

# INVICTA FFC

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NEWSLETTER 166

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Affiliated to the Angling Trust and the Federation of Midland Fly Fishers (Anglia).

## Obituary

We are sad to record the passing of David Barker after a long period of incapacity. David was a long time member and Chairman of GWWFA and a long and valued member of Invicta. He was a greatly respected and acclaimed angler who had earned the right to fish for England as a highlight to his many angling achievements. Our thoughts go out to his wife Lynne and family.

## Editors Notes

Plans to increase the number of editions of the Newsletter have so far failed to materialise so for the time being quarterly editions will have to suffice. I am indebted for the input of David Jones who has adopted the role of Club scribe as he continues to write up all of the Winter Programme events for us. For the record David is our only still active founder member and guided the club forward as Hon: Secretary for the first eleven and a half years of the club's life from 1976 to 1987.

Articles of interest for publication from members (humorous or serious) on the subject of flyfishing.

Fenland Fair 24<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> August

Quy Park, August Bank Holiday weekend, just off the A14, leave at the Bottisham exit. Now a 3 day event, it is a gathering which attempts to cover all aspects of country activities and

sports. Whether you are into eventing, heavy horses, rare breeds or gun dogs, it's all here. Invicta have had a presence here since the early 1990's and will present both a static display and a casting clinic again this year. John Caldwell is the organiser and would be pleased to hear from anyone with a couple of hours, or days, to spare to help with this event.

## River Mel update

The EA recently electro-fished a short stretch of the Mel at Meldreth. An encouraging variety of fish were present including 2 browns with a combined weight of 650grammes. (just under 1.5lbs?)

## At last, do we have the answer?



Photo sent from Canada by Graham Williams

It maybe that Anglian Water should have introduced bald eagles to Rutland Water

instead of ospreys as this one had just taken a cormorant!

### **A Member of Angling Trust?**

The Club is but are you?

The Anglers Consultative Association was born in 1946/47 to protect angling by use of Common Law. Over the years it became the A Conservation A and then, under the auspices of Angling Trust, and with another change of name to Fish Legal it continues its work on our behalf. It will take on anyone or any organisation thought to be responsible for pollution and, more recently, lends its resources to the threat from canoeists who claim they have the right of navigation on all rivers and the proliferation of hydro-electric schemes such as the Severn Barrage and the Sawley weir project on the River Trent. All three of these threats have now been halted.

Although perhaps not a direct parallel we should remember what happened as a result of the Industrial Revolution. As advantageous as this was to the country no one gave a thought for the environment with the result that only in the last 50 years or so are we righting the wrongs of that period in our history with most of our waterways now clean.

Is it worth less than the cost of a day fishing to support Angling Trust for a year?

### **Summer Fishing Programme 2013**

#### **Club Days**

Please note that although there is an element of competition in these events Members are permitted to opt out and fish socially. Inexperienced anglers may opt to fish with a friend or ask to be placed with an experienced angler.

It is important to register your wish to take part in these days with our Bookings Officer, John Caldwell as soon as possible.

#### **Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> July**

**Grafham** (Presidents Cup)

#### **Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> August**

**Draycote**

#### **Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> September**

**Ravensthorpe**

#### **Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> October**

**Hanningfield**

### **Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> November**

#### **Elinor**

This is a Fur & Feather match fished from the bank. Please bring a suitable prize in order that as many as possible depart with something.

Please note that all of these events qualify for the Carr Cup. (Except the Fur & Feather)

10 points are awarded for attendance at each venue and 5 points for each fish up to the fishery limit. One venue may be discarded at the end of the season to allow for holidays, work commitments etc.

#### **Results so far**

After just two venues competition is tight.

Venues so far:

Graham Bodsworth, Mark Searle	80 points
John Caldwell	70
Mick Facey, Gary How, Steve Middleton, Alan Prevost	65
Bob Ayres	60
Ron Lusardi	55
David Moore, Mike Smith	50
Alan Briggs, Steve Cracknell, Chris McLeod, John Mees	45
Andy Newman	35
Paul Heavens	30
Peter Oldham	25
Graham Williams	20
Peter Hartley	15
Paul Stevens, Allan Sefton, John Krailing, Clive Bews	10

#### **Tuesday Evening Boat Event**

Commences 14<sup>th</sup> May to 13<sup>th</sup> August

Draw for partners and allocation of boats at 17.00 hours, start time 18.00 hours.

