

Bristol Water Fisheries – April 2026 Report



April 2026 has been a truly exceptional and highly eventful month across both Blagdon Lake and Chew Valley Lake, with the standout focus undoubtedly being the phenomenal form of Blagdon. Consistently high catch rates, multiple anglers reporting 20+ fish sessions, and a steady stream of impressive individual captures. Conditions, tactics, and fish behaviour have combined to produce what is widely regarded as one of the most productive early-season spells in recent memory. In many respects, this period of fishing at Blagdon is already being spoken about as one that will sit firmly within the history books.

Alongside the outstanding sport on the water, April also saw a packed and prestigious calendar of competitive events hosted across the fisheries. Blagdon and Chew Valley Lake played host to a range of high-profile competitions, including the Airflo Open Championship, the Wychwood Individual Championship, and both the ATTEFF and WSTAA qualifiers. These events attracted large entries and showcased some excellent angling, with strong rod averages and closely fought results reflecting the quality of fishing on offer throughout the month. The successful delivery of these competitions further highlighted the strength and reputation of both fisheries as premier venues for competitive fly fishing.

In addition to the busy events schedule, the daily operational work was carried out across all waters by our team of dedicated rangers, with ongoing stocking programmes ensuring that fishing conditions remained in prime early-season form. These efforts played a key role in maintaining the exceptional standard of sport experienced throughout April and supporting the continued productivity of the fisheries during this high-demand period.

Overall, April 2026 has combined outstanding fishing, major competitive events, and essential fishery management into one of the most memorable months in recent years. Here's a summary of the key highlights and activity from this remarkable period:

Blagdon Fishing

Blagdon Lake has been in outstanding fishing condition, with anglers experiencing highly productive sport across the lake since the start of April.

Multiple reports were received throughout the month of anglers achieving 20+ fish sessions, reflecting consistently strong catch rates and active fish throughout the water. Successful methods this month have included straight-lining buzzers on both floating and tip lines, as well as pulling patterns on a Di3 sweep, which accounted for numerous takes. Overall, fish were feeding confidently and responding well to a range of tactics the whole way through April and continue to do so!

With the lake fishing so well, the boat availability soon disappeared, and we are still seeing a 7 day waiting period for a boat on blagdon lake! Although, bank fishing remains available, providing continued opportunity for anglers to access the fishery during this productive period.

Several notable catches and images were submitted by anglers over April, including Simon Jones (shown left) with a cracking rainbow and Dai Sandry (shown right) and Mark Kennedy (shown bottom left) with some incredible brownies!



Thank you to all anglers who have submitted their catch returns and shared incredible photos of their captures! Overall, Blagdon Lake was considered to have been producing some of the strongest fishing we've experienced in years, with consistently high catch rates and excellent sport reported across multiple sessions. Which hasn't stopped yet!

Another huge headline of Blagdon's angling was a new record...
(See Next Page)



Blagdon Trout Record BROKEN!



On the morning of 27th April 2026, an exceptional capture was recorded at Blagdon Lake, with Gregory Bate setting a new trout catch record.

Fishing from the Butcombe side of the North Shore during a morning session, Greg was using a floating line paired with a small black and silver lure when he hooked into a notably

large fish. Following a prolonged and demanding fight, he successfully landed the trout, which was later weighed at 17lb 13oz. This surpassed the previous Blagdon catch record, which stood at approximately 13lb.

Due to the size of the fish and the exertion involved in landing it, the trout was unable to be returned safely to the water. In such cases, recovery can be unlikely; however, the fish was retained and intended for use, with Greg taking it to a smokehouse.

This capture represented a remarkable angling achievement and highlighted the quality of fish currently present in Blagdon Lake. Well done, Greg!

Chew Fishing

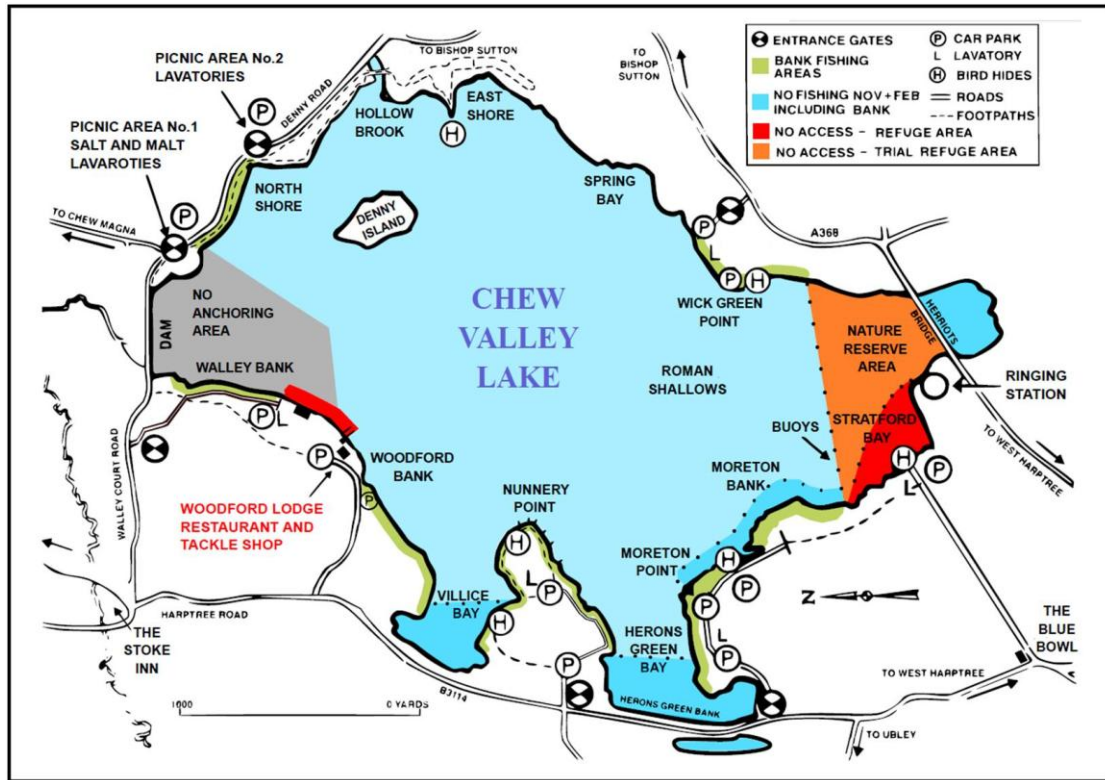
Although Blagdon has been fishing exceptionally well, Chew has had a steadier start to the season but still had some amazing sport and captures over the month. This was most definitely the month of the Nymphs, Diawl Bachs and Buzzers being a favourite with a coloured fly at the point when there was shade or just straight lining when the sun was bright.

