



Fishing Report - Monday 16th October 2023

We've had a busy week with the early part of the week being dominated by anglers visiting from Wales, Ireland and Scotland. The fish have also shown themselves which has helped to increase our weekly rod average to 3.

We played host to the International Imperial Trophy competition which consisted of 36 competitors from Scotland, Wales, Ireland, Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire, Staffordshire and the West midlands.

Monday saw a number of the anglers arriving ahead of Wednesday's competition and pleasure fishing for a few hours alongside a number of our regular anglers. The Ford brothers caught well catching their 4 fish despite the bright warm conditions.

Tuesday was a compulsory practice day ahead of the Imperial Trophy competition. 34 of the competitors were able to take to the water and find their best methods hoping conditions would be similar for Wednesday. Many fished the drift from middle to fishtail creek, fishing snakes and tadpoles, many fish a number of fish were caught but many struggled to bring the fish to the boat. Many fish were detected from the hits at the fly, some leaders were even broken by the strong fighting ability of our trout. As you can imagine there were few reports with details given ahead of the competition.

Wednesday saw 18 boats with 36 anglers competing for this year international Imperial trophy winners position. 147 fish were caught in total giving a rod average of 4.08 for the day. Scotland were awarded the trophy with 26 fish by their team and Stafford came a close 2nd with 25 fish, just one fish difference. Andrew Rea took the individual winner award with 14 fish caught, Mike Cartlidge was second catching 11 fish and Steve Flower a close 3rd with 8 fish, Steve's first fish was caught just 49 minutes after the start of the competition.

All practice days, plus the competition day were fished catch & release so all fish are there to catch again after being carefully released. Many boats shifted slightly north and fished off Half moon field and along the nature reserve buoys. Pods of fish were found in the crystal clear waters unfortunately not all of them willing to be caught. The popular ethos on the day was Di5, fast retrieve using snakes, cat whiskers and sparkly lures.

It was a pleasure to support the event again this season and great to catch up with many familiar faces. We look forward to seeing you all again in October 2024.

Thursday saw the return of our regulars cashing in on the last of the warmer weather, Mr Hendry and Mr Severn both having success. Colin Hendry caught between buoys 10 to 4 on an intermediate line using the roly poly method. Large black and silver snakes gave success. Many fish caught were within 5/6 feet of the surface.

The forecasters threat of blustery cool weather for the weekend saw little action and just a few brave anglers wrapping up warm and taking on the cooler condition on Sunday. Unfortunately catch recorded were low from all boats.

Looking at the week ahead there is a change of wind direction coming for the North east and East. This should give a change to conditions and will begin to reduce the water temperatures as the nights drop in temperature. Lets hope this helps to improve the catch rates and bring the normality back to October fishing expectations.



Rod Average

The rod average for this week was 3.01 with 223 fish caught by 74 anglers.

Best Rainbow/Brown

The heaviest rainbow was 4lbs 5oz caught by Phil Harding, from the middle of the water using a Di5 with a snake.

Methods & Flies

Fish have been caught using black & green tadpole, cormorant, pink snake, black snake, olive snake, cats whisker and humongous fritz.

Most anglers have fished on Di5 using a fast retrieve and roly poly method.

Most boats have fished a drift from Dam wall to middle of the water or middle of the water to fishtail creek however others found success further North drifting from Nature reserve buoys toward halfmoon field.

Top Spot

The most popular spots have been Middle of the reservoir, fishtail creek, halfmoon field and Upperfield bay.

News for November

(only 5 boats are now left for the predator days, 18th - 21st November)

Predator Fishing Days - Fly & Lure

Following our trout fishing season which will close on Sunday 5th November, we are looking to trial some predator fishing days.

We know that lots of our anglers have been asking about this type of fishing and there are many other waters that are already offering this as an alternative to fly fishing. We are not looking to mix & match Fly Fishing & Predator fishing but to see if this is something that could enhance / extend our fishing provision for the future.

[More information can be found by clicking the following link.](#)