Again this can be treated as a purely social occasion not counting to the awards.

Non-member guests may also take part but will not qualify in the competition.

Refreshments are taken afterwards.

With no results to hand it can only be reported at this time that attendance has been low mainly due to the poor weather we have experienced since the first event in May.

#### **Association of Major Clubs**

Regular visitors to the Invicta website will know that we are suffering an 'information lag'. Our Committee are aware of this and are striving to correct the situation.

I have only the Round 2 results to hand where our two teams have struggled.

## Group 2 Chew

Invicta A finished in 5<sup>th</sup> place in spite of bags of 7 for John Mees and 6 apiece for Chris McLeod and Gary How.

## Group 4

Invicta B achieved 3<sup>rd</sup> place thanks to a noble effort by Lawson Wight with 8 fish backed up by Peter Oldham with 6.

## Pilgrimage 23<sup>rd</sup>/24<sup>th</sup> May

This event was marred by poor weather throughout the week but particularly on the Friday, the competition day when all boats were called off Grafham mid afternoon due to high winds. Fish were caught though and Llanilar took the trophy back after only one year of Invicta dominance. The after match dinner at the Racehorse, Catworth was the usual friendly, noisy and successful event.



**Steve reluctantly handing the trophy back to Llanilar's Tony Bevan**

## Other Events

Grafham Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> July.

Invicta/Snowbee Floating Line Match

This is a National team event sponsored by Snowbee organised by Invicta.

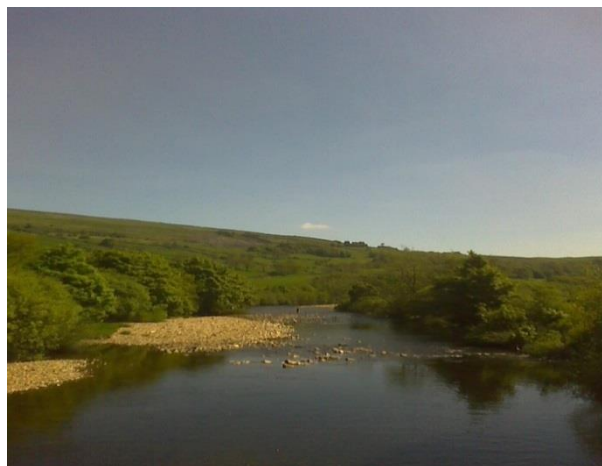
Grand Max 18<sup>th</sup> September

Pitsford 1<sup>st</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> September (Pairs)

## Fishing the River Swale

Peter Oldham and I recently spent two days on the Swale in North Yorkshire courtesy of the Reeth and District Angling Club. In spite of there seeming to be no shortage of rain so far

this year the river was down to 'bare bones'. In fact the EA had suspended their river level reports for the Grinton Bridge beat due to the water level being way below the lowest mark on the gauge. Below is Peter's shot of the river taken from Grinton Bridge. The Inn we stayed in is on the bank to the right hand side of the picture.



We fished 3 of their 5 beats and found the occasional fish but had there been much more water I am of the opinion the river would have been quite hazardous to wade due to, in most places, large rugby size rocks or areas of sloping slab rock. In low clear water this was a problem, in coloured deeper water, more of a problem. It was interesting to note, and the debris in the bankside trees confirmed, that in spite the water could rise 4.50 meters.

## **GWFFA Floating Line Competition** **Grafham Water 12<sup>th</sup> May 2013**

A new event to the calendar with an interesting formula, and fished in rather breezy conditions. Fished to floating line only, teams of six, with the best 4 bags in each team to count. The idea was to encourage those who had not fished in competition before to have a go. 10 teams took part. Prizes were awarded to the first person to catch a fish, the person taking the longest time before catching, this latter won by Invicta's very own Mark Searle at 16.10 hrs; although equalled by another Invicta, Paul Stevens who didn't get a prize, (the story of his life he claims!) Mark Haylock of Invicta Pink team had best bag with 8 fish for 22lb 7oz and Mike Smith of Invicta Blue had best fish of 5lb 15oz.