Behind Denny Island and into the east shore we're very popular areas early to mid-April with the dam and Woodford bank increasing the returns as the month progressed.

New Restriction Zone

An important update was issued to all anglers regarding a new permanent restriction zone at Chew Valley Lake. It was confirmed that fishing was no longer permitted within this designated area, with the change taking immediate effect. The restriction applied to all angling activities, including the scheduled qualifier events on the 25th and 26th of April.

The restricted zone is from 5 meters beyond the jetties at Chew, running across the front of the sailing club property, and finishing at the end of the sailing club property/start of Walley Bank.



This measure was introduced to ensure safe access for sailing boats and to remove any risk of collisions on the water. Anglers are advised to consult the updated anglers' map for full details prior to fishing. They are also encouraged to seek clarification if required. (See Map on following page with the updated area shown in red between Woodford and Walley Bank.

Angling Times!

A forthcoming feature in *Angling Times* will be highlighting a visit to Chew Valley Lake by well-known anglers John Horsey and Martin Bowler.

The article will focus on how both anglers approached fishing the large reservoir, drawing on their experience and reputation within the sport. Their involvement has been presented as a notable example of high-level angling expertise applied to Chew.

The full 4-page article will be available on the 5th of May!



Chew 70th Birthday

April the 17th 2026, marked Chew Valley Lakes 70th anniversary, representing a significant milestone in the history of the fishery. Originally opened in 1956 by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, the lake was initially developed as a water supply reservoir before evolving into one of the most renowned fisheries in the United Kingdom. Over time, it established itself as a premier destination for both trout and pike angling, attracting visitors from across the country and internationally. Throughout its history, Chew Valley Lake built a strong reputation for the quality of its fishing, its natural surroundings, and the overall angling experience it offered. The anniversary served as an opportunity to reflect on its development and continued success as a leading fishery.



Barrows Tanks

Over at the tanks, the fishing has seen a quieter start. With the extremely low levels we had last year, now the prolonged period of high water, anglers are certainly finding it trickier than usual. That hasn't stopped some of the season permit holders for consistently giving it a go and pulling out good fish on the natural banks of tank 1 and 2.

Competitions in April

Airflo Open Championship

On 5th April 2026, the Airflo Open Championship was held at Chew Valley Lake, with a successful day of competitive angling taking place despite challenging weather conditions and no practice day due to all boats being called off due to high winds.

In the lead-up to the event, forecasts of changeable winds raised concerns regarding whether the competition would proceed. However, the event was ultimately given approval to go ahead. A total of 54 anglers, representing 9 teams, participated. Despite the conditions, fishing proved to be productive across

several key areas. Notable locations included the water above Denny Island towards Spring Bay and Hollow Brook, with further success later in the day reported by anglers drifting below the island towards the dam.



2026 Airflo Open Heat Chew Team Results 05-Apr-26

	No. of Fish	Total Weight	
1 Turrell team tightlines	43	95 lb	7 oz
2 West Country Raiders	37	83 lb	8 oz
3 Airflo Nymphomaniacs	34	81 lb	1 oz
4 BRFFA Emergers	25	57 lb	14 oz
5 Reel fin shady	23	57 lb	8 oz
6 Team Snowbee	21	51 lb	15 oz
7 HOGS	20	50 lb	7 oz
8 Valley cormorants	13	34 lb	2 oz
9 Red lion ff	8	20 lb	0 oz
No of anglers	54		
No. of Fish Caught	224		
Rod Average	4.15		
Av Fish	2lb 14oz		

Best Bag

Lee James (Airflo Nymphomaniacs)

24 lb 9 oz

In the team standings, Turrell Team Tightlines secured first place, followed by West Country Raiders in second and Airflo Nymphomaniacs in third.

The top individual performances (“Top Rods”) were recorded by Lee James, Matt Kingdon, Gary Haskins, Kieron Jenkins, and Mark Miles, each landing 11 fish.

A notable mention goes to junior anglers Will Wellman and Jacob Lewis, who both delivered strong performances and were separated by just 1oz in total bag weight.

Thanks goes to the Airflo team, event organizer Kieron Jenkins, and the BW rangers for their efforts in delivering the competition.



