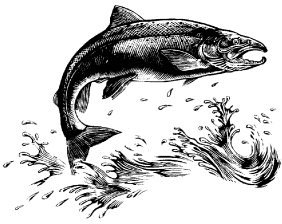


# INVICTA

## FLY FISHING CLUB, CAMBRIDGE

Affiliated to the Federation of Midlands Fly Fishers (Anglia), the Angler's Conservation Association and the Salmon and Trout Association



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[www.invictaffc.org.uk](http://www.invictaffc.org.uk)

A  
Happy New Year  
and Tight Lines  
to all

### Welcome to 2006.

It will be another busy one for Invicta! The club is in a healthy state as subscriptions continue to rise, and involvement by club members is maintained at a high level. There will be plenty of action with all levels of competition and pleasure fishing planned. The committee is already organising the monthly outings, the evening league, the pilgrimage (this year to Llyn Brenig), the Association matches (where we hope to continue fishing in Group 2 and re-acquaint ourselves with the likes of East Midlands) and teams for National competition. Other events include the new floating line match at Grafham, the fun day at Hanningfield, celebrations

at Grafham as they celebrate 40 years in July, and anything else that might come along as the season gets underway.

The first major event is the Annual Dinner of course, and there will be a flyer sent to everyone with all the details - see the notice overleaf. Meanwhile, any contributions to this newsletter will be welcome. We're always on the lookout for new creative writing talent! But even if you haven't got it we are very keen to hear your thoughts. Please contact John Caldwell or Chris McLeod with any news, opinions, advice or whatever.

Being slightly less than serious, I have had fun with fishing book titles that may fill space in the news-to me if desperation strikes. Actually I like it anyway but I am in consumption mode. Since the William Gates feeble system cannot cope with attachments (but arrogantly sends plenty) I append it below:

### SO, WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Well, Christmas has passed and fishing books may have been a feature... my Coch-Y-Bonddu Books catalogue arrived on my doormat. Possibly the best source of angling/field sports books at reasonable prices that I know and even after nearly 40 seasons of wasted life & fly fishing I still read it avidly - last year I bought 6 books from it. In the long winter months enforcement away from the true faith, angling literature assimilated with a dram or two, along with fly tying (with similar accompaniment) bring much needed solace to many. But, it is not the value of angling literature with which I wish to waste your valuable time, but the titles of the vast number of volumes on offer.

Let me explain from the current catalogue. FISH, FISHING & THE MEANING OF LIFE (Jeremy Paxton) may seem to spell it all out but NYMPH FISHING: A HISTORY (Terry Lawton) may strike a chord closer to many of our hearts but most will be more interested in its future. I am intrigued by A LOCH FISHER'S BIBLE by Stan Headley but daunted by the price (£40) and am inclined to wonder what claim Stan has for ecclesiastical writings! That wonderful character, Hugh Falkus, epitomises for me the sport with his SOME OF IT WAS FUN but I have trouble getting my head round THE FLY. A NEW HISTORY OF FLY FISHING by Andrew Herd - what the hell is a "new history" - and can we all have one??

It is the transatlantic writers that conjure up for me the real brilliance in titling. Who can argue with the concept of

THE LONGEST SILENCE: A LIFE IN FISHING by Thomas McGuane or FLYFISHING THROUGH THE MID-LIFE CRISIS by Howell Raines? (I wouldn't mind borrowing this Chris if you have got it!) A CLEAN WELL-LIGHTED STREAM (Michael Ceccio) will puzzle many, including me but how can one resist A JERK AT ONE END: REFLECTIONS OF A MEDIOCRE FISHERMAN by Robert Hughes? Amid a plethora of candidates I feel this to be the most incisive winner, but for sheer volume the prolific John Gierach surely cannot be beaten with such titles as: "AT THE GRAVE OF THE UNKNOWN FISHERMAN" "GOOD FLIES: FAVOURITE TROUT PATTERNS AND HOW THEY GOT TO BE THAT WAY" "TROUT BUM" "SEX, DEATH & FLYFISHING" "DANCES WITH TROUT" "ANOTHER LOUSY DAY IN PARADISE, and surely an intensely seminal title "DEATH, TAXES & LEAKY WADERS". Editorial space precludes more examples but if you can read - make sure you read and re-read STILLWATER FLY-FISHING by T.C.Ivens plus TROUT MAGIC and TROUT MADNESS (& any other volume) by Robert Traver... I guarantee you will not regret it.

