

The Day - In Pictures



England Internationals Peter Hartley and Richard Kesek motor out at Cambridgeshire's Grafham Water.



Peter Hartley's killing Black Booby.



First fish of the day goes to Richard.



Is that a just hint of a smile on Richard Kesek's face? Not an angler renowned for showing too much emotion when fishing, Richard let's his guard down for the camera.

The Secrets of Grafham Water

England Internationals **Peter Hartley & Richard Kesek** reveal how to get the **best** from Cambridgeshire's finest water



"Always keep an eye out for birds working on the reservoir it's a sure sign there are fish present and feeding. I see so many anglers ignoring this tell-tale sign and missing out on some great sport."



"When you fish together in a boat it's always a good idea for both anglers to try different lines and different retrieves when you first go out onto the water. This method of working gives you a much better chance to locate the fish, find out what depth they're at and what they're feeding on."



"During the early part of the season the fish shoal close to the shoreline before moving out in the middle of summer. It's good to fish the shoreline, but remember to keep your distance from the bank anglers, this courtesy will avoid any unpleasantness."

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Richard Kesek holds the first fish of the day at Cambridgeshire's Grafham Water.



Richard Kesek casts into the bank on Grafham's North shore.



With the indifferent weather the Grafham fish are still shoaled up fairly close to the banks.

England Internationals Peter Hartley & Richard Kesek reveal their secrets to fishing Cambridgeshire's finest water



Richard figure of eight's while Peter prefers a roly poly retrieve.

AFTER ALMOST a month of continuous rainfall the weather relented for a couple of hours to allow current England Internationals Peter Hartley and Richard Kesek onto Grafham Water in relative comfort to fish for the early-season rainbows.

Not only is Peter Hartley an England International – qualifying for the 2007 team at Chew last year – he is also the hard working Chairman of Grafham Water Fly Fishing Association (GWFFA) so is well placed to divulge all his secrets to fishing this popular Cambridgeshire reservoir.

"I think the fish should be near the top", remarked Peter Hartley as he tackled up his 10ft Greys GRX 7 weight rod with a Slow Glass flyline and a cast of a Sparkler Booby on the point and two Diawl Bach's.

"I like to make my cast up twice the length of the rod, in this case 20 feet, and space the flies five feet apart", said Peter.

Richard Kesek favoured a more imitative approach using a Midge Tip attached to an 18ft fluorocarbon leader with a Diawl Bach on the point and two Buzzers, the first eight foot from the flyline the next five foot away.

Nothing too unusual about this set-up but his choice of rod however was interesting. At 11ft 3in in length Richard's rod allows him to



Peter Hartley brings his first fish close to the boat where Richard is waiting with the landing net.

The Day - In Pictures



Concentration from both anglers as they search out the Grafham rainbows.



Peter Hartley plays out a fish...



...and Richard skillfully nets.



This quality rainbow fell for Peter Hartley's Black Booby.



Peter Hartley with his first fish of the day.

hang the nymphs for longer at a greater distance from the boat.

The pair of anglers set off from the pontoon heading for the North Shore stopping off at the Draw-Off Tower for the first drift of the day.

After forty minutes or so without an offer and with the flies being fished at about two feet down, Peter decided to switch the Slow Glass to a Kelly Green Di3 and changed the cast set-up, replacing the top dropper Diawl Bach with a Black Booby and an Orange Blob on the point.

Peter had an offer within twenty minutes of changing. With the boat twenty five yards off the Stumps shoreline a nice 2lb Grafham rainbow took the Orange Blob point fly and scrapped all the way to his waiting landing net.

Meanwhile Richard continued with his nymphing reasoning that with the concentrated bird activity on the water there must be a reasonable hatch of buzzer coming off and sooner or later a trout would be attracted by his offerings.

I asked the pair what caused them to choose fishing the North Shore when the advice from the duty wardens was that in the previous day's Troutmasters competition, the winning angler fished 100 yards off the South Shore.

"We chose to try the top end of the North Shore because the pressure from the previous days activities would have almost certainly been concentrated between Deep Water Point and the Dam, with a bit of luck the top end might have not been fished so extensively and the fish might have been more settled", said Peter.

"Also the trout that had been caught off the Sludge Lagoons yesterday were taken on

Photo Gallery

Leicester angler Bob Wallinger caught two of the biggest fish of the season from Grafham Water. Bob caught a superb conditioned brown trout of 10lb 7oz and the season's biggest brownie, a cracking fish of 16lb 2oz, just 1lb short of the record captured by Stephen Jacques in 1994.



Bob Wallinger
16lb 2oz Brown Trout



Bob Wallinger
10lb 7oz Brown Trout



Peter Hartley looking pleased with himself as he holds the best fish of the day.

Di7's and Blobs, that is deep deep fishing which we were trying to avoid, and of course there is no reason to believe the fish would have remained on station there today".

"There is also another point. The wind today is a South-South Easterley which is blowing the drift into the shore which is a good drift for Grafham".

"I always feel better drifting into shores or onto any feature than away from them", added Richard.

"At Grafham there is no really deep water except for around the Dam, and with the water at the high level it is at the moment it is quite shallow up to about fifty yards from the shoreline and early season the fish tend to

favour the margins until the water warms up then they push further out in search of the cooler conditions of the deeper water".

"Because the wind was blowing into the shore I was pretty certain there would be no bank anglers on the Stumps. Where you do get bank anglers they invariably push the fish out, but because they traditionally don't like fishing with the wind in their face there were none there today and so the fish were shoaled quite tightly to the shoreline probably no more than the twenty five yards out".

Peter moved the boat on to Hill Farm where he felt his flies weren't being fished deep enough so he changed his Di3 to a fast sinking Di7.

The flies now certainly fished deeper, but using a Di7 does have its drawbacks, and Peter spent several frustrating minutes every other cast untangling the coiled line at his feet after casting.

After a fruitless couple of drifts into Hill Farm Richard retrieved the drogue and Peter motored the brand new Jim Coulam Grafham boat, resplendent in its bright white livery, to a drift about 100 yards off Pylon Point.

Peter's first cast on the new drift drew the best fish of the morning. This time a cracking 3.5lb rainbow attached itself to Peter's Black Booby and gave a great display for the watching camera and as Richard slipped the net under the fish the job was complete.

Meet the Staff at Grafham Water



1. Paul Jones Warden 2. Tracey Rathbone Assistant Retail Manager 3. Alan Taylor Warden 4. Pauline Gibb Retail Assistant
5. John Mees Senior Warden 6. Ray Jenkins Warden 7. Simon Dance Warden

Contact

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SEASON 2007: 14 March - 31 December

FISHERY RECORDS:

Brown trout (fly) 17lb 2oz Stephen Jacques 1994

Brown trout (any method) 19lb 12oz

Graham Nichol 1996

Rainbow trout 13lb 3oz Dave Barker 1992

2007 CATCH RATE: 3.5 trout per return

FISHERY PRICE LIST: See page 62-63