2026 Airflo Open Heat Chew
Individual Results

05-Apr-26

Angler	Team	No. of Fish	Time Finished	Best Fish	Bag Weight
1 Lee James	Airflo Nymphomaniacs	11	-	-	24 lb 9 oz
2 Matt Kingdon	West Country Raiders	11	-	-	24 lb 7 oz
3 Gary Haskins	Turrell team tightlines	11	-	-	23 lb 13 oz
4 Kieron Jenkins	Airflo Nymphomaniacs	11	-	-	22 lb 10 oz
4 Mark Miles	Turrell team tightlines	11	-	-	22 lb 10 oz
6 Nigel Evans	West Country Raiders	8	-	-	19 lb 3 oz
7 Tony Chipmarn	West Country Raiders	8	-	-	17 lb 6 oz
8 Alex Johnstone	Team Snowbee	7	-	-	16 lb 5 oz
9 John Horsey	BRFFA Emergers	7	-	-	15 lb 14 oz
10 Will Wellman (J)	BRFFA Emergers	7	-	-	15 lb 5 oz
11 Jacob Lewis (J)	Reel fin shady	6	-	-	15 lb 4 oz
12 Rhys Jones	Valley cormorants	7	-	-	15 lb 3 oz
13 Tony Baldwin	Turrell team tightlines	6	-	5 lb	15 lb 2 oz
14 Paul Golding	Turrell team tightlines	6	-	3 lb 9 oz	13 lb 12 oz
15 Chris Rawle	Reel fin shady	6	-	-	13 lb 6 oz
16 James Graham	Reel fin shady	5	-	4 lb 15 oz	13 lb 4 oz
17 Rich Walker	Team Snowbee	6	-	-	13 lb 3 oz
18 Andrew Lewis	Turrell team tightlines	6	-	-	12 lb 8 oz
19 Andy Hoffrock	HOGS	5	-	-	11 lb 14 oz
20 Allen Hughes	Airflo Nymphomaniacs	3	-	5 lb 7 oz	11 lb 8 oz
21 Alan Banwell	HOGS	4	-	-	11 lb 2 oz
22 Dave Johns	West Country Raiders	5	-	-	10 lb 15 oz
23 Ian Shanahan	Valley cormorants	4	-	-	10 lb 10 oz
24 Gary Lewis	Reel fin shady	4	-	-	10 lb 9 oz
25 Matt Russell	Airflo Nymphomaniacs	4	-	-	10 lb 8 oz
26 Andy Stones	BRFFA Emergers	4	-	-	9 lb 9 oz
27 Steve Ebdon	West Country Raiders	4	-	-	9 lb
28 Callum Russell	Airflo Nymphomaniacs	4	-	-	8 lb 13 oz
29 Andrew Banner	HOGS	4	-	-	8 lb 7 oz
30 Martin Barrett	Team Snowbee	3	-	-	8 lb 1 oz
31 Marco Orsi	HOGS	3	-	-	7 lb 12 oz
32 Dave Reynolds	Turrell team tightlines	3	-	-	7 lb 10 oz
33 Tony Torrington	Red lion ff	3	-	-	7 lb 9 oz
34 Richard Hooper	HOGS	3	-	-	7 lb 3 oz
35 Tim Wellman	BRFFA Emergers	3	-	-	6 lb 4 oz
36 Mark Kennedy	BRFFA Emergers	2	-	-	5 lb 12 oz
37 Andy Cottam	Team Snowbee	2	-	3 lb 4 oz	5 lb 4 oz
38 Jeff Mason	Team Snowbee	2	-	-	5 lb 2 oz
38 Ron Howard	BRFFA Emergers	2	-	-	5 lb 2 oz
40 Rob The Worm Tucker	Reel fin shady	2	-	-	5 lb 1 oz
41 Mike Parfitt	Valley cormorants	1	-	-	4 lb 6 oz
42 Alan Williams	Red lion ff	2	-	-	4 lb 5 oz
43 Darren Williams	HOGS	1	-	-	4 lb 1 oz
44 Graham Currie	Team Snowbee	1	-	-	4 lb
45 Steve Nicholls	Valley cormorants	1	-	-	3 lb 15 oz
46 Lee Williams	Red lion ff	1	-	-	3 lb 8 oz
47 Tom Pitchford	Airflo Nymphomaniacs	1	-	-	3 lb 1 oz
48 Bill Pugh	Red lion ff	1	-	-	2 lb 12 oz
49 Alex Bobba	West Country Raiders	1	-	-	2 lb 9 oz
50 John Gumbleton	Red lion ff	1	-	-	1 lb 14 oz
51 David Graham	Reel fin shady	0	-	-	-
51 Sean Torrington	Red lion ff	0	-	-	-
51 Luke Roberts	Valley cormorants	0	-	-	-
51 Sam Williams	Valley cormorants	0	-	-	-

Wychwood individuals - 11/12/04

The Wychwood Individual Championship 2026 took place at Chew Valley Lake on the 12th of April with practice on the 11th. The event was the biggest of the year so far - attracting a total of 82 anglers, all of whom took to the water as the competition got underway!

The event saw a strong turnout, with all boats in use and anglers competing for the title of Wychwood Individual Champion 2026. Conditions on the day were considered favorable, with moderate south-westerly to west south-westerly winds creating good movement on the water.

