

# invicta

## fly fishing club, cambridge.

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



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

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## 30TH ANNIVERSARY ISSUE



### WE ARE THE WINNERS.... well this time anyway!

This cheerful quartet (left to right Chris Macleod, Graham Williams, Mike Smith and John Mees) are the successful Invicta team winners of the final association match at Hanningfield in September. Note the orange object being held by Chris, not as

one may immediately surmise by the colour an escapee from his fly box but the proposed future identifying headgear for Invicta team members in Association competition matches enabling mutual recognition from afar. You have been warned!

#### A WORD FROM YOUR TREASURER...

### “PAY!”

Well, pay please! Yes dear members, subscriptions are due for renewal as from 1st January 2007. Time to put pen to chequebook (in favour of 'Invicta FFC') or queue at the hole in the wall. Annual membership for adults is still only a mere £17.00. If you wish to see the fleetest of smiles cross Alan's face, gently lower it into his upturned palm at a winter meeting at Harston or more discreetly pop it in the post to him with name, phone number and email address to Alan Prevost, 1, Willingham Road, Over, Cambridge CB4 5PD.

#### UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT

As Chris warned you in the previous issue, the editorship of this newsletter passes to me with anticipated changes. As the pdf version readers will notice, justified columns are out and colour is in. Otherwise pretty much the same I suppose but the big difference can come from you. It is YOUR newsletter so why not become pro-active and use it to express your views, experiences, likes, dislikes etc. or perhaps you have a question to put, are looking for tackle, have some for sale, photos of interest etc. Go on, give me something to edit! All contributions welcome to Peter Reeves ([piscator2003@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:piscator2003@yahoo.co.uk))

## PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS - 30 YEARS AND STILL GOING ! Our president, Norman Shippey, reviews Invicta's first 30 years



Having been associated in many guises with Invicta since 1976 I was delighted to accept the nomination as President and, at the invitation of Peter Reeves, our new Editor, to contribute a potted history of the finer moments of our Club.

How many of those intrepid fly tiers who attended Les Beecroft's classes at Comberton Village College in 1974/1975 would have imagined that they would launch a club that would still be flourishing in 2006? That original eight or so were joined by a further number, myself included, as a result of Les's class of the next winter.

From very early in our history, if not from the very beginning, Invicta Fly Fishing Club was intended to be a front-runner in promoting all aspects of the sport, both ethical and practical. Indeed the Club Constitution is headed by the statement "Invicta FFC. The aim of which is to participate in and promote the sport of fly fishing". This, I would contend, has been carried out to the letter to the extent that this Club is held in some respect by our peers throughout the country. Our winter programme from the start has reflected interest in all branches of fly fishing from salmon, seatrout, grayling and saltwater and, latterly, a growing interest in pike and other species on the fly. From day one the term fly fishing was preferred as a title rather than trout fishing which, of course, will always be our first quarry.

I have already mentioned the launch at Comberton Village College. Due to the restrictive hours and no alcohol the venue was soon to be the Conservative Club in Cottenham followed by Plant Breeding Institute Social Club at Trumpington and thence to Harston. Highlights of the winter programme have included Arthur Cove, Reg Righyni, Peter Lapsley, Oliver Edwards, Geoffrey Bucknall and, more recently, John Horsey, Charles Jardine and Steve Cooper of Cookshill Fly Tying.

The Annual Dinner continues to be the peak of our social year. If my memory can be relied on our next will be the 28th consecutive year. Commencing at the old Farmers Club in Cambridge, also known as Owen Webb House, a near disaster for one year at the Twenty Pence Inn, perhaps eight years at Jesus College followed by a similar stay at Girton College then onto Arundel House Hotel for, I think 5 years and latterly the Gonville Hotel with another move planned for 2007. Succeeding committees have endeavoured to uphold these traditions, albeit not without some tricky moments along the way. However good sense has prevailed on the odd occasion when problems have arisen.

Club members have always been enthusiastic to form associations with other clubs. In the late 1970's until it ceased to be we entered a team in the Benson & Hedges competition and in the late 1980's we were pleased to be founder members of the Association of Major Clubs. Competition has been enthusiastically embraced with participation up to and including the national team. Also in 1985 a small group of our members joined Llanilar of Aberystwyth on Chew Valley Lakes for what was to develop into an annual event still going to the present day. After some years a further club, Leslie from near Fife in Scotland joined us and for several years we booked virtually all the Chew boats for a week in May with a significant contingent fishing Blagdon. Charity events such as the Lords Taverners were supported as were local groups. These included a head injuries group at Addenbrookes, Riding for the Disabled and the Manderson Trust which provides fishing facilities for disabled anglers at Over. The celebration of our 25th anniversary was an enormous success once again bringing great credit to both the Club and the serving Committee at that time. Throughout our history Invicta has been blessed with a succession of active, enthusiastic and ambitious committees. The Club Constitution demands that all Officers should serve no more than five consecutive years, with the proviso that the Treasurer and Secretary may continue at the discretion of the members on a year-by-year basis. So we should be proud of our past but look to the future and the next 30 years.

