

Wantage and Grove Aggregate Trophy - 2019/20



Matches 4, 5 & 6

With depressing familiarity the 2 leg inter-club competition between W&G and The Plough was won by The Plough. Despite W&G winning the match at Hanney pond by a single point it wasn't enough to claw back a hugely disappointing result from Grove pond and The Plough won easily over the 2 legs.

Onto the aggregate series: With six of the ten matches fished the total weight brought to the scales is a few ounces over 800lb, so a thousand pounds by the end should be achievable.

Match 4

Grove Pond, 4 August

Twenty anglers turned out for this match and all weighed in, taking a total of nearly 160lb to the scales.

Stuart Harrop romped home with an impressive 31lb 9oz from peg 16, over 14lb clear of **Paul Smith** in second with 17lb 3oz on peg 6.

Jack Griffiths was only 2 oz behind Paul from two swims down on peg 4.

As usual, Stuart fished strongly, this was only his second match fished, and his second win.

Despite **Jim Routledge** managing only 7th position the 16 points he picked up keep him clear of the field with 71 points but now only 3 points ahead of a strong challenge being mounted by **Bob Steele**, just 3 points adrift.

Depite your reporter's request for photographs you can see from the lack of images that my request has fallen on stony ground (or an empty swim).

Match 5

Lower Court, Chadlington, 1 September

Lower Court was the scene of your correspondent's magnificent triumph last season, so, with the match community running scared, the match was cunningly scheduled to ensure I was in Greece this year.

This allowed **Matt Andrew**, our illustrious chairman, to overcome the jinx of his series of carp losses last year to lead the field with 30lb 13 oz.

Jim Routledge continued his challenge for the aggregate trophy with a second place just 3lb behind Matt.

Tony Brooker came third with 14lb 14 oz. Weights fell sharply after this, fourth place went to Kevin Dawson with 11lb 3oz.

Danny Dance declined to trouble the scales, putting his fish back without weighing.

Regrettable, this is the last time we will be able to fish here as the entire estate is being sold and the team managing the fishing is relinquishing their lease and netting out the fish. The asking price for the estate was £20 million and it appears that there are some people out there with that sort of money as the property is no longer on the market.

Match 6

Grove Pond, 15 September

Back to more familiar surroundings for the 6th match in this series. **Jim Routledge** continued his impressive run of form romping home with 26lb 3oz from end peg 1.

This was more than double the weight of second place **Bob Steele**, who continues to snap at Jim's heels Fishing next to Jim on peg 2 saw Bob weigh 11lb 12oz, a little ahead of **Steve Ferris** who was third from peg 15 with 11lb 8oz.

Position after 6 Matches

Jim Routledge continues to dominate the leader board with 114 points, this is 13 points clear of **Bob Steele** in second place with 101 points.

Steve Ferris is just 3 points behind with 98 points.

All to play for as we head for match 7 on 6th October. Originally scheduled on Swift Ditch this has been moved to the Thames at Newbridge, The Plough AC stretch.