

AT TEFF Loch-style Repechage Draycote Water Sunday 21st July

Sunday 21st July brought the Loch-style Repechage to Draycote Water, where the final 23 places were up for grabs for the Loch-style National Final at Chew Valley in September. Overcast conditions greeted those competing with a steady WSW wind blowing at 12 to 14 mph.

The match was fished on a full catch-and-release basis, with the first four fish measured and their total length added together. The remaining fish caught were then netted and immediately released and these fish were given the fishery average length of 47cms.



The lower part of the reservoir by the Farnborough Dam had been a good fishing spot in practice, but on the day of the competition it seemed barren. Most of the fish were taken from areas such as the Flat Stones, Rainbow Corner, the School Slips and Biggin Bay.

Methods used were wide and varied. Some anglers chose to fish dries at times, whilst others stuck to more proven methods such as the washing line or deep Buzzers. The warm fishing conditions of late however, dictated that pulling Blobs and Boobies on sinking lines would yield some good sport, and this method proved very successful for some of the top rods.

It turned out to be a tough day for some competitors with Draycote only giving up 97 fish, for a match rod average of 2.5.

The winner on the day was Gary Wright with a combined fish length of 426.5cms, second was John Hardy with 419cms, and third was Gareth Tilley with 377.7cms.

Congratulations to the top 23 who will now join the other qualifiers in the National Final at Chew.