Fishing proved productive across a range of locations, with key areas including Walley Bank, The Cages, Hollow Brook and Denny Island all producing results. A varied mix of fish was recorded, contributing to a competitive and engaging day's angling.

Richard Hooper secured the overall win and was crowned Wychwood Individual Champion 2026



Wychwood TAKING YOUR FISHING FURTHER			
Anglers:	80		
Total fish caught:	561		
Rod average:	7.01		
Average fish weight:	2 lb	10 oz	
Largest fish:	4 lb	10 oz	
Best Total Bag with bonus:	42 lb	1 oz	
Name:	ANDY TAYLOR		
Name:	RICHARD HOOPER		
2026 FINAL - Individual Results			
	Fish	Total Weight	
1 RICHARD HOOPER	16	42 lb 1 oz	
2 GARY LEWIS	16	42 lb 0 oz	
3 JAMIE McLEARY	16	41 lb 10 oz	
4 PAUL BOND	16	39 lb 6 oz	
5 MARK PARSLEY	16	38 lb 13 oz	
6 MARK STEVENS	16	38 lb 12 oz	
7 DALE BURGESS	16	36 lb 2 oz	
8 IAN WATTS	16	35 lb 9 oz	
9 BEN ROBERTSON	15	33 lb 8 oz	
10 BRUCE BLACKSHAW	16	33 lb 5 oz	
11 GRAHAM CURRIE	16	33 lb 3 oz	
12 DAVID CARR	13	29 lb 1 oz	
13 MARK MILES	13	27 lb 15 oz	
14 ANDY TAYLOR	11	26 lb 3 oz	
15 PHILIP THOMPSON	11	25 lb 13 oz	
16 TONY BALDWIN	12	25 lb 7 oz	
17 ALEX VENN	12	25 lb 2 oz	
18 DAVE REYNOLDS	12	24 lb 13 oz	
19 IAIN LINDSAY	12	24 lb 10 oz	
20 DEREK PURVES	12	24 lb 1 oz	
21 GORDON LEAVY	11	23 lb 11 oz	
22 DAVID GRAHAM	10	23 lb 9 oz	
23 SEAN TORRINGTON	10	22 lb 0 oz	
24 VINCE HOWLEY	9	21 lb 0 oz	
25 JAMES RICE	9	19 lb 13 oz	
26 JACOB LEWIS	9	18 lb 12 oz	
27 NIGEL EVANS	9	18 lb 8 oz	
28 ANDREW GLASGOW	8	18 lb 7 oz	
29 TOM BIRD	8	17 lb 12 oz	
30 ANDREW BANNER	8	17 lb 10 oz	
31 JOHN HOOD	8	17 lb 3 oz	
32 CHRIS JONES	7	15 lb 15 oz	
33 ALEX JOHNSTONE	7	15 lb 9 oz	
34 SEAN GLOVER	7	15 lb 6 oz	
35 PAUL GOLDING	6	15 lb 4 oz	
36 JAMES GRAHAM	5	14 lb 5 oz	
37 PAUL MORRIS	6	14 lb 1 oz	
38 ANDREW LEWIS	6	13 lb 15 oz	
39 JAKE WENMAN	6	13 lb 6 oz	
40 IAN GASKELL	5	13 lb 4 oz	
40 DAVID GREEN	5	13 lb 4 oz	
42 ROBERT TOPTALG	7	13 lb 2 oz	
43 MARTIN GRIFFITHS	6	13 lb 2 oz	
44 JOAN RUSSELL	6	13 lb 0 oz	
45 WAYNE AITKEN	5	12 lb 10 oz	
46 JESSE GALE	5	12 lb 13 oz	
47 STEVEN FLOYD	5	11 lb 14 oz	
48 JOHN BRAITHWAITE	5	11 lb 13 oz	
49 CRAIG THORBURN	6	11 lb 10 oz	
49 LEE WILLIAMS	6	11 lb 10 oz	
51 SIMON JONES	4	10 lb 10 oz	
52 DIERDRE DUNBAR	5	10 lb 2 oz	
53 MARK KENNEDY	3	10 lb 2 oz	
54 KAS LEOVIRIYAKIT	3	8 lb 14 oz	
55 ALEX BOBBA	2	8 lb 8 oz	
56 GEORGE CHARTERS	4	8 lb 4 oz	
57 STEPHEN ELLIS	4	7 lb 14 oz	
58 RON HOWARD	3	7 lb 14 oz	
59 MIKE DEVENNEY	3	7 lb 12 oz	
60 IAN SHANAHAN	3	7 lb 3 oz	
61 MERV AMOS	3	6 lb 15 oz	
62 WILLIE JACOBSON	3	6 lb 8 oz	
63 ROBERT WHEELDON	3	6 lb 5 oz	
64 TIM WELLMAN	3	6 lb 2 oz	
65 CHRIS FULLER	3	6 lb 0 oz	
66 ROBERT CLELLAND	2	5 lb 11 oz	
66 JOHN HUMPHRY	2	5 lb 11 oz	
68 BRYAN BROWN	2	5 lb 9 oz	
69 COLIN MOFFAT	3	5 lb 4 oz	
70 TONY TORRINGTON	2	4 lb 15 oz	
71 JIM KING	2	4 lb 10 oz	
72 RICCARDO SACCONTE	2	3 lb 10 oz	
73 IAN WILSON	2	3 lb 9 oz	
74 KEITH BEE	1	2 lb 14 oz	
75 ANDREW ESPLIN	1	2 lb 10 oz	
80 BERNIE DAVIES	0	0 lb 0 oz	
80 MICK HEELIS	0	0 lb 0 oz	
80 DAVID LEGG	0	0 lb 0 oz	
80 STEVEN NICHOLLS	0	0 lb 0 oz	
80 JULIAN WEDDLE	0	0 lb 0 oz	

The event was a huge success, with a positive atmosphere throughout. Appreciation was extended to all anglers who participated, as well as to the event organiser, John Horsey, and Wychwood Game for providing a substantial prize table.