There are over 8,000 titles on [www.anglebooks.com](http://www.anglebooks.com) alone so go ahead and enrich your life!

*Peter Reeves*

### LLYN BRENIG

**This replaces our annual Chew/Grafham meet with the Llanillar and Leslie clubs.**

It would be nice to get 12/14 of us and so far I have 9 names. It's not traditionally an official Invicta trip so open to friends on a first come first served basis. It's a 3 day trip in mid-July, £88.50 all in + B&B (all organised for you).

Let Chris McLeod know if you would like to come.

## AS I WAS SAYING...

(Part 1)

I remember last winter mentioning some extremely useful line treatments which made my fishing more enjoyable and stating that they were catalogued by Sportsmail. I apologise I got confused over names - a symptom of age, mental decay and alcohol appreciation, I should have said Sportfish... still never mind maybe both Companies stocked them! This time I will concentrate on getting names correct.

I find the conditions on Grafham usually wildly unpredictable. I always sniff the air and check the Met. office website for Huntingdon prior to setting out. Invariably I arrive to find the wind totally different on site in both strength and direction and have to re-think bank tactics or on some occasions turn round and head straight home. No more I am pleased to say. There is a wonderful facility on the Grafham Sailing Club website administered I understand by their Chandlery and clothing supplier, Jonty. This gives you very accurate live information and recent history, updated every 15 minutes so the data is bang up to date and extremely easy to access and understand. I thoroughly recommend it: go to [www.grafham.org/weather.htm](http://www.grafham.org/weather.htm) and I can now forgive sailors the very odd cutting up. It is a pity that the sailing clubs at Pitsford and Rutland don't have the same live weather data - or do they??

Now for another couple of products I can recommend. I will talk about "Watershed", - not the time when the more lecherous members (oh yes there are!) find TV viewing suddenly more interesting but two liquid fly treatments. Although they have the same name "Watershed", they are very different in application. The first "Water Shed", is a floatant from USA (Hareline Dubbin Inc.) and should be applied to

either materials or flies at least 24 hours prior to use to "permanently" waterproof your flies, being once cured by the wait and enable them to float. It's non-greasy, colourless and odourless whilst not affecting the texture of the flies. It works very well indeed but having taken a fish the flies get waterlogged and sometimes slimy from the fish. Rinsing the fly and then false casting is the usual remedy but I find this rather imperfect. This is where the other one, the Halstead & Hartley "Watershed" - Hi-tech Fly Drier and Restorer - comes in. If you shake off any excess water then drop the fly (still on the tippet) into the bottle and shake it a little, the moisture is somehow chemically sucked out of the fly which is then ready for use. The excellent USA floatant is widely available (mine came from Sportfish, got it right this time) but the Halstead & Hartley "Watershed" drier and restorer I cannot find any more. Mine was bought at the 2004 Quy Country Fair and I had hoped to restock at the 2005 event but no luck. If anybody knows where I can source more then please do let me know - I am fast running out.

## OVERHEARD ON THE RESERVOIRS?

"Oh, its a Brownie... are they still in season?" I remarked to my boat partner (Andy Linwood) in the Interclub floating line competition, when he finally managed to make contact with a fish (I thought he was going to explode!).

Here are some other rarely heard, obviously untruthful, or otherwise unlikely comments:

"I'm truly sorry, is my head in the way of your casting?"

"The outboard motors are really superb."

"I never fish larger than size 14."

"Allow me to net this for you."

"Aren't Cormorants beautiful birds?"

"The fishing is almost too easy."

"Is that my fly in your ear?"

"Those Anglian Water fishing reports are wonderful."

"It was so well organised!"

