



# Trout Informer

## Chalk Springs Arundel, West Sussex

December had been another mixed month weather-wise but the fishing has remained consistently good throughout. The usual goldhead damsels, hares' ears and a variety of stalking bugs have been the most effective patterns, with fish still coming out on dries as well. Goldhead daddy longlegs have been very effective too. Rainbows, Browns and a few Blues are all being caught, with the best this month just over 12lb, and we will be continuing to stock all three species throughout the winter. Tactics for this time of the year don't really need to be much different from the rest of the year, as although there isn't as much natural food for the fish in the colder weather, the fish will still feed on natural imitations.

The annual Brass Monkeys competition was held recently. Twenty fishermen were drawn in pairs to battle for the trophy. Now in it's 24th year, the competition was fierce but fun. Kev Hunt and Jimmy Madden were defending last year's title but it was Keith Potter and Brian Kentish (not in the same team) who started well. Keith had a lovely 10lb rainbow with Brian hooking a lovely 8lb'er. John Pearn also struck early with his Blue Rainbow of 7lb 5oz. However, one big fish in a pairing isn't always enough to win, so you need your partner to catch as well. After a very welcome lunch of fish and chips, the final whistle was blown at 2.30pm. At the weigh-in, Keith Potter and Steve Rule weighed in their 4-fish bag at a touch under 20lb, in second was Stew Pope and John Pearn with 15lb and in third was Paddy Hill and Brian Kentish with 13lb. Jimmy and Kev managed to scrape in 4th, just 2lb behind - a valiant attempt. Although the fishery is generally a bit quieter at this time of the year, pre-booking is still recommended....just in case! For a list of any fully booked dates and for any other information you need on prices or tactics, please have a look at our website.

*Tight Lines,  
Darren & Ally*



Brass Monkeys Winners 2018

## Brick Farm Lakes Herstmonceux, East Sussex

FIRSTLY... Happy New Year to all of you! Here at Brick Farm Lakes we hope you enjoyed a healthy and happy Christmas and now that things are returning to normal we can consider some serious winter fishing. Can't we?

As time marches on without so much as a backward glance we need to carefully think about the coming year and, in particular, the winter season ahead. January, February and March can be cruel, dark and depressing months for many of us and it takes a good dose of enthusiasm to venture out at times. Of course, we need to consider our health and safety. There are days when the roads are challenging, the weather dreadful and snow and ice cover the ground. These are undoubtedly the times to tuck up indoors with a tasty casserole and a bottle of port. No one wants a bout of the flu or a nasty accident after all! However, in between the bad days we do have some respite with sunny, crisp mornings and still, peaceful winter days and these are the times to relish and embrace with open arms. I recall having the roof off my old car on a day like this in February, yes I had a hat and coat on but to feel the winter air was wonderful and did me a power of good and gave me a much needed physical and mental boost. So, with a warm hat and coat we do not need to hibernate until the spring. Fishing is a marvellous way to quietly enjoy the winter wildlife during this unique season in our yearly calendar. Personally, give me an icy puddle and a sprinkle of snow anytime and I'm a "happy bunny" as they say. This may sound weird to many of you sun-lovers out there, a bit odd, but it takes all sorts after all! At Brick Farm Lakes a day's fishing can reveal some wonderful moments... the Kingfisher patrolling the bank in front of the Lodge... the Heron standing, sentinel, in his favourite spot beneath the oak tree... the Grey Wagtails lined up along the roof... a flock of geese flying noisily overhead... a heard of deer galloping into the cover of the wood... pheasants, squirrels, moorhens and foxes going about their daily routines. If you take the time to take a stroll through the little wood, you will see the thick holly and Spindle berries and along the banks of the little stream the Wrens and Goldcrests flitting and darting around. In the sheltered spots you can glimpse the first of the snowdrops poking through and I even once witnessed the rare sight of my own shadow, magnified against the foggy hillside beneath a beautiful rainbow... a "Brocken Spectre" it is called apparently, or a "Brocken Bow" or "Mountain Spectre". WOW!!!! So, let us grab our rods and go out and experience the winter countryside in all its glory. They say that the BIG fish come out to play in the colder months and who knows what we will see along the way.