Celtic Anglo Welsh – 18/04/26

Chew also hosted the Anglo/Welsh Championship 2026 which was held on 18th April at Chew Valley Lake, with 54 anglers participating. Boats were divided between English and Welsh teams, contributing to a strong and competitive atmosphere throughout the day.

Most anglers focused their efforts on the middle areas of the lake, although productive sport was also reported from locations such as Woodford Bank and Hollow Brook. A variety of methods proved successful, including the use of Di3 sweep lines with a fast retrieve, as well as straight-line buzzer techniques. A total of 167 fish were recorded, resulting in a rod average of 3.09.

In the team results, England secured victory with a winning margin of 21lb 2oz.

The top individual bag of the day was recorded by Dale Burgess, weighing 27lb 2oz. Additional prize winners included Mark Stevens, who secured the largest two-fish bag at 8lb 12oz, and Sean Torrington, who recorded the smallest two-fish bag at 4lb 4oz.

Anglo/Welsh Cup 2026 - England							
	Angler	2 fish combined	Released fish		Total weight		
			No. of released fish	Released fish weight	lb	Oz	
1	Dale Burgess	5.2	11	22	27	2	
2	Martin Burgess	5.1	8	16	21	10	
3	Dave Reynolds	7.9	5	10	17	9	
4	Mark Stevens	8.12	3	6	14	12	
5	Mark Miles	5.5	4	8	13	5	
6	Nikki Long	7.6	2	4	11	6	
7	Adam Drescher	7	2	4	11	0	
8	Tim Wellman	6.14	2	4	10	14	
9	Lee Williams	6.13	2	4	10	13	
10	Andrew Weeks	6.12	2	4	10	12	
11	Jay Curry	4.5	3	6	10	5	
12	Paul Golding	7.1	1	2	9	10	
13	Andrew Stones	6.5	1	2	8	5	
14	Graham Currie	4.14	1	2	6	14	
15	Tony Baldwin	4.8	1	2	6	8	
16	Martin Barrett	6.6	0	0	6	6	
17	John Gumbleton	5.14	0	0	5	14	
18	John Piper	5.7	0	0	5	7	
19	Ethan Roberts	4.12	0	0	4	12	
20	Sean Torrington	4.4	0	0	4	4	
21	Sean Glover	2.12	0	0	2	12	
22	Pill Pugh	1.1	0	0	1	10	
23	Will Wellman	0	0	0	0	0	
24	Nigel Evans	0	0	0	0	0	
25	Jesse Gale	0	0	0	0	0	
26	John Horsey	0	0	0	0	0	
Total Fish		90	Total Team Weight		221lb	14oz	
Rod Ave		3.46					

Anglo/Welsh Cup 2026 - Wales



	Angler	2 fish combined	Released fish		Total weight	
			No. of released fish	Released fish weight	lb	Oz
1	Tom Pitchford	7	6	12	19	0
2	Andrew Lewis	4.7	6	12	16	7
3	Andrew Banner	5.11	5	10	15	11
4	Paul Morris	6.6	3	6	12	6
5	Andrew Roynan	6.5	3	6	12	5
6	Matt Russell	8.1	2	4	12	1
7	Paul Sharman	5.12	2	4	9	12
8	Matt Kayes	5.4	2	4	9	4
9	James Graham	7.2	1	2	9	2
10	Steve Jones	6	1	2	8	0
11	Mike Kayes	5.13	1	2	7	13
12	Richard Elms	7.12	0	0	7	12
13	Matt Griffiths	7.9	0	0	7	9
14	Keith Tanner	6.12	0	0	6	12
15	Callum Russel	6.8	0	0	6	8
16	Ray Keenan	4.01	0	2	6	1
17	Andrew Hoffrock	5.9	0	0	5	9
18	David Graham	5.4	0	0	5	4
19	Peter Moruzzi	5.4	0	0	5	4
20	Rhy Jones	4.12	0	0	4	12
21	Jacob Lewis	4.12	0	0	4	12
22	Andrew Jenkins	3.1	0	0	3	10
23	Tutor Owen	3.4	0	0	3	4
24	Robert Tucker	2.2	0	0	2	2
25	Mark McCarthy	1.12	0	0	1	12
26	Gareth Jones	0	0	0	0	0
Total Fish		77	Total Team Weight		202lb	12oz
Rod Ave		2.96				

Acknowledgement goes to team captains Paul Golding and Andrew Lewis, along with event organiser Mike Kayes, for ensuring the smooth running of the competition. Thanks were also extended to Gareth Jones and Airflo for their contribution in providing prizes.

The event was a huge success and an enjoyable day of competitive angling.

ATTEFF and WSTAA Qualifiers – 25th and 26th April 2026

Another standout set of events for Bristol Water saw the England and Wales qualifying heats hosted at both Chew Valley Lake and Blagdon Lake over the same weekend, marking an important stage in the selection process for anglers aiming to represent their country!

