



Trout Reports

Brick Farm Lakes

Herstmonceux, East Sussex

Chalk Springs

Arundel, West Sussex



EASTER COMPETITION
OPEN TO ALL
SUNDAY 25th MARCH 2018

Entry £45 includes:

- * 3-Fish Ticket
- * Easter Egg Raffle for Charity
- * Tea, Coffee
- * Help yourself Mega Ploughman's Lunch

Trophy to the Winner and Cash Prize

CALL 01323 832 615

to register your entry or sign form in The Lodge

Well, thank heavens for that! February is out of the way for another year! Despite it being a nice, short month and the fact that the mornings and evenings definitely start to draw out, it truly is, in my humble opinion, the most miserable month. The rain, snow, ice and mud make anything outdoors an utter misery and even I need a huge amount of encouragement to venture out to fish. I can truly see why so many folk of a sensible ilk fly off to sunny climes, it is sorely tempting. However, on a more positive, happy note the snowdrops in the wood are just lovely, the first of the early daffs are out, the trees with a sprinkling of snow in the sunshine are beautiful and the two, special full moons were awesome! (In this context I have used the word properly, unlike the folk from the other side of the Pond!).PS... the Easter eggs are in Tesco as well, always a happy sight!

The hardy few who have fished with us this month have been rewarded with some lovely fish. A handful of PB's have been smashed and I personally have had the huge pleasure to take the time for some lovely fireside chats with experienced anglers, thus gleaning a few new tips and tricks to hopefully improve my fishing for the coming year. This part of the fishing experience is so important. It is how we learn as individuals, improving our fishing and also enables us in turn, to pass these skills on to the next generation of young fly fishermen and women. Because of my "siting around the fire time" regular readers will be delighted to hear that my "Snowman" fly, having been two years in the design phase, is now in the early stages of production, my thanks to Calvin Wallis, I will give it a thorough testing ASAP and report back soon!

It is time to remind you of our first competition for 2018. Our Easter Egg Comp is on Sunday, March 25th and it is always a fun, sociable way to start the season off with fellow anglers. Starting at 8.30am and finishing at 1pm, the cost is £45 for a three fish contest and this includes a "more than a ploughman" lunch also, everyone will receive an Easter egg. There will be a cash prize and trophy for the winner and a special raffle! Just call or pop in to reserve a place. 01323 832615.

Finally, flies working at the moment are all the fry patterns, buzzers, bloodworm and anything black! The fish are hungry and fighting hard to the net, so, a word of advice if I may? Take your time to play the fish! Enjoy this part and don't rush the trout to the net. Bring them in tired and you will keep them on the hook and net them safely.

Tight lines for a sunny spring, Caroline.



February has been another mixed month weather-wise.....everything from torrential rain and high winds, to beautiful sunshine and also thick frosts. This has made the fishing 'interesting', as well as the fact that the snowdrops around the fishery are having to compete with the daffodils which are already showing! Mad weather!

Generally the fishing has been excellent as usual, with most fishermen catching well. The average catch rate has been over 90% most days, with the average fish size just under 3lb again this month too. The usual flies are working well, although along with the goldhead blueflash damselfly, orange leadheads fished on the drop continue to be very effective.

The fishing is usually better in the mornings, especially on the busier days, as come the afternoon the fish in the lakes will have seen a lot of flies whizzing past them so they naturally become harder to catch and more wary...I suppose that's one of the downsides of having crystal clear water – the fish can see you! This is also where being selective helps. If you just stand in one spot for ages and blindly cast away over and over, the fish will move away from you. It's always better if you can move around the lakes as much as you can. This is one of the reasons we always recommend pre-booking, as we limit the number of people on the lakes to allow plenty of space for roaming around.

Expect the fishing to be consistent into March and April, especially if things warm up a bit. The natural fly-life in and around the lakes should start to increase as the temperature rises and we should see some fish rising to dries. As I said before, pre-booking is always advised and you can keep up to date with the weekly reports and latest news on our website, as well as a calendar of the pre-booked 'full' dates.

Tight lines, Darren and Ally