Full Results Table

<u>1.</u> Rutland	39 fish	78lb	15oz
<u>2.</u> RAF	31 fish	65	04
<u>3.</u> Invicta Blue	31 fish	64	07
<u>4.</u> Greenwells	34 fish	61	13
<u>5.</u> Grafham Emergers	31 fish	61	04
<u>6.</u> Grafham Appetisers	30 fish	60	00
<u>7.</u> Invicta Pink	31 fish	59	07
<u>8.</u> Grafham Drifters	25 fish	56	00
<u>9.</u> Grafham Bonefishers	26 Fish	50	01
<u>10.</u> Grafham Crunchers	26 Fish	48	06

Invicta Pink

Chris McLeod	1 fish	2lb	11oz
Graham Bodsworth	4	7	15
Mick Facey	8	16	12
Mark Searle	2	6	08
Kieran Bonas	8	20	13
Gary How	8	14	00

Invicta Blue

David Moore	8	16	00
Mike Smith	5	16	03
Paul Stevens	3	6	13
Mark Haycock	8	22	07
Steve Cracknell	3	8	03
Malcolm Reece	4	9	10

Account of the last Winter Meeting

By David Jones

David Moore on “The Future of our Sport”

Although David reckoned he was just a warm up act preceding John Mees, it soon became apparent the Angling Trust and Fish Legal was involved in a wide range of activities covering coarse, game and sea fishing. David Moore is a Volunteer Director on the Board of both units with special responsibilities for angling development.

There is a massive amount of work going on considering that the AT has only been in existence for just over 3 years. It ranges from lobbying at the highest level of Government (DEFRA & DCMS) to day-to-day bankside issues.

The European Water Frame Directive serves to assist in protecting and enhancing the quality of lakes, streams and rivers as well as coastal waters up to 1 mile from low water. Although the AT interest was originally focussed on ecological aspects through the

Environment Agency, it is now involved with Sport England, which has a requirement for

AT to increase regular participation in providing funding.

Areas where the AT is particularly active include invasive species (flora and fauna), access for canoes, tidal sluices restricting fish migration, hydropower installations, otters, seals and cormorants. Out of interest cormorants were made a protected species in 1974. Following a poster campaign aimed directly at MP’s, and the compilation of a massive dossier by AT, cormorants, hopefully will be placed in the nuisance birds category alongside magpies, pigeons and gulls.

Anglers should log into the AT website <http://www.anglingtrust.net/> to gain an insight into the range of activities. Current developments are often reported on Facebook and it is not unusual for an AT spokesperson to appear on the Today programme defending anglers’ rights. Current (10.03.13) message on Facebook relates to operation Clamp Down which is targeting illegal angling during the coarse fishing close season.

The AT operates under a Chief Executive, Mark Lloyd, with 30 permanent staff, as a company limited by guarantee. David serves as one of 10 unpaid directors, each with specific roles. 40% of the income generated by AT goes to Fish Legal (formally Anglers Conservation Association) that employs legal eagles, accountants and other pros to pursue fishing campaigns such as pollution etc. About 60 cases are going through the courts at any one time.

Recently, AT has been working with the EA to draw up a plan of action to protect the future of angling, partly based on an extensive survey to which 30,000 anglers responded. The diagram shows a summary of the resulting plan which is made up of 4 elements:

<p><b>1. Hands up for the environment.</b> -- No fish – no fishing</p>	<p><b>2. Getting the fishing habit</b> How do I start? Take a friend fishing scheme</p>
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<p><b>3. Creating community waters.</b>  -- Park lakes – instilling a positive attitude to angling  --Restoring silted up, neglected waters.</p>	<p><b>4. Transforming and changing people’s lives</b>  --- the social beneficial effects of angling have been proved beyond doubt.</p>
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The targets include to increase the number of anglers and to get them fishing more often. To ensure improved information is available for new anglers and to improve access to waters. Increase the number of competitions. Here they are talking not so much about the well run elite operations on the Midlands Reservoirs but more family friendly events. The objective here is to dispel the idea that angling is a lonely activity. Attempts are being made to increase fish stocks. A couple of barriers to expanding angling were identified, namely the cost of travel and the reluctance of parents to allow children to stray far from home. David praised the efforts of John Bailey on the Mr Crabtree programme on Quest TV channel 38 in showing what can be done by introducing children to angling through the family environment.

A survey showed that 4 million persons across the UK participate in the sport including sea anglers. Just 1.3 million buy a licence! 1 million fish once a month and 134,000 once a week. 300 anglers are in a talent pool that already are or are likely to fish representing their country. These figures play an important part in influencing Sport England to fund grass roots angling activities. These funds may not be forthcoming unless more participation at the once a week level is established. Finance comes from 14,000 individual members of the AT: there are 1,400 clubs which further represent another 300,000 anglers. Cash also comes from the tackle trade and the EA. The EA income from the licence sales is ring fenced but it is a mere £30 million out of a total budget of £1,000 million. The EA think that licence evasion amounts to 5% although a check at Hanningfield last season bumped this up to 30%! It was generally thought by our members that there were insufficient checks by bailiffs.

The age profile of anglers showed two peaks, one around 45 and another around 65 years which were thought to reflect changing family circumstances. AT is targeting these age

groups in their efforts to promote the sport. The Tuesday Evening league at Grafham, run by Invicta, was regarded as a superb model for other clubs to adopt in encouraging regular participation in angling. David was very bullish on the participation of kids through schools especially in Norfolk. AT are active in supplying coaches. The trout fishing

community have been particularly successful in guiding youngsters along the Talent Pathway scheme resulting in a number of former juniors participating in senior teams.

David posed a few questions to our Members

1. Do we have clear ambitions and strategies to maintain and grow the Club?
2. What will our Club be like in 10 years time?
3. Is the membership stable and are we doing enough to attract and retain new members?
4. Do we know about the East of England Angling Trust Forum to be held on 20<sup>th</sup> April 2013?

<http://www.anglingtrust.net/page.asp?section=844&sectionTitle=East+of+England+Forum>

5. Are we involved in National Fishing Month? 19<sup>th</sup> July – 26<sup>th</sup> August 2013.

<http://www.nationalfishingmonth.com/news-and-events-updates/national-fishing-month-a-great-start-despite-the-weather/>

Have we asked for support from our Regional Officer?

Finally, David urged that we joined the AT as individuals in order to provide more funding. After all, their activities are in direct proportion to their revenue. No other organisation exists to stand up for and support angling.

David went to another topic in praising the lucid writing contained in the book published by club member, Allan Sefton. “Getting started at Fly Fishing for Reservoir Trout” might not seem relevant to many Invicta members but the contents are bang up-to-date. At around £6.00 for the paper-back edition it is

a must read! It should be available from Amazon towards the end of March 2013.

David Jones, always eagle eyed on detail, noticed the projector David Moore was using, an Acer DSV 0008, which performed perfectly adequately for the presentation, cost a mere £169.99! Wow! It wasn't so long ago that these cost thousands.

### **Prospects for Grafham 2013**

#### State of the Reservoir?

As at mid-March the reservoir is currently about 1 metre below top level but expected to be full by mid-April. Most of the bank erosion work has been completed although further work is planned on Long Bank in August. Access through the rocky banks may prove difficult but this may be addressed mid-season when the water level falls again. A geosynthetic matting, Enkamat, has not proved successful in certain areas of Pitsford where it has been undermined by wave action: the matting is only really effective when it becomes impregnated by rooted vegetation.