Competitors took part in their respective national qualifiers, with English anglers fishing at Blagdon Lake and Welsh anglers competing at Chew Valley Lake. The events represented the first round of heats, with anglers progressing through a competitive field for the opportunity to advance further in the selection process. Official practices were on Saturday and the qualifiers on Sunday. Although in the days leading up to a qualifying event it's not unusual to see some anglers practicing for up to 5 days before the event!

The standard of angling was high across both venues, with strong competition and a positive atmosphere throughout the days.

Overall, the weekend was considered a successful hosting of the qualifiers, with both venues supporting a high-level competitive event. – Here are the results for both:

English Qualifier – ATTEFF

At Blagdon Lake, the English qualifier results showed conditions were highly productive, with an outstanding rod average of 10.48 fish per angler recorded across the event. This reflected a particularly strong level of sport on the day. A total of 20 anglers qualified for the final, having delivered standout performances in a highly competitive field. The standard of fishing throughout the qualifier was noted to be consistently high.

Top individual performances were recorded by Tim Wellman and Gary Haskins, who were recognised as leading rods on the day.

High standards of sportsmanship were maintained throughout, contributing to a well-run and enjoyable competition.

ATTEFF BLAGDON QUALIFIER				
Anglers:				
Total fish caught:	44			
Rod average:	10.48		FINALIS	
Average fish weight:	3 lb	11 oz		
Largest fish:	5 lb	7 oz	Name: MARK M	
Best Total Bag with bonus:	42 lb	6 oz	Name: TIM WEI	

	Fish	Total Weight	
1	TIM WELLMAN	16 42 lb 6 oz	
2	GARY HASKINS	16 42 lb 6 oz	
3	ALEX JOHNSTONE	16 39 lb 9 oz	
4	CHRIS FULLER	16 38 lb 6 oz	
5	JOHN PIPER	16 38 lb 6 oz	
6	SEAN TORRINGTON	16 38 lb 5 oz	
7	GARY MORRIS	16 38 lb 5 oz	
8	GRAHAM CURRIE	16 37 lb 13 oz	
9	MARK MILES	15 36 lb 1 oz	
10	STEPHEN ELLIS	16 35 lb 9 oz	
11	PAUL GOLDING	15 34 lb 11 oz	
12	PAUL BOND	14 34 lb 7 oz	
13	MARK KENNEDY	15 34 lb 6 oz	
14	NIK TOMPKINS	13 34 lb 3 oz	
15	RON HOWARD	13 32 lb 14 oz	
16	ADAM DRESCHER	14 32 lb 11 oz	
17	PAUL ROACH	12 30 lb 11 oz	
18	KEITH GOLLOP	13 30 lb 8 oz	
19	ALAN WILLIAMS	10 27 lb 7 oz	
20	MIKE WALKER	9 26 lb 10 oz	
21	DAVE REYNOLDS	11 26 lb 2 oz	
22	TONY BALDWIN	11 26 lb 1 oz	
23	JOHN HORSEY	9 25 lb 10 oz	
24	JOHN GUMBLETON	10 24 lb 8 oz	
25	JAY CURRY	10 24 lb 3 oz	
26	JOHN STEVENSON	10 23 lb 12 oz	
27	ANDY STONES	8 23 lb 11 oz	
28	MARTIN BURGESS	9 23 lb 7 oz	
29	RIK ANDERSON	9 23 lb 2 oz	
30	TONY TORRINGTON	9 21 lb 4 oz	
31	ANDREW WILLOUGHBY	9 20 lb 5 oz	
32	DAVE FRANKLIN	7 19 lb 13 oz	
33	ANDY HASKINS	7 19 lb 11 oz	
34	DAVE MINALL	8 18 lb 8 oz	
35	DAVE GREEN	6 17 lb 3 oz	
36	PAUL SWEATMAN	7 15 lb 9 oz	
37	JEFF MASON	4 14 lb 13 oz	
38	KEITH BAKER	5 13 lb 15 oz	
39	ALEX BOBBA	4 12 lb 13 oz	
40	JULIAN WEDDLE	3 10 lb 10 oz	
41	JIM KING	2 6 lb 8 oz	
42	VINCE HOWLEY	1 4 lb 2 oz	
43	JOHN BRAITHWAITE	1 3 lb 4 oz	
44	JOHN GOLLOP	0 0 lb 0 oz	



Welsh Qualifier – WSTAA

Conditions on Chew Valley Lake proved more challenging than those experienced at Blagdon on the same day; however, the standard of angling remained high throughout the event. A rod average of 3.29 fish per angler was recorded, reflecting steady but more demanding fishing conditions.

Despite the tougher sport, anglers successfully qualified, with strong performances delivered across the field.

Top individual results were recorded by Jeff Thomas, Lee James, and Matt Griffiths, who were noted as the leading rods on the day.

The events was well run, with big thanks to Bob Mayers for the organization and smooth delivery of the trial.

