The Day - In Pictures



England Internationals Peter Hartley and Richard Kesek motor out at Cambridgeshire's Graffnam 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 reknowned 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





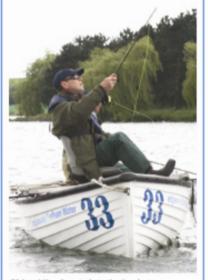




The Day - In Pictures



Richard Kesck 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



FTER 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 reser-

"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 imatitative 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

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



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





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.



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

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

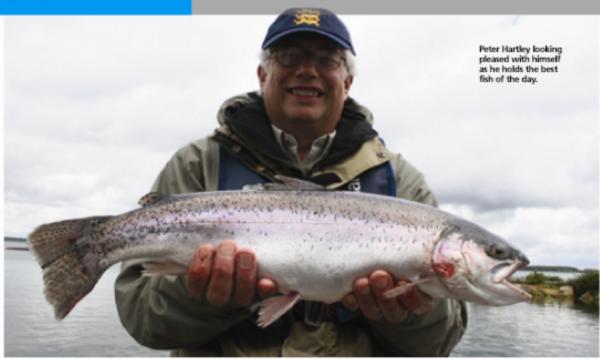
'We chose to try the top end of the North Shore because the pressure from the previous days activities would have almost certainly been concentrated between Deep Water Point and the Dam, with a bit of luck the top end might have not been fished so extensively and the fish might have been more settled",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

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

Peter Hartley with his first 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 guite 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 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 carnera and as Richard slipped the net under the fish the job was complete.



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



BOOKINGS: Tel: 01480 810531

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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