artist and as probably painted every corner of the Stow.

Ray Taylor is one of life's gentlemen and someone I am always pleased to bump into at the Stow.

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# FLY OF THE SEASON

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## RAY'S RED ARSE BUZZER Difficulty - Medium

Described by Ray as his top buzzer I thought it only fitting to tie up this pattern. I also wouldn't be without this pattern or one very similar when spring buzzer fishing. The red arse can be achieved with thread or red holographic tinsel.

### TYING

Step 1: Tie in a tag of red thread at the rear of the fly.

Step 2: Lay down a base of black thread just onto the red tag and catch in the peacock hearl.

Step 3: Wind the hearl up the body leaving small gaps so the black shows though and tie off short of the thorax.

Step 4: Tie in the goose biots and the mylar facing down the hook.

Step 5: Build the thorax and hold the goose biots over the eye, tie in and break off. Tie in the mylar and whip finish. Finally varnish, varnishing is another good opportunity to build the desired profile of the fly.

### MATERIALS

Fasna 310 size 12 hook, red thread (glo brite No4), black thread, natural stripped peacock hearl, medium pearl mylar, sunburst goose biots.

Billy

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# CLOSING STATEMENT

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The club is in a strong financial position and members participation in club events is great meaning the club is in a very healthy position. We are all part of a great club.

Once again I must thank our committee Ben Ridout, Tony Fox, Matt McColl, John Ferguson & Vince King for all the work they do behind the scenes so we can all enjoy club events etc.

Also our President Andrew Green, Vice Presidents Andrew Smith & Gary Inwards who also do so much to keep the club running smoothly.

Thanks to Billy Bridgeworth who produces this newsletter.

Look forward to seeing you all on the banks, tight lines



*\*The committee enjoying the new shed*