



Brick Farm Lakes Herstmonceux, East Sussex

Ahh! It's good to be back! "From where?" I hear you all shout... Where else but the slippery slopes of high altitude France of course! Before you are all too impressed by my sporting abilities I must confess that I skilfully managed to avoid all things dangerous, other than the hotel steps, and having excitedly discovered that the cognac was the same price as une cuppa du mildly-warm, insipid, grey, froth le French laughingly call coffee, well I was well and truly bon and tres heureux all at once! Instead of hitting the slopes I managed, rather artfully, to turn the concept around beautifully into hitting the shops, of course after kindly wishing intrepid (stupid) Hubby "bon chance" each morning. Shopping and people watching are my kind of sports! Warm, comfortable and very entertaining all at once! I am stocked up once more with fridge magnets, key rings and tea towels and to witness grown men performing head stands, cartwheels and back flips is most hilarious, especially and, most particularly, if it is unintentional. I have returned completely invigorated and refreshed for another sporting year. There is not a lot of fly fishing to be had three and a half thousand feet up a mountain in minus temperatures and when folk politely asked as to what my idea of a wonderful, adventurous, adrenaline packed sport was, as we watched in wonder at the paragliders soared high overhead, I answered and argued my/corner passionately! As you can perhaps imagine, I was met with bemused stares and muttered oh, how "different" – "strange" – even "nice." But they just don't get it! Do they?

Well, back in the land of the sensible, buzzers and lures are still working in equal measures, although one chap was fishing with an orange python of a fly with little success the other day when, at the same time, another angler was catching fish after fish with a small buzzer, fished in the traditional way. Who knows what will turn up trumps this time of year! The three lakes are full to the brim with lovely cold water, fishing extremely well in these perfect angling conditions we need to make the most of, so wrap up and come and have a day with us and maybe now is the time to beat your PB's! We regularly stock some huge brown and rainbow trout and KNOW that there are some whoppers of big blues which have been resident for over a year now!!! Wonderful fish have been landed and the new fourth lake is filling up a treat! February may bring us either spring like weather or thick snow but either way, at least it is a short month and the evenings are drawing out bit by bit. Don't forget Valentine's Day in the middle of Feb... Never mind a bunch of flowers, why not buy your loved one a fishing voucher and lesson here at Brick Farm Lakes! A perfect pressy for man or woman! Just call us at the Lodge for us to organise over the phone!

And just to remind everyone that the Brick Farm Lakes Easter Competition is very early this year on the Sunday before the Easter Weekend on Sunday 25 March 2018. We gather at the Lodge for an 8.30am start (weather permitting – of course if we are all home-bound by snow and ice it will have to be postponed until the weekend after Easter!). The entry is £45 for a 3-Fish ticket with the competition finishing at 1pm just in time for a 'help yourself' delicious Mega Ploughman's Lunch. Trophy and cash prize to the Winner. Easter eggs for all and a very special Easter Egg will be raffled

in support of Charity. So please do come and enjoy the day.

Over and out now till next month and tight lines for some winter fun in the frost!



Paul Franklin 4lb7oz Brown



Tom Gwynne 14.1.18 with 3.5lb Brown

Brick Farm Easter Competition

OPEN TO ALL - SUNDAY 25TH MARCH 2018

ENTRY £45 INCLUDES

3-fish ticket • Easter Egg Raffle for Charity • Tea, Coffee

Help yourself Mega Ploughman's Lunch

Trophy to the Winner and Cash Prize

Call: 01323 832615

to register your entry or sign form in The Lodge

Chalk Springs Arundel, West Sussex

January was cold and very wet making things a bit soggy around the lakes. The upside of this is that the underground water reserves have been topped up nicely. The springs are flowing really well at the moment.

The fishery has been a bit quieter during January, as everyone goes back to work after the New Year's holiday, but the fishing itself has been excellent. The catch rate has been well over 90% again this past few weeks. The best flies have been the usual blueflash damselfly, cats whiskers, stalking bugs and oddly enough, orange goldheads fished 'on the drop'. The most effective way of consistently catching fish is to move around the lakes regularly and not to stay in the same place for ages and cover the same area of water repeatedly. One of our regulars, Andy Cooper, puts this method to good use – on consecutive afternoons he had 8 fish in less than 2 hours.

The fishing should remain consistent through February and into March with the spring water keeping a constant temperature in the lakes. This helps to ensure that the fish feed all year round.

Even though there isn't much in the way of natural food in the water at this time of the year the fish will still take 'natural' imitations. To prove this point, some fish recently have been caught on buzzers and even rising to dries.

Otherwise, not much else to report for this month. As always, keep an eye on the website for weekly updates and the latest news.

As always, pre-booking is advised, especially for weekends.

Tight lines, Darren and Ally



Christmas competition winners



David 'Woody' Wood and 6lb5oz Brown



David and Mike Carden with their browns



David Dunwell and his 5lb 12oz Brown