# QUY COUNTRY FAIR REPORT - Peter Reeves



## Dave Hardick offers advice on the Quy Country Fair casting platform

Possibly not all members know that Invicta has for a number of years been represented with a stand at the Quy Country Fair. This is held every year on the Sunday and Monday of the August bank holiday weekend and is a good day out with a very wide range of country pursuit associated, food traders and organisations with numerous ring events and demonstrations (falconry, terrier racing antique tractors etc.)

The Invicta stand has taken the form of fly tying demonstrations together with chatting to interested visitors. This year the organisers, hoping that we would organise a casting competition, erected a casting platform for us over the water. just outside the Invicta stand. It was decided that this year the competition element was beyond us within the time scale but that casting demonstrations were practical with 'have-a-go' facilities for the public. This transpired to be a very popular formula and despite very unfavourable winds and some heavy showers a more or less constant gallery of 20/30 spectators were sitting or standing on the bank watching the action (mainly Dave Hardick, Lawson Wight and myself) with frequent queues of all ages and both sexes waiting to try their own hand. This created also more interest in the Invicta tent, manned

mainly as ever by stalwart John Caldwell who had once again lost his tackle and flies and was feverishly replenishing his stock for an imminent competition.

A particularly agreeable aspect of this was that two juniors, brothers with casting abilities well beyond their years, were both at our initial winter meetings at Harston Village Hall as a result of this. The future is in youngsters' hands and like most fly fishing clubs we do not have enough of them and I feel we should do all we can to encourage and support them, The costs and logistics do not make fly fishing easy for young people. We all have tackle which is perfectly usable but superceded and no longer used or likely to be used. Why not have a "surplus tackle register" of items we are happy to pass on to youngsters who can make good use of it and thus encourage the sport whilst reducing our storage problems. If you feel this a good idea e-mail me with your surplus items for inclusion in the next edition. I will look into my surplus items for starters as items which mean little to me could be important to others who may appreciate them. (e-mail piscator2003@yahoo.co.uk)

Meantime why not put the Quy Country Fair into your diary for next August Bank holiday weekend and maybe even volunteer in due course to help out?



**CARL HUNTER WINS PRESIDENTS CUP** - Our congratulations go to the avid and successful angler, Carl Hunter, who showed the way (not for the first time) in beating the good turnout to claim best bag. The day was notable for quite atrocious wind conditions and low catch rates. Pictured above extreme right shows Carl, fishing with Graham Williams, in the shelter of Savages Creek where most boats headed for to escape the more extreme conditions. Carl stated that it was not until he adopted a roly-poly retrieve that he started to catch regularly. Well, it didn't work work for me in the next boat (with the previous winner of the President's cup) or for his own boat partner. Well done Carl!

## AN ANGLER'S ODE TO YESTERDAY

For many years its been my wish  
 To take my rod and catch great fish.  
 I wade and drift and cast about,  
 In search of any monster trout.  
 But, success eludes me and they say  
 "You should have been here yesterday!"

In Ravensthorpe, Pitsford, Rutland and Grafham,  
 I see around other anglers have them.  
 Why, oh why is fortune so cruel  
 Making me look such an inept fool?  
 I seek help from wardens but hear to my dismay  
 "You should have been here yesterday!"

Oft times I see no fish, and so,  
 How on earth can all the stockies know  
 It is me, back wandering round the shore,  
 Seeking any trout that will not ignore?  
 But the story's the same from creek, point and bay,  
 "You should have been here yesterday!"

I brave wind, tangles and great mud slicks  
 Employing all known anglers' tricks  
 But all my plans and all my schemes  
 Fail to realise my cherished dreams.  
 I still have to hear, come what may,  
 "You should have been here yesterday!"

And when, perchance I come to die.  
 To fish that great lake up in the sky  
 With ghostly rises from phantom fish,  
 It really must be my dearest wish  
 To hear not, from some celestial warden, pray!  
 "But, you should have been here yesterday!"

Anon.  
 (Do you blame me?)



