

My trip to Chapel Lake Graham West

Hi Bob,

It's the Monday after our week at Chapel Lake and.....what a place!!!

Seeing is believing, absolutely awesome looking lake and stuffed full of massive fish!

The week started brilliantly for me, I had a 36lb 4oz Mirror after 40mins! Probably pure fluke though, ha! ha! ha.

It took us a few days to get to grips with the place, but to be honest, it was probably the fact the fish were crashing and showing themselves so much, we were expecting them to hang themselves, far from it!

M.J. (Mark Wilson) and yourself Bob, were dead right, they are proper clever and yeah, you could definitely beat yourself up with the frustration, when the fish are crashing on top of your hook baits in 3ft of water and you can't get a run !!!

I've gotta say though Bob, I've never fished a lake with so many BIG fish in it! They were so big it sounded like someone falling in, so the anticipation had us on the edge of our seats all week.

Ok, I can understand that if you are a larger person that you might have a problem with the toilet being a bit small but hey, it's a toilet and it was clean enough.

The lodge, I thought was excellent, a massive fridge freezer, god only knows how you got that through the door, easily big enough for everybody's food and drink for the week. As for the shower....well, ok it leaked a bit, but WOW, it was awesome! The only problem I had was that when I got in there I didn't wanna come out, so they all moaned at me for flooding the shower room every day! ha! haa ha!

Considering the lake is seen as a hard venue, we had over 30 runs between us and as the week went on we were sussing the place out more and more and I'm sure another few days on the bank we would have had a good few more.

Tony the Bailiff told us hardly any fish get caught during the day, but by the end of the week we realised that defiantly wasn't the case, perhaps it was the time of year, but I had 2x30's and a 40 and lost 2 in the afternoon in the last two days. We brought our rods in during the days over the 1st four days, so that was a mistake on our behalf. Doh!

Over the week we had as follows ... 40lb 2oz and another 40lb 2oz they were different fish too, cos we had them both on the same day! 36lb, 33lb, 30lb, 20lb, 11lb, 10lb, 7lb and 6lb.

The guy on the 1st Point Swim fished towards the sunken tree and had 1 fish, but lost 4 monsters!

Me and my mate fished the Donkey Swim, we had 7 fish and lost 6 big fish.

The other 2 guys fished the tip over swim had 2 fish and lost 12!!! They beat themselves up! ha! ha! ha!

On the whole we had an excellent weeks fishing, obviously there was a few moans about the amount of snags but everybody has a right to their own opinion.

But my own opinion and the opinion of my fishing partner was that the place is excellent and there is a real genuine chance of catching a fish of a lifetime, probably the best chance of catching a 50lb plus fish than anywhere else we have been to in France.

The peace and quiet, and the surroundings make the place unique Bob. Oh yeah and not forgetting the donkeys!! fuck me! do they make some noise when they start!

We used to piss ourselves with laughter every time we heard them!!

As I've just mentioned, we met Tony D and his son Alfie on Friday, and I gotta say, what a top geezer. A real genuine guy. Tony and I got on really well, his son Alfie is a top lad too. It was a pleasure being in their company, and they had a real enthusiasm for the place, just as I have.

On the whole Bob, now I've seen Chapel Lake, in my opinion, it's a gold mine with massive potential, and with a little bit of TLC, could easily be as well known as other lakes in France.

Well done Bob, it's a 10 out of 10 lake in my view. Speak soon.

Regards

Westy