"I think Boobies should be banned."

"I hope the others are doing better!"

"Please, let me take the engine."

"Oh never mind about that, I've got another rod!"

"I think they really stock too many."

"No thanks, I don't drink."

"I just love the day out - catching fish is a bonus"

"We always have Apple Pie after a match"

Peter Reeves

Please note the date of the

**ANNUAL DINNER**

**SAT 18 FEB • 7.30 FOR 8**

**GONVILLE HOTEL •**

**£22 PER HEAD**

All cheques direct to Alan Prevost please

More details will be circulated shortly



## CARR CUP

Invicta's Club Champion for 2005 is, appropriately, Graham Williams, the Club Captain.

Graham was a very consistent performer as can be seen from the full table below. Although it wasn't decided until the last day out at Hanningfield, when there were still 4 names in the frame.

30 anglers took part, which is a little down on last year. If any members have ideas as to venues, rules, formats, etc., relating to our day trips, then please make these known to a committee member and we will try to accommodate them.

For example, in the past we have had bank and small water meetings, and we have been accused of including too many venues and having too many trips. Your views appreciated.

## WINTER PROGRAMME

We started the second half of our Winter programme on January 5th with an excellent presentation from Norman Shippey. He gave us a very interesting account of his trip to the Yukon.

The full story will be in the next Newsletter

The next meeting is Thursday January 19th with Steve Cooper from Cookshill Fly Tying Materials. He will be talking about all the various aspects of his business, will have stuff on sale and will run a small quiz.

The AGM is on Thursday February 2nd and nominations for the committee or any topics that need an airing are invited to be submitted. As usual, the meetings are at Harston Village Hall, and begin around 8pm.

	Pits	Rut	Dray	Ravo	Eye	Pits	Graf	Hann	Total fish	Total points	Adjusted total
1 Williams, Graham	4 30	0 10	8 50	6 40	8 50	2 20	4 30	8 50	40	280	270
2 Smith, Mike	3 25	0 10	8 50	8 50	8 50	0 0	5 35	6 40	38	260	260
3= Caldwell, John	7 45	3 25	8 50	3 25	8 50	1 15	4 30	3 25	37	265	250
3= Searle, Mark	2 20	4 30	8 50	0 0	8 50	2 20	4 30	8 50	36	250	250
5 Reeves, Peter	8 50	0 0	1 15	3 25	8 50	2 20	4 30	8 50	34	240	240
6 Hunter, Carl	8 50	0 10	0 0	0 0	8 50	1 15	8 50	6 40	31	215	215
7 Stocks, Martin	8 50	2 20	5 35	0 0	8 50	0 0	4 30	0 0	27	185	185
8= Head, Doug	1 15	0 0	0 0	6 40	5 35	4 30	2 20	0 0	18	140	140
8= Sexton, Arthur	0 0	2 20	5 35	0 0	0 0	0 10	3 25	8 50	18	140	140
10 McLeod, Chris	0 0	0 10	0 0	2 20	0 0	0 10	6 40	8 50	16	130	130
11 Prevost, Alan	0 10	0 0	2 20	0 0	4 30	3 25	5 35	0 0	14	120	120
12 Oldham, Peter	0 0	0 0	7 45	0 0	5 35	0 0	0 0	3 25	15	105	105
13 Taylor, Alan	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	8 50	0 0	8 50	0 0	16	100	100
14 Carpenter, Mel	0 0	5 35	3 25	0 0	0 0	0 0	5 35	0 0	13	95	95
15 Ayres, Bob	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	6 40	8 50	0 0	14	90	90
16= Day, Hugh	1 15	0 0	0 0	0 0	6 40	3 25	0 0	0 0	10	80	80
16= Hardick, Dave	0 0	3 25	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	3 25	4 30	10	80	80
16= Williams, Anthony	0 0	3 25	4 30	0 0	0 0	0 0	3 25	0 0	10	80	80
19 Middleton, Steve	0 0	2 20	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	7 45	0 0	9	65	65
20= Firth, Peter	8 50	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	8	50	50
20= Newman, Andy	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	8 50	8	50	50
22= Harman, Peter	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	7 45	0 0	7	45	45
22= Price, Jeffrey	0 0	0 0	7 45	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	7	45	45
22= Smith, Graden	0 0	0 0	0 0	7 45	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	7	45	45
25 Krailing, John	0 0	1 15	0 0	0 0	0 0	2 20	0 0	0 0	3	35	35
26 Frost, Derek	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	3 25	0 0	3	25	25
27= Mees, John	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	2 20	0 0	2	20	20
27= Unwin, Jason	2 20	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	2	20	20
27= Wight, Lawson	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	2 20	0 0	2	20	20
30 Osbourne, Trevor	0 10	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0	10	10