## FLY TYING TIPS

Be choosy about the tying threads you use, I personally get on well with UTC and Sparton. I do not bother about too many colours (black for most patterns works fine) but for most applications prefer a fine thread which gives more turns without bulk. Some threads are sold as being 'pre-waxed.' Buy them by all means but still wax them before use by quickly drawing about 12 inches or metric equivalent against a block of fly tyers' wax. It has to be quick as the friction melts the wax and coats the thread making it grip the hook shank and materials much better. Straight off the spool it is useless and tends to slip and fray alarmingly! I keep my lump of wax in a pinch seal polythene bag which most materials come in these days and when it starts to get dry and hard annoint it with vaseline and put it in the airing cupboard in its poly bag for a while which gives it a new lease of life. Come to think of it I have not seen these wax lumps offered for some time, maybe I will have to turn to beeswax in future but pre-waxed threads I have to regard as a waste of time, believe me you do it better yourself as and when required.

## ROLL YOUR OWN ?

Questions asked about Invicta include do we have fly tying instruction? Well, the club was launched via fly tying classes so the tradition is there. It would be interesting to know how many members would like basic tuition/support and/or how many would like to meet on a regular basis (outside the fishing season) to tie up some flies in company with others and benefit from advice and material pilferage/exchange. If interested let me know by e-mail (piscator2003@yahoo.co.uk) or by phone on 01223 511992 and maybe we can work something out to suit those interested.

# WINTER MEETING UPDATES - Dave Jones gives us his take on winter meetings you may have missed or would like to be reminded about.

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## JOHN WADHAM.

There was a good turn out for the first meeting of the winter and John claimed to be slightly overwhelmed by the skills he recognised in the audience. Not to worry often this makes for interesting two-way exchanges. Anyway it would be difficult to beat 52 years fishing experience which was initiated by instruction received at prep school. He remarked on the presence of two junior members in the audience both of whom had already accumulated up to 6 years of fly fishing expertise.

John's opinion was that it was important to take the wind into account when deciding where to fish, with the knowledge that the optimum water temperature for trout to feed was 11C. If we take a typical early season scenario with a reservoir water temperature of ~5°C and a breeze at 15°C, then the water will progressively warm up downwind. In doing so it displaces the cold water on the bed of the reservoir towards the upwind side. The best place to fish is across the wind – after all, it is easier to cast. If you are cack handed then you may find that you have the whole bank to yourself – but there is always the back casting technique if you have a favourite spot. If an angler should drop in downwind then move upwind! This could result in some interesting manoeuvres if the other angler has similar views! The fish are moving up wind and by the time the (floating) line has adopted the bowed profile, the flies will be downwind, fish are coming up ahead of the (invisible) angler and should they take the offering, the hook is pulled into rather than out of the fishes mouth. Striking is almost unnecessary.

All sorts of debris get blown to the downwind bank. John showed pictures of trout, which had consumed all sorts of oddities including fag ends, matches, and a



**John Wadham 'conducting' our first meeting**

Mars Bar wrapper. Some fish were found to contain fish ova possibly showing that brown trout were trying to spawn on the reservoirs.

The situation may be reversed in mid summer. It is not uncommon for the wind to exceed 20 or even 30°C in the UK. The temperature of the deep water may have risen to 15°C and may surface at the upwind side of the reservoir as the result of the undertow where any feeding fish should congregate. Thus in summer it may be beneficial to fish downwind. The variation in water temperatures and the formation of the thermocline was described in "Still Water Fly-Fishing" back in the 50's. The actual existence of these temperature fluctuations has been challenged from time to time: John's views were supported by his own temperature measurements.

John is not an advocate of fishing at great distances. A measure of stealth was recommended – sitting on the bank rather than deep water wading, which serves to churn up the mud and spoils the fishing for other anglers. As the water recedes during the season the feeding grounds are exposed. It is quite possible that fish might be moving on the bank-side the wading angler. John raved about his Greys Streamflex 10' No.5 rod, and fluorescent lines, which I think, came from the Shakespeare stable. I was interested that he considered a 12ft rod might offer advantages. Maybe, but even with modern carbon, it needs to be double handed for extended use – in my opinion. A wide arbor reel was preferred – I think it was a Battenkill. I couldn't agree that most reels were too light and were contributory to causing tennis elbow. My view is that the reel should be removed from the rod and put in your pocket. Conventional screw fittings do not facilitate the rapid replacement of the reel should you be lucky enough to catch a fish capable of running. Dry flies were presented on casts as short as 6 feet. These were made from nylon or co-polymer rather than fluorocarbon. On the other hand, a floating fly fished with 18" of degreased fluorocarbon, retrieved in a series of short pulls, produced an enticing sink and vertical rise motion to the fly. His favourite fly was a gold ribbed hare's ear with a touch or red in the head, tied in various sizes down to 16.

