

Summary of the 2016 Winter League series

This year all of the five Winter League matches have been moved to within the calendar year, next season we will count 4 from 5 omitting the individual's worst result, this season they all count. We try to alternate between Fladbury and local Canals although conditions usually dictate either flooded off the river or confronted with a frozen canal. This Match Series is **not for the feint hearted**, we have summarised the series.

(1)15th October at Fladbury, ten turned out. The weather was amazingly mild for October but the river was again painfully clear. We used pegs 2, 5, 7, 10, 13, 19, 21 23, 24 and 25. PW won from peg 2 with a 7-1-0 catch of mainly small Chub from close in, second from way upstream peg 25 was JB with 5-7-0 of Roach mainly from down the edge on the whip. FB was third from peg 23 with a 4-11-0 mixed catch which included a small Barbel on a big stick and reds down the middle.

(2)29th October, Local Canal, Eight turned out for the second match on a local canal, weather was cloudy and mild. JA arrived late, dropped into vacant peg 2 and won the match with a lovely 4-7-0 mixed bag which included two Crucians, a nice Perch and Roach first on the worm but later spraying red maggots against the far bank reeds. PW was second with an all Roach catch (3-8-2) on the punch.

After two matches PW is on 3, JA is on 6 and JB is on 7 points.

(3)19th November, back at Fladbury for the third Winter League match, the weather was cold and windy, the river was again clear. Seven turned out, we used pegs 2, 4, 5, 7, 21, 24 and 26.

PW won with 4-9-0 from peg 24 which he didn't fancy. JA was second from peg 26 (he likes this peg), FB was third with 2-11-0.

So after three matches PW is on 4, JA is on 8 and JB on 11 points with two to go.

(4)3rd December, GU Canal at Tyseley, Brian's Canal was frozen over midweek, match day was cold and dry. The Canal was very clear and we decided to fish the pegs in the forties and low fifties (quite a trek), opposite the trees, backs to a high wall and a bit deeper, possibly less affected by the midweek frozen conditions. Result, FB won the match with 7-9-0 fishing chopped worm short (deepest part of the canal) for the first two hours and when it slowed fished punch up the far slope, catching throughout. PW the runaway leader was second with 4-2-8 of Roach on the punch, (catching a smaller stamp of Roach). After four matches and going into the final match PW is on 6, FB and JA are on 14 points. Looks like it's all over.

(5)17th December back at Fladbury. The river finally had a bit of colour following mid week rain. Seven turned out, we used pegs 2, 5, 7, 13, 19, 21, and 26, weather was dull and damp.

Result – HP had 10-4-0 of mainly small Chub for a convincing win. Second was JB in peg 26 with 6-4-0 of bits, third was FB with 5-10-0 of Chub but

lost a Barbel mid match.**Overall result**, after five matches PW took the Winter League trophy on 11 points from FB on 17 points. A good match series, less affected by the weather than usual. Well done Peter.