

First Experience of Reservoir Boat Fishing

It's a round-about story; a few years ago, my wife and I spent Christmas at a hotel on the banks of the Nith in Scotland and I trotted for Grayling on Boxing day – what beautiful fish they are! I joined the Grayling Society and attended its annual symposium in Wales last October, and quite coincidentally joined my friend (from another walk of life entirely) Paul Heavens, and others from Cambridgeshire. At the symposium dinner auction, I bid for – and acquired – a guided day out on the Eden in Cumbria, and Paul invited me to join him for a day on Grafam Water.

You could say, I started fly fishing. I joined Invicta and started reading.

The guided day fishing was with Stuart Wardle of Durham Fly Fishing, and I can thoroughly recommend the man, the river and the experience. I went up to Cumbria in May, so no Grayling – but the wild brown trout were truly exquisite; not big but mint perfect and vividly coloured like aquarium fish. I don't believe that I had much trouble with the casting and unfamiliar tackle, but the wading was something else. It still seems to me to be a pretty peculiar thing to do, but I suppose it puts you slap bang in the middle of the environment; fortunately, I didn't fall over and fill the extraordinarily expensive set of waders I'd been fitted out with, so that was a plus.

Within two weeks of returning to Peterborough and work, my day off to meet Paul at Perry on the banks of Grafam arrived, and another unusual and completely different experience was in the offing. It was a lovely day, though I accept that it was a bit too bright and sunny for good fishing of any kind. We spent four hours in a boat fishing for what appeared to be psychotic rainbow trout with a propensity to snap at fluorescent creations that don't look like anything alive or having ever lived.



Safely to the net!

Paul was a star, sorting arrangements for the day, lending me the tackle and letting me play the first fish he hooked in case I didn't get one myself. We motored all over the reservoir and fished in different locations. We both caught fish and I enjoyed the day immensely.



My first Grafham Rainbow

The trout in Grafham Water are rocket propelled missiles and a joy to hook and catch, nevertheless I'll take one thing from the day and it hasn't anything to do with the kind of rod I'm going to buy or the seemingly never-ending range of flies available. My absolute commitment after a day out with Paul, is never to set foot in one of those bloody boats ever again with only a glorified plank of wood to sit on; I'll say no more!

Thanks Paul and tight lines for the future.

Martyn Sharp