At Brick Farm Lakes we will continue to stock through the winter months with top quality fish and will look forward to seeing you in this New Year of 2019 for some marvellous fishing. Our new 'SPRING LAKE' is filling fast and, all being well, we hope to introduce a few trout in the early part of spring, so watch this space!

Flies at the moment are a bit of a mixed bag as they say but black is STILL the most popular choice of colour in the trout's eyes, as indeed it has been for a long time. As I write buzzers are still catching and some truly lovely fish have been landed by some lucky/skilled anglers.

*Tight lines from Caroline & Annie for January.*



Brian Kentish - Brass Monkeys



Danny Leung - 12lb 10z



John Pearn



Keith Potter

## Tenterden Trout Waters Tenterden, Kent

The Lakes are fully stocked with fighting fish for the start of the New Year and we hope that 2019 will produce better weather for fishing conditions. It is good to see that our water levels are back up and the Fishery has benefited from maintenance during the Autumn. Now the festivities are behind us, it is time to dust off those rods and get back out there for some good Winter fishing at Tenterden! On really cold days you can warm yourselves up with complimentary tea/coffee in our cosy new Fishing Lodge to make your experience with us all the more enjoyable with good facilities. Please check the Home Page on our website and click on the current month under Latest News for an up-to-date fishing report. We also have an Instagram Gallery - so please follow us.

**TENTERDEN TROUT WATERS**  
Coombe Farm, Chennell Park Road  
Tenterden, Kent TN30 6XA  
*We aim to provide an excellent day's sport in beautiful Wealden Countryside.*  
Day Permit £35 = 4 best fish  
Half Day Permit £24 = 2 best fish  
Catch & Release & Junior Permits available.  
Regular stocking of top quality Rainbows, Browns & Blues to 12lbs  
TACKLE AVAILABLE TO HIRE TUITION BY APPOINTMENT  
**A TROUTMASTERS WATER**  
RANKED IN THE TOP 50 OF THE TOP 100 STILLWATER FISHERIES IN THE BRITISH ISLES 2018  
Contact (01580) 763201  
[www.tenterden-trout-waters.co.uk](http://www.tenterden-trout-waters.co.uk)

[www.tenterden-trout-waters.co.uk](http://www.tenterden-trout-waters.co.uk)

If you are looking to learn the skill of Fly Fishing this year, please see the Tuition Page on our website and book a lesson with Richard Stokes. We also offer Gift Vouchers for that special present, please call Gaynor on 01580 763201 or email [gaynor@coombe-farm.com](mailto:gaynor@coombe-farm.com) to make your purchase. We would like to wish all our Anglers a very Happy New Year with tight lines for 2019 and a warm welcome awaits you.

*Best regards, Gaynor, Audrey & Richard*



The cosy new Fishing Lodge!

**WISH TO TAKE UP FLY FISHING?  
WANT TO IMPROVE YOUR CASTING?  
WE CAN HELP—COME AND TALK TO US**

We provide casting practice / instruction during the summer months  
We provide fly tying instruction during the winter months  
Junior members welcome—We have members fishing for England  
We hold ten club fly fishing competitions each year using local fisheries  
We fly fish for Trout, Carp, pike and other species  
We have instructors and a junior member welfare officer available

Pop in and see us—Three Bridges Cricket Club, Three Bridges Road, Three Bridges, Crawley, RH10 1JR. We meet every Tuesday evening at 8.00pm  
Contact: [secretary@crawleyflyfishers.org.uk](mailto:secretary@crawleyflyfishers.org.uk) Web Site [www.crawleyflyfishers.org.uk](http://www.crawleyflyfishers.org.uk)  
Phone: 07528 605370 Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/>