## AS I WAS SAYING...

(Part 2)

Time and time again I have acquired new tackle and told myself that is it, I do not need to replace it for a long, long time. It is strange how seductive the tackle trade is, introducing new products to perfectly satisfied anglers who then cannot live without what was previously unavailable and making perfectly good tackle obsolete. This is a natural process in marketing of course, especially in small specialised markets otherwise the trade would collapse and largely disappear. As long as we, their customers, appreciate and cherish our purchases (until the next 'must-have' appears) then all should be satisfied.

However, it is not just a matter of following mere fashion. Having experienced over many years painful problems with tennis elbow together with a body that takes ever longer to recover from the rigours of fishing I wondered what could be done to make life easier. Being a lifelong devotee of poor casting technique probably didn't help any. I decided to forsake all my AFTM 9 gear, then experimented with AFTM7 rod & line in place of my normal AFTM 8 gear. I thought this would be ok from a boat especially for a floating line (95% of my time) but was concerned over the situation seeking distance from the bank in all sorts of wind. I soon found from both Sage & Vision, rods that did not disadvantage me at all in this respect even if after a lifetime use of heavier tackle I secretly felt I was taking a limp wristed approach.

As time drifts by so does muscle recovery and I thought an AFTM 6 weight may be appropriate for that time late in the day when fatigue builds up and the fish become more receptive. Again I looked to Sage and Vision and really liked that feeling of a "controlled handful of nothing". Mind you, if I thought that using 7 weight was a little ladylike then 6 weight was playing with toys - but playing with toys became first choice whenever weather conditions allow and I love it. Lines are shorter of course, but rod and line design and materials advance have conferred many advantages. Fishing

from the dam at Grafham recently under not altogether ideal wind conditions I was noticing how little casting line was left on my reel when an angler came across for a chat and mentioned how well he thought I was getting a line out - it was a 6 weight rod and line I was using and it brought home to me just what the tackle trade was doing. I was getting further out with a 6 line than I would have done several years earlier with an 8 weight line and rod - with far less effort and little or no improvement in technique! The tackle trade and their technological improvements are making fishing more enjoyable and less tiring and, in my case, keeping me fishing for longer. It would seem churlish of me not to continue to avail myself benefit of the latest products as they become available!

Peter Reeves

**Congratulations to Alan Prevost's mum, Lil, who has just received her telegram from the queen. How she got to 100 with a son like that we'll never know!**



### SUBSCRIPTIONS DUE

**A gentle reminder that your '06 subs - £17 - are now due.**

**Just think of all the benefits ...**

**Please send cheques to membership secretary Alan Prevost:  
15 Willingham Road, Over, Cambridge CB4 5PD.**

**Name** .....

**Address** .....

**Email** .....

**Phone** .....

### THE MUNCHER

**A dry developed by Martin Cairncross for the Irish Loughs when the fish are on olives and buzzers.**

**Size** 14 B100 hook. The wide gape shows the body of the fly deep beneath the surface at the correct curved angle, unlike other hooks which lie in the surface film.

**Body and thorax:** mix of Hares ear and olive fur.

**Rib:** fine gold Mylar or green holographic

**Under-wing:** Ginger fibres. Depicting the explosion of blood to wings! maybe !

**Over-wing:** CDC. Permafloat only.

Fished 'damp' - very good in the wind lanes!