#### What will happen to the Killer Shrimp population found on the north shore at the end of last season?

John thought they may have migrated to deeper water during the winter. Recently large numbers were found around the buoy mooring chains. Expect the shrimp to return inshore from mid-July onwards. He had not seen any native shrimp (gammarus) and presumed they were no longer present in Grafham

#### Will drogues still be supplied in the boats?

Yes and another 23 have been purchased in the last few days.

#### What time will the reservoir close at night?

Probably later than either Rutland or Pitsford – maybe as late as 10pm depending on time of year, but designed to allow bank anglers to sterilise their tackle before leaving the venue.

#### How are bookings going?

Season Tickets are selling well. Lots of boats booked for May and June but the participation in competitions may be lower compared to previous seasons. Possibly a difficult season ahead financially.

#### What stocking has been done?

The same number as last season have been ordered. 90,000 Rutland, 50,000 Grafham, 30,000 Pitsford and 10,000 Ravensthorpe. Costs have been held despite the closing of the Peruvian Anchovy fishery last autumn (principal source of fish food). Blue trout are not readily available in bulk but a few were

spotted in a recent stocking at Grafham. The proportion of browns this year is probably higher than in previous seasons but the catch limit will remain at 1 and the standard close season for browns will apply.

#### How many boats will be available?

40 boats on opening day but this will increase to 50 as this is the minimum requirement for the English National. Some boats will be the larger 16foot Coulam boats as at Rutland. There is a plan to replace all of the boats but this is expected to take 10 – 12 years.

#### What has happened about the Restaurant?

It has been taken over by new management and will open on April 1<sup>st</sup>. It is thought the new tenant previously ran the catering at the Pitsford Country Park.

At the conclusion of questions John distributed the 2013 edition of Hooked which contains contact details, charges and other details of the fishing on Anglian Water reservoirs.

Another contribution from Canada. Graham Williams, with unknown companions, showing off the results of an obviously successful day out.



## Another Contribution from Graham

Books by Roderick Haig-Brown

Those in bold type Graham has read and recommends, some of the list are childrens books

Silver: The life story of an Atlantic Salmon.  
Pool and Rapid,

Panther,

**The Western Angler,**

**Return of the River,**

Timber,

Starbuck Valley Winter,

**The River Never Sleeps,**

Saltwater Summer,

On the Highest Hill,

**Measure of the year,**

**Fisherman's Spring,**

**Fisherman's Summer,**

**Fisherman's Fall,**

**Fisherman's Winter,**

Mounted Police Patrol,

Captain of the Discovery,

The Farthest Shores,

The Living Land,

Fur and Gold,

The Whale People,

A Primer of Fly-Fishing,

The Salmon,

Bright Waters, Bright Fish,

Alison's Fishing Birds,

Woods and River Tales,

The Master and His Fish,

These videos may be found on youtube. Those featuring this author are not very good quality were filmed in 1967.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LPONC6XKaCg>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YMtTydw5da>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gmF-JxtZenE>

### Other Authors

#### **Lani Waller**

A Steelheader's Way: Principles, Tactics & Techniques,

River of Dreams,

#### **Norman Safarik & Alan Safarik**

Bluebacks and Silver Brights

This is about the history of commercial fishing in the NW Pacific region and is quite an eye-opener on why there are so few salmon returning to spawn in British Columbia, Washington and Oregon States,

### **James R Babb**

Crosscurrents

River Music

### **Ed Quigley**

In the Company of Rivers

### **David Adams Brown**

Lines on the Water

### **Every street should have one of these!**



This replica WW1 Mk4 tank appeared on my near neighbour's drive recently. Yes he is something of a WW1 history anorak. This is not quite full size, it was built for a stage production I believe, but it is self powered and is being altered to more represent the original design features.

Today, Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> June, now complete it trundled out of the street under its own power at 8am to appear at the Cottenham Family Festival on the Green.

### **The next Committee Meeting is scheduled for Monday 8<sup>th</sup> July/**

Any questions or comments to Paul Stevens ASAP please.

Fisheries are not impressed when we cancel booked boats at short notice or ask for extras. So it is important to inform us well in advance of your wish to take part.

Suggestions for subjects and guest speakers are welcome. We need to book the more popular ones well in advance.

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