



Trout Informer

Chalk Springs Arundel, West Sussex

It's been another mixed bag of weather over the last few weeks – anything from lovely sun to howling gales or a sharp frost and torrential rain. The fishing hasn't been really affected by this mixture of weather and it continues to be excellent with the catch rate remaining around the 90% mark most weeks. The water remains crystal clear, as it does for most of the year, as it generally doesn't 'colour up' after heavy rain. If the weather does get a bit nasty, you can always go and hide in the lodge and make yourself a cup of tea or coffee to keep you warm!

The usual goldhead damsels, hare's ears, daddy longlegs and a variety of stalking bugs have been the most effective patterns, with a lot of fish still coming out on dries too.

Not many Blues caught this month but rainbows and browns up to just over 11lb were the best caught and we will be continuing to stock all three species throughout the rest of the winter months.

Latest news - There will be a slight price increase for 2019. The current rates have been the same for the best part of the last 10 years, so a small increase is inevitable. Fish food and fish costs have almost doubled during this period, so this rise is 'long overdue'. See our 'prices and booking' page for details. Please note that the 3-fish ticket is now a Day ticket, rather than a 'long half day'.

Although the fishery is generally a little quieter during the winter months, pre-booking is still advised, especially for weekends. See our website for booking details and prices, as well as our weekly catch page.

Finally, contrary to rumours doing the rounds, the fishery is NOT closing and we are looking forward to another busy year.

Tight Lines, Darren and Ally

Brick Farm Lakes Herstmonceux, East Sussex

Okay folks... Here we are, well and truly into the New Year now. I hear tell from the trusty weather girls that we have a spot of "interesting" weather coming our way. About time too is all I can say! I recently was caught up in the "interesting" weather in Austria, the heaviest snowfall some said in 100 years and although we took two days to reach our resort, having experienced aborted landings, diversions to Germany, emergency hotels and gridlocked roads that our coach driver by some kind of miracle got us safely through, it was just lovely to get away from the grey, muddy, germ ridden England for a while. There were more poor people ill this Christmas and New Year than I ever remember, including Hubby, and I feel very sorry for you all. We need a dose of minus temperatures to kill off all these nasty bugs and clear the air for a while.

As to the fishing, well the trout fight the hardest in the cold water and with the lack of natural foods (other than fry, orange is a must in your fly box) in the lakes at this time of year but this does at least give the trout and the water a bit of a break from heavy fishing. The trout, no doubt, gain a little confidence and move around their territories more readily when the activity of constant casting eases for a while. This may explain why the larger fish are more likely to be fooled onto a hook when there is a bit of ice around or a sprinkle of snow on the grass. We had a marvellous brown caught yesterday, see the photo! We will, of course continue to stock most weeks throughout the winter and have the welcoming Lodge for our anglers to warm up in for a while and enjoy a cuppa or an egg and bacon roll (up to 12pm).

If you are a group of angling buddies or fishing club then we can offer you a bespoke menu for a wonderful day out. Please call Annie at the Lodge for ideas and info.

Tight lines now for the month of February and at least it is a short month for all you looking forward to the spring. I saw some daffs in bud yesterday so not too long to wait now.

Annie and Caroline



Brian Field



A first fish to be proud of!



Frank with his tagged fish winnings £100



Brian Kentish



James Green



Happy Tagged Fish winner of £100



John Micklam with a great brown!



Colin



Paul H



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