Eye protection was considered essential protection against errant casting with a hat and preferably photochromatic glasses rather than Polaroid.

After a break we got onto fly-fishing for pike. The flies are pretty monstrous by normal standards, typically 6" in length. Hooks are typically 4/0 with the barb removed. John was using Sakuma hooks, a

brand which I have not come across before but apparently available from Shelton's. Our homegrown expert Colin Brett uses Ad Sweir from Partridge. A 12" length of wire trace was permanently attached to flies using crimped ferrules and similarly a swivel at the other end. I had only used solid wire in the dim and distant past: I was amazed how fine and flexible modern trace materials were. John used Fox Predator; Colin had some examples of Proleader and Tiger line. The line used by John was a customised AFTM 11-12. FT. He considered the standard taper excessively long so he cut the heavy front section in half and with a combination of sewing and the application of Aquasure (wader repair glue), made 2 fly lines out of 1. This only works with lines built on a braided core. Now, I would point out that if you were fishing in cold winter conditions it may be worth investing in a specialised pike/bass line, which has a modified coating, designed to remain flexible at low temperatures.

## **MICHAEL GARROWAY on CAMBRIDGE SPORT LAKES**

There is probably a general awareness in Cambridge that there is a proposal to construct a rowing lake in order to take the pressure off of the Cam. The germ of the idea came in the early 1990's, which led to the formation of the Cambridge Rowing Trust, which started to raise money for the venture. However, this was not too successful, perhaps because it was regarded as too elitist, and it was replaced in 2003 by Cambridge Sport Lakes.

A site has been found alongside the Cam between Milton and Waterbeach alongside the Cambridge to Ely railway track. The main feature will be a rowing lake 2000 metres in length and 100 meters wide. The surrounding area will be landscaped in an aerodynamic style in order to minimise wind speeds on the surface of the lake. This will involve a substantial planting of fir trees in order to eliminate leaf build-up in the water commonly found. All soil will be retained within the boundaries of the park. The water in the rowing lakes will be maintained by a reservoir on site. This will be roughly 800m x 400m and cover 24 acres with a scalloped profile that will accommodate many anglers at pegs sited 15m apart. The depth will be about 10 metres. . £6.1 million has been raised leaving a mere £10M to be found.

The proposed water take off to feed the lakes was downstream of the existing sewage works. There was some concern about the smell and the flies. However, it was interesting to learn that the effluent, far from being pure, requires a further 18 hours oxygenation in order to remove bugs. The triathletes swimming course is likely to be sited at the far end of the lakes out of harms way. . With 40,000 dwellings proposed for the area, I can't see that water quality will ever improve.

So what did the Invicta members think of the proposals?

Colin Brett thought the lakes would be another source of food for cormorants. Apparently there are already 1200 at Rutland at the moment. It was important to install submerged refuges for the fish - see [www.cormorants.info](http://www.cormorants.info)

Is it intended to stock with coarse or game fish? Norman reflected the views of most of the audience when he considered that the lake was most suited to coarse fish. The presence of members of the public, ignorant of the casting techniques of fly fisherman, would be a problem. Carp anglers in particular were likely to stay overnight and add to the security of the site. My personal opinion is that there are plenty of carp waters in the area. Perhaps the venue is best suited as a place where juniors could safely visit without any of the usual concerns for safety.

## **JEREMY LUCAS ON THE SAN RIVER.POLAND**

Grayling are the "in" species at the moment judging from the blossoming membership of the Grayling Society. Jeremy Lucas, after many years afloat on Still waters (England captain and Brown bowl winner) moved on to wild brown trout fishing all over the world. Grayling have been his passion for the past 10 years and more recently has bought a house on the banks of the San River. In the SE corner of Poland.

The spectacular fishing and the exceptionally talented anglers in this region were discovered in 1986 as the result of the European River Fishing Championships. The Bieszczady National Park area is regarded as the last remaining wilderness in Europe although I would have thought that my back garden takes a bit of beating. Still, there is some interesting wildlife including wolf, brown bear, lynx, wild cat, bison and wild boar plus a few raptors to keep the cormorants under control. The SE corner of Poland is relatively mountainous, the soil quality is poor, and shortly after the 2nd World War, 250,000 people were forcibly relocated and their villages destroyed. Not a happy scenario.

