

Wantage and Grove Aggregate Trophy - 2019/20

To match 3 on 30 June 2019

The lovers of this intermittent report last year will know that at the end of the aggregate trophy (which Nathan Steele won with a match to spare) I issued the following set of challenges to the match anglers:

1. Beat the Plough on Grove Pond
2. Beat the Plough on the away venue
3. Weigh-in a total of over 1,000lb for the 10 match aggregate series
4. Someone give Nathan a run for the title



With the Plough Vs. W&G matches not yet fished we'll turn our attention to the others and ask:

After just 3 matches, have the wheels come off Nathan's match-winning cart?

Match 1

Held on Grove pond on 19 May and won in fine style by **Steve "Sticky-fingered" Ferris** (give the man an end peg and he will always be difficult to beat). He drew peg 22 and amassed a fine bag of mainly carp, F1s & tench for 24lb exactly, picking up 22 points in the process



Second place was **Jim Routledge** from the end peg 2, opposite Steve. He managed to present just one ounce under 13lb of fish to the scales-man, he missed out on the carp which appears to have made the difference.



Tony Brooker managed a respectable third with 10lb 6oz.

Fifteen anglers attended the first match, all weighed in for a total of 107lb 10oz, averaging just over 7lb per peg.

Nathan Steele didn't fish this one, so that's the first of his dropped results (top 8 from 10 in the series are counted for the trophy).

And so, onto....

Match 2

16th June and again on the pond.

An end peg, this time peg 1, was decisive with **Stuart Harrop** taking an excellent mixed bag of 28lb 7oz to the scales.

Jim Routledge was a few pounds behind, from peg 9 with a mainly bream based bag of 23lb 6oz, closely followed by **Bob Steele** from next-door peg 8 with 22lb 3oz.

16 anglers fished for a total of over 150lb, averaging 9½lb.

At this stage in the overall competition **Jim Routledge** was leading the field with two second places giving him 42 points.

Nathan Steele came fourth and started his defence of the title with his 19 points.

Match 3

Held on the 30th June, this saw the club take its first venture away from home waters for the aggregate trophy with a trip to the picturesque Buscot Park.



On the face of things the weather was good, well, at least it wasn't raining, but the water is open and exposed, and it was a "breezy" day which affected the fishing.

Bob Steele took top honours with 34lb 15oz from peg 25, a good 10lb clear of **Tony Brooker** who had 24lb 6oz from peg 32.

Danny Dance finally appeared in the frame during this season's competition, coming third, collecting 20 points from peg 9 with 13lb 7oz.

Remarkably, **Nathan Steele** had a miserable day, unable to control his pole and end tackle in a nasty swirling wind and failed to give any work to the scales-man. That's his two dropped matches, pressure on now!

After a strong performance in the first 2 matches **Jim Routledge** only managed tenth place and collected 13 points. This has opened up the top of the aggregate trophy. Jim is still top with 55 points but only one point clear of **Steve Ferris** and **Bob Steele**.

Onwards to **match 4 in the series, Grove pond, 4 August.**

Maybe by then I'll get someone to remember to take a few photos.

This is your roving reported signing off, on Sunday I roved as far as the garden to the fridge to get a beer, and back again – and repeat!