	Name	TOTAL	TIME 1st	TIME 2nd
	1st SENIOR TRIAL 2026	FISH	Fish	Fish
1	JEFF THOMAS	10	11,55	
2	LEE JAMES	9	10,00	
3	MATTHEW GRIFFITHS	8	13,45	
4	DARREN WILLIAMS	8	14,17	
5	JACOB LEWIS	7	10,16	
6	MATTHEW RUSSELL	6	11,04	
7	WAYNE THOMAS	5	10,17	
8	STEPHEN PERHAM	5	10,39	
9	SPENCER WILLIAMS	5	14,49	
10	PETER GREASLEY	4	11,00	
11	ANDREW JENKINS	4	11,05	
12	PAUL EDWARDS	4	11,20	
13	JAMES GRAHAM	4	12,22	
14	GARY DAVIES	4	12,25	
15	STUART PICKARD	4	12,26	
16	TOMMY EVANS	4	12,53	
17	RICHARD HOOPER	4	13,40	
18	MARK CAIN	4	14,25	
19	PAUL SHARMAN	3	10,12	
20	CALLUM RUSSELL	3	11,14	
21	GARETH EVANS	3	11,29	
22	GRAHAM EVANS	3	13,25	
23	SIMON JONES	3	13,45	
24	RAYMOND KEENAN	3	14,15	
25	TUDOR OWEN	2	10,00	
26	RHYS JONES	2	10,13	
27	CERI JONES	2	10,33	
28	ALAN BANWELL	2	10,35	
29	NIGEL WORVELL	2	11,59	
30	IAN SHANAHAN	2	13,08	
31	LUKE ROBERTS	2	13,45	
32	ALED REES	2	14,20	
33	MARTYN GRAHAM	2	14,25	
34	GARY LEWIS	2	14,51	
35	DAI WIGLEY	2	15,10	
36	BOB JONES	2	17,00	
37	DAVID GRAHAM	1	13,35	
38	RICHARD ELMS	1	10,51	
39	GARETH JONES	1	11,50	
40	STEPHEN JONES	1	17,15	
41	CRAIG CARNELL	0		
42	DEAN EVANS	0		
43	EUROS JONES	0		
44	GERWYN EVANS	0		
45	JASON HOCKENHULL	0		
46	PETER THURNALL	0		
47	RHYDION DAVIES	0		
48	STEPHEN MORGAN	0		
49	TONY PARKER	0		

Evening League



The Bristol Water Evening League returned for the 2026 season at both Chew Valley Lake and Blagdon Lake, providing a series of relaxed but competitive evening matches across spring, summer, and autumn.

The league schedule includes fixtures on 21 April, 5 May, 19 May, 2 June, 16 June, 30 June, 14 July, 1 September, 15 September, 29 September, 12 October, and 18 October.

Competitions are structured around the last four hours of daylight, with start times varying according to sunset times. The entry consists of a £15 league fee and £25 per individual evening match, with participation on floating and tip lines only. After each evening league event anglers attend the Stoke Inn for post-session meal at £6 a head and a trade of information on the evenings successes and failures!

So far this season, two league rounds were completed, with Adam Drescher and Paul Roach recorded as winners of their respective events.

The most recent evening league session, held on Tuesday 21 April at Blagdon Lake, saw a full turnout of 30 anglers! Fishing conditions during the session coincided with a period of strong sport at the venue which made for some great returns! Key productive areas included Wood Bay, Long and Home Bay, Butcombe, and the Dam. Effective tactics during the session included slow-retrieved nymphs fished on a straight line or washing line set-up, which accounted for most successful catches.

Paul Roach delivered a top level performance in the session, recording double the number of fish of the second-placed angler and finishing well ahead of the field.

A big thanks goes to Graham Currie who is overseeing the evening league again this year after the 2025 season saw it go from strength to strength!

Evening League 21st April Blagdon 15:30 - 19:30

Position	Angler	No. of Fish	Points	Time of 1st fish	Time of 3rd fish
1	Paul Roach	16	30	15:55	16:00
2	Paul Golding	8	26	15:45	15:52
3	Luke Cox	6	22	15:42	16:39
4	Mark Kennedy	5	19	15:40	16:00
5	John Bowen	5	16	16:27	18:44
6	Gordon Smith	4	13	15:57	17:17
7	Robin Parker	4	11	16:00	18:02
8	James Roberts	4	9	15:47	TBC
9	Graham Currie	4	7	16:30	18:52
10	John Gumbleton	3	5	16:00	19:00
11	Tony Coxhead	3	3	16:44	19:06
12	Rich Walker	3	2	17:05	19:10
13	Adam Drescher	3	1	16:53	19:11
14	Gary Jarvis	3	1	15:53	19.53??
15	Paul Brace	2	1	15:41	
16	Dave Gregory	2	1	16:39	
17	John Humphrey	2	1	15:54	
18	Alex Bobba	2	1	16:46	
19	Pete Yarrow	2	1	18:52	
20	Cole Bowden	1	1	15:47	
21	John Piper	1	1	15:58	
22	Andrew Maisey	1	1	16:36	
23	Ethan Roberts	1	1	16:40	
24	Alan Williams	1	1	16:44	
25	Mike Walker	1	1	18:50	
26	Jim King	0	1		
27	Martin Watts	0	1		
28	Tony Torrington	0	1		
29	Steve Ellis	0	1		
30	Joe Donlin	0	1		

In the event of a tie, position was calculated by time of 1st and 3rd fish

Total Fish Caught:	87
Average per rod:	2.90

(this average is based on a 4 hour match)