The San river rises on the border with the Ukraine and runs for 430km so it is longer than the Severn or the Thames. The rainfall in the mountains is of the order of 2000mm per year which is about 5 times that in East Anglia. There is snow on the mountains for half the year so I expect the melt water is a bit on the chilly side. San means "fast" and it should be no surprise to find that it flows at 5m/sec. in some areas. Hook even a modest fish and they stick out their fins and go with the flow leading to a prolonged battle.

A dam was built at Solina in the 1960's in order to generate hydro electric power. The resulting reservoir

at 2100ha and shaped like a ragged inverted Y, is the largest concrete dammed lake in Poland. Despite the fact that the water level can change by 10m in a week, it also happens to be a well established leisure area. Does that sound like wilderness? The lake feeds Myczkowce reservoir immediately below it. The water is released from the bottom of Solina reservoir and is very cold and after flowing through Myczkowce, is subsequently released into the river. I wonder what effect this has on the fishing?

The river above Solina follows a tortuous path through a heavily wooded valley. Below the dams the river widens to 100m which is fully wadeable. This is the "No Kill" sector. The angler still has to find the shoals of grayling even though the river is reckoned to contain millions. The grayling are more golden than those in the UK and tend to be difficult to spot against the sandy bottom of the river. Jeremy has caught them up to 58cm in length which he estimated to weigh 4lbs. At the back end of the season, the male fish develop an electric blue stripe on the dorsal fin, which is truly spectacular.

There are other fish in the river notably brown and rainbow trout, dace, barbel and huchen. I noticed a few eyes roll at the thought of the last two. Huchen, also known as the Danube salmon (an endangered species according to Wikipedia), are carnivores which can sometimes be tempted with a large nymph but are more likely to be encountered sweeping in to steal a hooked fish from the angler. As huchen can weigh up to 30kg, this is quite a frightening experience by all accounts. I can't find any info on catching huchen on the www. Does anyone know better?

Jeremy uses a 9' #5 Vision 3 rod which seems a bargain at ~£100. Although described as a travel rod, it is in fact 3-piece which might present stowage problems under the present BAA rules and regulations. He is also currently designing a 9' #5, 4-piece rod in conjunction with Fulling Mill. Personally I have been very impressed by the 7-piece #9 Sage (?? shouldn't this read Orvis? Ed.) Frequent Flyer rod owned by Norman Shippey. Maybe the #5 in the series would lack the softness preferred for grayling fishing. Jeremy has found that dark lines and dull rods were essential when tackling grayling in the ultra clear water of the San. Grayling succumb to the well-publicised Czech nymphing technique. Typically Jeremy uses sacrificial flies incorporating 3.8mm tungsten beads. I worked this out at about 0.5g compared with 4g for a 1p piece. That hardly seems heavy enough to me but what do I know? Fish also rise on the San even when it is snowing. Tiny flies imitating olives and fished on a long 2lb bs leader is then the preferred method. I would have liked to know more about fishing techniques especially the use of hi-tec braided leaders favoured by carp anglers which seems to contradict the general view held

nowadays that "invisible" fluorocarbons are essential.

So how do you get there? Well, it is a 1700km car journey from our area which doesn't sound very sensible. Ryanair fly to Rzeszow (book for Barcelona - Ha! Ha! only taking the michael, Mr O'Leary) from Stansted, a journey of around 2? hours followed by another 2 hours drive south to the San. The best idea is to go with the package organised by Wilderness Flyfishing run by Jeremy and associates. A 7-day all inclusive package costs £895 per person which gives 6 full days fishing *providing* the conditions are suitable. Jeremy spoke with much passion and concluded by urging anglers to visit the San whilst it still exists in a pristine condition.

The following web sites might be of interest:

[HYPERLINK "http://www.Wilderness.com"](http://www.Wilderness.com)  
[www.Wilderness\\_flyfishing.co.uk](http://www.Wilderness_flyfishing.co.uk) - contact details for Jeremy.

[HYPERLINK "http://www.googlemaps.co.uk"](http://www.googlemaps.co.uk)  
[www.googlemaps.co.uk](http://www.googlemaps.co.uk) - the satellite images of the area nicely show the topography.  
<http://travel.valek.net/browse> - provides Ordnance Survey quality maps of the area.

[HYPERLINK "http://www.ilternet.edu/networks/poland/"](http://www.ilternet.edu/networks/poland/)  
<http://www.ilternet.edu/networks/poland/> - interesting review of the ecology of the river.

