

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

WALTHAMSTOW FLY FISHERS CLUB

JULY-SEPT 2022

OPENING STATEMENT

I thought I would introduce a quarterly report on life at Walthamstow reservoirs and the goings on within the club. I am hoping this might replace the old style newsletter.

Feel free to add some feedback, it would be great to get your thoughts.

It was an honour to be voted in as the new chairman this year a role I am taking very seriously and hope I can do a good job representing the club and building some club spirit. This is a great little club with a hardcore of guys who have a mutual passion for fly fishing.

For the club to grow we need to attract new members this is something that I hope the club can achieve over the next couple of seasons.

I must thank Dave Jarvis for all his work for the club in previous years.

THE FISHING

The summer was once again very tough with fishing proving to be very difficult, with many regulars turning their hands to coarse fish in the hot weather.

There is always the usual comments of low fish stocks etc when the fishing gets tough. I personally don't think this is the case, especially this year, the fish just switch off when the water gets too warm, this happens on a lot of waters, concrete bowls in particular.

On September 10th we held a social fishing get together day also inviting anyone to join us who wanted to try fly fishing for the first time. Myland waived fishing cost for anyone on their first try at fly fishing. Andy Hathaway gave up his time for free on the day so the beginners got a great deal, fishing and guidance from Andy all for free. I think they enjoyed the experience and I am sure they will be back and hopefully join the club one day.

This was the first time we have tried this and it was a big success, so hopefully this will become an annual event. The fishing on the day was good with water temperature finally starting to cool and I think a few of the newcomers were hooked.

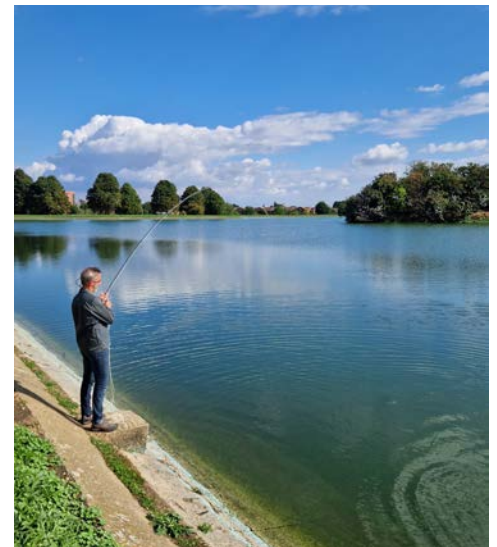
The club hope to organise some more days like this next year.



**Andy giving some one to one instruction.*



**Nice fish Jim.*



**Roger one of the beginners seems to have got the bug.*

September see TW start stocking again. We were told the fish are on the small side this is due to the supplier having issues in the summer heat. I understand the supplier as purchased equipment which will hopefully prevent this happening in the future. However the fish that have been caught are in good condition and a decent size, It seems the fish were a better stamp on the second stocking.

With the stocking and cooler water the fishing as seen catch returns improve

and some much more successful fishing in general. The club and myself are trying to build a relationship with TW water to improve information on stocking etc. We can all help by filling in accurate return cards etc.

There have been concerns over next seasons fishing prices. Unfortunately like everything else at the moment fishing costs at Walthamstow are likely to increase next year. Thames Water will not know by how much until later this year when they will know fish prices for

next season etc.

There is currently the position of club secretary that needs filling. The club is financially sound and membership is slightly on the up.

COMPETITION NEWS

July saw the final legs of the summer evening series with Tony Fox winning. Winning an East Warwick season ticket and a 40th anniversary Wheatley fly box. Congratulations Tony.

The July and August rounds of the renegades series were both fished on Eyebrook with mixed results in tough conditions. In July we finished 9th and finished 4th in the August round. We are currently mid table in the league.

The last two events, October and November, were due to be fished at Grafham but dates have had to be moved around because of the situation at Grafham. There are now two heats in November on Draycote and Rutland.



**Frank Daley couldn't find a fish at the final heat, he couldn't have tried harder, a single fish would have seen him win the series.*



**Frank fishing at Eyebrook.*

On the first weekend of September we entered a team of six in the "Cortland Team Championship" held on Blagdon and Chew reservoirs. Again this was very difficult fishing and proved a real challenge but we were up for the challenge and learned so much about fishing in difficult conditions. The competition

was split over the two lakes, two guys fishing on Blagdon and four on Chew.

Even though we practiced for two days it was difficult to work out how to catch the few fish that were willing to feed, we were not the only ones who struggled many guys left scratching their

heads. A really great time spent with the Walthamstow team and everyone already making themselves available for next year. Our team consisted of Myself, Matt McColl, John Ferguson, Tony Fox, Frank Daley and Ian Watts.



**Getting ready for the start.*



**Ian serving up breakfast cooked by Andrew and Tony.*



**Matt on the "pointy end"*

We are all really enjoying the team events, some of us are relative novices to loch style boat fishing, we are learning all the time and building a great team spirit and having some fun in the process.

The loch style team events are open to any club member, in the last two seasons it's been great to see some novice competition anglers getting involved. We have had guys who have never fished competitions before having a go and

holding their own. Watch out for a date next spring when we intend to have a club trials/get together day in boats on one of the reservoirs. This will be a good opportunity to have a go in a boat if this is something you would like to try.

Apart from the last two Renegades heats the last team competition of the year is at Bewl in the "Grand Max" this a team of six, floating line only competition.

At the National loch style final held at Draycote on weekend 9/10th of September we saw Tony Fox qualify for the England team. This will be Tony's fourth international cap. Once again congratulations Tony.



**John trying to find the fly that will do the damage.*



**John obviously found something in his box to tempt this one.*



**Tony and the other qualifiers at Draycote.*

Haven House charity competition 24th September

What a great day this was, the Stow fished so well with everyone catching fish, great to see so many limit bags being weighed in on a variety of methods.

- 1st Harry Fox
- 2nd Ben Ridout
- 3rd Earl Johnston

Harry was using a fast glass line with Diawl Bachs and a blob. There were a lot of fish caught on the mostly falling to the washing line on a floating line. There were some excellent prizes given out on the day to the winner and twelve runners up and the biggest fish. Thanks to all that donated to the prize pot.

I think we raised £1830 for Haven House on the last count. I must thank

the sponsors, especially Thames Water, who helped make it a good day and enable us to raise the amount we did.

Wychwood, First Tackle, Fordham & Wakefield, Snowbee, Sportfish, Flyshed, Anglian Water, Ifor Jones,



**Harry getting one of the prizes donated by Wychwood.*



**John catching on the causeway.*



**Other John also catching on the causeway.*



**Jim catching on the west bank of five.*



**Plenty of fish coming to blobs on the causeway.*



**All competitors after the weigh in.*

CLOSING STATEMENT

I would like to thank the committee for their help and support and for all the hard work that they do behind the scenes. Ben Ridout, Tony Fox, Matt McColl and John Ferguson.

I look forward to seeing you all at the Stow over the winter when the fishing should be good.

Tight lines and all the best

Peter