Evening League 7th April Chew 15:00 - 19:00

Position	Angler	No. of Fish	Points	Time of 1st fish	Time of 3rd fish
1	Adam Drescher	7	30	16:30	17:56
2	Luke Cox	6	26	16:06	16:31
3	Jim King	4	22	16:05	17:22
4	Gordon Smith	3	19	16:03	16:51
5	Alan Williams	3	16	16:21	18:20
6	John Otter	3	13	16:35	18:36
7	John Piper	3	11	16:22	18:53
8	Robin Parker	2	9	15:32	
9	Mark Kennedy	2	7	15:55	
10	John Humphrey	2	5	17:20	
11	John Bowan	1	3	16:27	
12	Paul Roach	1	2	16:32	
13	Paul Brace	1	1	16:36	
14	Tony Torrington	1	1	17:17	
15	Tony Coxhead	1	1	17:29	
16	Mike Walker	1	1	17:56	
17	Graham Currie	1	1	18:00	
18	Gary Jarvis	1	1	18:20	
19	Cole Bowden	1	1	19:02	
20	Ethan Roberts	1	1	19:10	
21	John Gumbleton	0	1		
22	Peter Yarrow	0	1		
23	Dave Banks	0	1		
24	Stephen Ellis	0	1		
25		0	1		
26		0	1		
27		0	1		
28		0	1		
29		0	1		
30		0	1		

In the event of a tie, position was calculated by time of 1st and 3rd fish

Total Fish Caught:	45
Average per rod:	1.88

(this average is based on a 4 hour match)

Stocking



Behind the scenes, the Ranger team has been working tirelessly to ensure our waters are brimming with life. Throughout April, we've focused on stocking all locations with exceptionally healthy, hard-fighting fish that are ready to give any angler a run for their money!

Specifically, Chew Valley Lake received a substantial 5,000-fish top-up, Blagdon saw a further 2,300 added to its waters, and the Barrows received an additional 850. A massive shout-out to our dedicated rangers and the farmers who work hand-in-hand with us—their hard work is what keeps these world-class fisheries in peak condition!



Looking Forward to May

Blagdon Pike Fly

As we approach May we are really looking forward to welcoming back the Blagdon Pike Fly anglers! After an unforgettable season last year, including a phenomenal May that saw multiple 30lb fish landed in a single day!

The anticipation for this year's pike fly fishing has been building like no other.

With the unfortunate cancellation of all boats on Blagdon due to low water levels last year, it's made this year's limited pike fly dates even more sought after... and we know many of you have been counting down the days!

We'd like to wish the very best of luck to everyone heading out on the Blagdon boats over the May dates. We can't wait to see what's landed and share some of the incredible catches with you all.

We are Also looking forward to this years Valley of the Giants events on Blagdon Pike Fly on the 22nd and 23rd of May! Good luck to all who are taking part!

BRFFA Floating Line

Sponsored by Red Lion Carpets

Anglers, get ready for an exceptional day on the water with the BRFFA Floating Line Loch Style Match! Set for Sunday, 3rd May, this member-exclusive event is shaping up to be a highlight of the season. With Chew Valley Lake fishing exceptionally well and producing some truly impressive trout right now, the competition is expected to be as fierce as it is friendly. Attendees can look forward to a fantastic array of prizes generously provided by Airflo, followed by a social gathering and meal at The Stoke Inn to swap stories from the day. Entry is set at £65.00 per angler, and in our continued effort to support the next generation of fly fishers, Juniors fish for FREE. Don't miss out on what promises to be a brilliant day of sport and community!



BRFFA 'RED LION' FLOATING LINE 2026

The 2026 BRFFA Floating Line match sponsored by RED LION CARPETS
LOADS OF PRIZES FROM AIRFLO
A FUN COMP FOR EVERYONE TO HAVE A CRACK AT!

3rd May 2026
Great prizes & Raffle
Food afterwards
sign up and pay online
or let us know and pay on the day £65 per entry
juniors are free
Contact Andy Stones
07724937651

airflo

Sponsored by Red Lion Carpets

b
BRISTOL WATER

Champion Of Champions 2026!

After a frustrating 2025 season where high winds, extreme heat, and low water levels forced three separate cancellations, we are more determined than ever to crown the "all-time champion of Chew."

We are thrilled to confirm that the 2026 Champion of Champions is officially back on the calendar for Sunday, June 28th, at Chew Valley Lake. This year's event promises to be our most competitive yet, as we are combining the qualifier fields from both the 2025 and 2026 seasons for one massive showdown. With an entry fee of £55 and the prestigious Wychwood Game joining us as official event sponsors, there is a huge pool of prizes up for grabs.

Our team is currently in the process of contacting all eligible anglers individually with official invitations and payment details, so please keep an eye on your inbox. Let's make 2026 the year we finally get this trophy into a champion's hands!



b **CHAMPION OF CHAMPIONS** **b**
BRISTOL WATER BRISTOL WATER

*** INVITATIONAL 2026**

TEST YOURSELF ALONG SIDE THE BEST IN LOCH STYLE TROUT FISHING ON THE 28th OF JUNE AT CHEW VALLEY LAKE

* INVITATIONAL ANGLERS HAVE QUALIFIED FROM 2024 MATCH RESULTS AT CHEW & BLAGDON

FIRST PRIZE - £1000 ALL WATERS ALL WEEK SEASON TICKET
SECOND PRIZE - £500 GIFT VOUCHER AT BWF
THIRD PRIZE - £250 GIFT VOUCHER AT BWF
£55 ENTRY FEE

FORMAT - 2 FISH KILL, 12 RELEASE BARBLESS COMP INTERNATIONAL RULES WITH ROLLY POLLY

PLEASE CONTACT WOODFORD LODGE ON 01275332339 FOR OFFICIAL PRACTICE DAY BOATS ON THE 27th OF JUNE, & HOW YOU COULD QUALIFY FOR NEXT YEARS EVENT

FISH LEGAL **ANGLING TRUST**