

Wantage and Grove Aggregate Trophy - 2019/20



Matches 7 & 8

Two away matches for the seventh and eighth incarnation of the aggregate series, the first was an unplanned journey to the Thames at Newbridge as the club stretch at Swift Ditch was not suitable for pegging. Match 8 was at Court Farm in Aldermaston.

Match 7

Thames, Newbridge, 6 October

At fairly short notice this match was moved from Swift Ditch to the Thames and Newbridge, the thanks of the club go to The Plough angling club for making the first two fields available.

On the day thirteen anglers turned up to find a river a little up but pushing quite hard, fishing down the track was going to be a challenge but not out of the question, however, the stretch has a few features that can be fished to.



The winner was **Jim Routeledge** from peg seven weighing in a mixed bag of small fish with one half-decent perch for 6lb 13oz

Second was **Tony Brooker**, bringing 5lb 11oz to the scales from peg 24.

Only one ounce separated **Steve Ferris** from **Danny Dance**, the former picking up third place with 4lb 3oz in peg 4.

No angler had a dry net, with an overall weight of exactly 35lb of fish, mainly roach, being caught.

Match 8

Court Farm, Aldermaston, 20 October

And so, onto the eagerly awaited, limited entry, match on the prolific lake 1 at Court Farm in Aldermaston.

The ancient Greeks used to say that *“those whom the Gods wish to destroy, they first drive mad”*. Well – your honourable correspondent was driven mad with zeal and fervour for the match, even managing a practise session two days before. The weather then was lovely, nights not dropping below 10 degrees Celsius and a balmy 15 degrees with a breeze and broken sunshine. An absolute shed-full of carp graced the landing net.

Oh, I was full of it – just don't ask what it was - I arrived at the draw confidently forecasting a huge catch but not fully taking into account the effects that an overnight temperature of just 4 degrees and a northerly wind during the day would do to the fishing.

To save my blushes I won't say here how well (or how badly) I did, just take a look at the results. My session was rescued by the pleasure of sharing a double swim with Vicky - even though she next-pegged me, taking 4 carp to my 3.



Court Farm, Aldermaston, continued

Onto the serious matter of the results.....

Nathan Steele won with an impressive 95lb 6oz from the end swim on the pond, a narrow swim, deep under the trees. Before the start he complained about drawing a bad peg.

This photo shows just about half of Nathan's catch, taken up in the water on pellet.



If only my bad pegs were all like this one!

Nathan's catch was more than double that of **Dave Hills** who presented exactly 45lb of maggot caught fish, mainly carp with a pound or so of silvers. Third was **Des Bushnell** with 40lb 12oz.

15 anglers fished this match weighing in a total of just 1½lb under 400lb.

Aggregate summary

On the overall situation for the aggregate to date, **Jim Routledge** has pulled further ahead and has amassed 153 points, that is 18 points clear of **Steve Ferris** in second (131 points) and **Bob Steele** just 4 points behind Bob. However, there is a scramble for the 3 places behind Jim, **Tony Brooker** is only 1 point behind Bob, and **Matt Andrew** is not far off the pace

From this match we move to the best 8 results, so the placings could change, but Jim has a consistently good set of results and, if I were a gambling man, that's where I'd have my money.



The total weight of fish taken in the 8 aggregate matches so far this year now stands at 1,243lb 10oz.

The next match (aggregate 9) is scheduled for the 3rd November on Swift Ditch. Please keep an eye on the website and emails in case the venue is changed.