[HYPERLINK "http://www.lemko.org/lih/travel/beskid/html"](http://www.lemko.org/lih/travel/beskid/html)  
<http://www.lemko.org/lih/travel/beskid/html> - concise survey of the area for tourists.

#### Acknowledgements:

The contents of this article are based on the talk given by Jeremy Lucas but also include views of the author.



**Some of John Wadham's flies tied for Pike**

## THE COMPETITION SCENE - Our Club Captain, Graham Williams reviews the AMFC 2006 events

It's that time of year again – the time where many anglers put away their rods and contemplate the successes and failures during the past season. As the Invicta organiser of the AMFC matches, our new editor has asked me to review the matches fished during the past season.

For those of you who may not be aware (although there is no excuse for not being aware of the AMFC if you read our newsletter and check out the Invicta website [HYPERLINK](http://www.invictaffc.org.uk/) "http://www.invictaffc.org.uk/" <http://www.invictaffc.org.uk/>) the AMFC is a group of 16 clubs mainly located in the South and Midlands of the UK. We are organised into 3 groups, each group fishes a series of matches to decide promotion and relegation to the other groups. During the 2006 season Invicta were in the 2nd group along with Hanningfield, Queen Mother, East Midlands, & Bristol.

One of the aims of the AMFC is to give as many anglers as possible the opportunity to participate in these matches. To do this each angler is restricted to a maximum of 4 out of the 6 matches fished. This season Invicta had 16 anglers taking part and if we could push this up to about 21-22 anglers it would make it viable for the club to enter a second team, so how about it? If you're one of those who would like to participate give me a call.

This season we had a mixed bag of results but never finished last –

**Rutland Spring Association** – 3rd on a day when the rod average was 7.7 all the Invicta team finishing with 8 each

**Hanningfield Group Match** – 3rd Lawson Wight was one of only 6 anglers to finish on 8 fish

**Rutland Group Match** - 4th

**Grafham Group Match** – 2nd on a very hard day when the overall rod average was only 1.2.

**Chew Group Match** – 3rd Rod average of over 7 with John Mees sitting with his arms folded (and a very smug grin on his face) from about 11:30am

**Hanningfield Autumn Association** – 1st This result ensured that the club finished the season in 3rd place in the group.

It's difficult to pick out successful individuals due to the differing numbers of matches that each angler fishes but there are some worthy of mention – John

Mees recorded two full bags in three matches and made a good contribution in his third match. Carl Hunter also recorded two full bags in three matches but blanked in his third match at Grafham oddly enough – must try harder next year Carl!! Our top rod this year was our out-going Chairman Chris Mcleod who caught 19 fish in 3 matches. The 16 club members who fished in the AMFC caught a total of 148 fish – a rod average of 4.63 Many of the matches were very close at the weigh-in so I think it's true to say that every fish counted and all those who took part, if only for one match, played their part – well done to everyone.

I mentioned earlier that one of the aims of the AMFC is to involve as many club members as possible in the competition. Another aim, and the one which I think is the most important, is to enjoy your fishing with new acquaintances from the other clubs. Those of us who have been fishing the AMFC competitions have made many new friends and it is rare to visit any of the Southern/Midlands reservoirs without bumping into a friendly face – very useful in obtaining the latest fishing information before venturing out onto the water.

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## SOME GOOD NEWS

Today (November 1st, 2006) is a momentous day for Irish Salmon Angling.

A meeting of the Cabinet of the Irish Government today accepted the report of the Independent Salmon Group established to examine the Implications of Alignment with the Scientific Advice for the Commercial Salmon Fishing Sector in 2007 and Beyond.

This means a complete cessation of drift net fishing or any other form of harvesting outside rivers and estuaries.

Further details will be posted on the News Page

[<http://www.ireland-salmon-fishing.net/News/News.htm>](http://www.ireland-salmon-fishing.net/News/News.htm)

# THE 37 YEAR ITCH?

- Peter Reeves

Many years ago, it was 37 or thereabouts, I fished for a number of seasons the upper stretch of the River Stort on the Herts/Essex border. The fishing was a very agreeable contrast to the reservoirs and the use of light tackle a joy although the fishing for wild browns and stocked rainbows could be challenging - especially after the stocked fish survivors had settled in. The work parties were a thorny issue since most members seemed to adopt the view that only the committee were eligible and the committee meetings overly obsessed with bank side gardening regimes. Then a series of unhelpful events, you know marriage, children, moving away ... that sort of thing conspired to prevent these idyllic bank side wanderings.

The last few years fishing principally the AW waters, developing age and infirmity has encouraged my tackle to get progressively lighter # 8 down to #7 and with the acquisition of a Hardy MkII Swift #6 early this season (a rod I have come to love) I like that feeling of 'a firm handful of nothing' and got to wondering where it may end. It also brought back memories of stalking fish on the river Stort with a Hardy JET #5 weight outfit and I realised that I missed it. Considering the difficulties of finding this sort of fishing in this area I became despondent but then remember receiving something that I considered a more promising item of junk mail, "Reel Life" from the Environment Agency. Flicking through its pages I came across fly fishing for brown trout on the River Lark. Following this information up I discovered that it was administered by the Lark Angling and Preservation Society with some five miles between Lackford Bridge and Barton Mills. I hastily made my way to take a closer look and liked what I saw. I was subsequently kindly offered just prior to the season end a guest day ticket which was accepted with alacrity.

Now crawling through and kneeling in stinging nettles whilst casting into overgrown streams may seem a strange way of enjoying oneself in later years but enjoy it I did. Not that there was too much casting I was happy just to be there stalking and observing the wild or effectively wild brownies cavorting with spawning obviously uppermost in their minds. I certainly am looking forward to next season as a member. For those who may share this particular form of mental instability contact Mr. John Anderson (treasurer of L.A.P.S.) on 01223 891623. Meantime I am looking forward to christening a new #3 weight outfit over the winter period hopefully on the Test and/or Wharfe in pursuit of Grayling and wondering casually how it may respond to an enraged 2lb Grafham stockie next season.



The River Lark pictured near Tuddenham

## OVERHEARD ON THE WATER ???

"All of my flies are barbless... my boat partner insists on it."

"Well, I have no problem with the second part of catch and release."

"No, no. I really feel that size is really NOT important."

"I had a very interesting chat with an 'anti' in the pub yesterday."

"I have no real objection to goldheads, it's just that I bruise easily"

"I don't care about not catching fish - it's just a pleasure to be here."

"Go on, cover it! It's only 40 yards away."

"Please, please, don't apologise - a 7 piece rod is much easier to bin!"

"Nice fish eh? I caught it on a dry goldhead"

"Well, I find that dropping my back cast gives me two chances."

## INVICTA NOTICEBOARD

### ADVANCE NOTICE

The Invicta Annual Dinner will be held this year on Saturday, February 24th at the George, Babraham just south of Cambridge off the A1307. Please make a note of this very popular annual event. Details to follow.

### FOR SALE - IDEAL XMAS GIFTS

Two Okuma Integrity wide arbour fly reels with spare spools for lines 5/6 & 7/8. New, never had lines fitted.

£30.00 each or £55.00 for both

Apply Norman Shippey  
Tel: 01954 250552.

THE **AGM** WILL BE HELD AT HARSTON VILLAGE HALL ON **1ST FEBRUARY** FOR REPORT, FINANCES AND ELECTION OF COMMITTEE. Please try to attend this important meeting as several members will be stepping down and will require new replacements. Perhaps an opportunity for YOU to take a greater part - think about it and possibly discuss with a committee member beforehand.

## THIRTY YEARS AGO.... A look at some earlier Invicta newsletters

From Newsletter No.1 (June 1976)

“The next meeting of the club will be held at Grafham Wednesday 9th June At Hill Farm car Park at 7 pm. It is proposed to fish the bay between Hill Farm and Church Hill Cove point. The member catching the largest trout between 7 and 9 pm will be awarded a bottle of Sherry, subject to the receipt of entry fee of 15p prior to the event.”

“A block booking on behalf of 15 members of the club has been made at Elinor Trout Fisheries. As the fees need to be paid in advance to secure the booking, it would be appreciated if members who have intimated they would be attending would send the remittance of £2.50 to the Treasurer as soon as possible. The secretary will provide maps and organise a lift sharing scheme within the next few days.”

From Newsletter No.2 (November 1976)

“About a dozen members shared a disastrous evening trip to Grafham last June. Church Cove proved unfishable due to an unpleasant combination of high wind and mud slicks. Members retired to the Montagu Arms between 6.30 and 11pm. No one had a take let alone a fish.”

“Thirteen members of the Club visited Elinor on 20th June. Several members schooled entirely on public reservoirs were tremendously impressed by the setting, the clarity of the water, the lush weed growth and the fact one could stroll round the lake in 40 minutes.”

“Chairmanship (Following Arthur Gavins move to Leeds.) The “Welsh bloke sitting by the wall” was proposed as chairman. Despite protests by Ken Lynch that he didn’t know anybody either, he was unanimously elected.”

## CORMORANTS... LOVE THEM OR HATE THEM!

It would be difficult for me not to have noticed in the past that very many anglers are also interested in ornithology. It is I suppose quite natural since we spend long periods outdoors, often with little else to do but view our surroundings.

There is a practical interest as well of course. Swallows, swifts and martins working the water reveal localised insect hatches and gulls and terns indicate where shoals of fry may be found. There is one bird, however, that engenders a quite different interest, that destructive invader from the Continent, the Cormorant. I am indebted to Norman Shippey for bringing the following extract from the Cambridge Evening News of September 1931, when 'that bird' was a rarity and sightings made the press.

*"Great interest has been excited at Ely by the arrival of a cormorant which has been perching on the western tower of the cathedral. Through powerful glasses, it appears a fine specimen, with long hooked beak, white breast and fine short legs. During the day it has been missing from its position, evidently in search of food, but each night it has returned. It is about four years since such a bird last visited Ely and selected the cathedral as its nightly resting place."*

I suppose all bird watchers get a buzz from spotting rare birds and anglers particularly would really relish the opportunity of spotting a truly *rare* cormorant once again! I wonder just how susceptible to avian flu cormorants are as the season for that must be almost upon us surely?



**It is worth remembering that a good hatch of cormorants can bring the better fish up**

## REFLECTIONS FROM THE WATER

Are tackle shops becoming an endangered species, I wonder.

One of the simple (and expensive) pleasures of all anglers, when not at the water, is rummaging through the stock of tackle shops and finding all manner of items previously not needed, in the company of like minded dysfunctional citizens. These days, however, such congenial temples to the noble art are becoming a rarity. OK, Anglian Water have them at their waters but the over-riding imperative there is not to leisurely peruse tackle and accessories but to get out and do some fishing.

There are mail order outlets of course with their seductive catalogues but the trend is now towards cyber-browsing web sites. Some of the sites are linked to mail order catalogues such as Sportfish ([www.sportfish.co.uk](http://www.sportfish.co.uk)) which offers a wide range and truly excellent service and Stuart Illsley of Rutland Tackle ([www.rutlandfishing.com](http://www.rutlandfishing.com)). Difficult as it may seem to improve on their responses, I feel that the service I have received from Ali Fazakerly at Flybuyer ([www.flybuyer.co.uk](http://www.flybuyer.co.uk)) truly exceptional even down to nuisance orders for a small packet of hard to find hooks where profit margin would be tiny in relation to the time spent searching for them.

In addition I have, against my natural inclinations, found the fly fishing section of eBay very interesting. There are some real bargains to be found here in new tackle if used selectively. I have bought 4 new rods over the last few weeks together with a reel, various lines (none of which I have an immediate need for), capes etc. I can totally recommend the eBay shops of Bunny Clark ([stores.ebay.co.uk/ALL-THINGS-FLY-FLY-FISHING](http://stores.ebay.co.uk/ALL-THINGS-FLY-FLY-FISHING)) for very competitive USA imports (Cortland, St. Croix, Orvis etc.) and also for fly boxes and sundries Game Fisher ([stores.ebay.co.uk/Game-Fisher-Shop](http://stores.ebay.co.uk/Game-Fisher-Shop)) and I hope you will find these as usefully productive as I have.

In addition do not forget the web as a source of variety in fishing. With the season now at an end for some people or about to end for others prepared to risk hypothermia braving the Anglian Water reservoirs in December, what about those black months of January and February.

You could consider fishing for grayling (or other coarse fish) on the Timsbury Fishings which offers a total of 3 miles of the River Test (main river and carriers) for £15.00 per day (email [jester.dear@ntlworld.com](mailto:jester.dear@ntlworld.com)).

Or maybe you fancy the Yorkshire rivers such as Wharfe, Nidd etc, for grayling or trout in season then check out -<[www.yorkshiredales-flyfishing.com/day-ticket-yorkshire.htm](http://www.yorkshiredales-flyfishing.com/day-ticket-yorkshire.htm)> or possibly Derbyshire<[derbyshirecountyac.org.uk/](http://derbyshirecountyac.org.uk/)> or if you feel the need to drool further check out the opportunities available from the Wye and Usk Foundation <[www.wyeuskfoundation.org/](http://www.wyeuskfoundation.org/)>

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## LAST CAST

Alan Prevost would like to share with you the picture of his pet green tench, savaged by a rogue heron, sent to me I suppose following publication of my latest work "Heron & Cormorant Breeding for pleasure and profit."

