

# INVICTA FFC

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NEWSLETTER 167

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

## **Editor's Notes**

As a club we are enjoying a successful and satisfying season. Membership is holding firm, a good "pilgrimage" even if the weather wasn't kind, our AMC teams have found some success and the Invicta/Snowbee Floating Line day really raised the stakes for anyone contemplating a similar event.

Peter Oldham accepted the challenge of organising the Winter Programme, the result of which will provide interest across all areas of our sport.

Articles and photo's of a fishy nature are always welcome. Letters or suggestions for events or speakers would be helpful.

Early Warning for your diaries.

Our Annual Dinner, the highlight of our social year is scheduled for Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2014. Venue is St Neots Golf Club. Members, wives, partners and friends are all welcome. All booking details will be included in our next Newsletter.

## **Summer Fishing Programme**

Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> September  
Ravensthorpe

Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> October  
Hanningfield

## **Winter Programme 2013/2014**

### **2013**

Thursday October 10<sup>th</sup> 2013

**Wendy Gibson** (Flies by Wendy)

One of the foremost fly tiers in the UK, Wendy will help with any problem areas in fly tying. She will also bring a range of materials for sale.

Thursday October 24<sup>th</sup>

**Chris McLeod** who will tell us of his recent times on Grafham and how we can continue the season with success.

Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> November

**Mick Huffer** \_Well known author and trout guru. Buzzers and Emergers – How to tie, How to use.

Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> November

**Fur & Feather day at Elinor**

Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> November

**Martin Collis** from the successful Bristol team, will give advice on how to succeed with light lines and dry flies.

Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> December

**Cliff Waters (fishypics)** The main man for piscatorial photos and records of trout fishing events.

### **2014**

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> January

**Arundel House Hotel**

A get-together for all old and current members.

Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> January

**Philip Sheridan, of Tenkara Days.**

Tenkara.....what it is, flies used, how to do it.

Thursday 6<sup>TH</sup> February

**Stuart Illsley & Marion Sweeney.**

Stuart will tell us of new tackle and materials, which will be for sale, and Marion, Eyebrook Manager, will forecast the coming season there.

Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> February

**Annual General Meeting**

A chance for you to air your views or, better still, get yourself nominated for the Committee, come on board and show us where we have been going wrong!

February 22<sup>nd</sup> February

**Invicta Annual Dinner at St Neots Golf Club.**

Thursday March 6<sup>th</sup>

**Adrian Freer. “Valuable Information from the Fishes Mouth”.**

Autopsies and Matching Food

Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> March

**Quiz night** with Chris McLeod in the chair



## **The Invicta/Snowbee Interclub Floating Line Competition**

Report by the Editor

17 teams of 4 anglers accepted an invitation to fish this match. Generous sponsorship by Snowbee and excellent organisation by our small sub-committee together has resulted in this event fast becoming a notable addition to the list of national competitions.

A well thought out programme has been developed for the whole day to ensure all angler needs and comforts are catered for. Team captains provide lists beforehand of lunchtime beverages for their team for a smooth operation.

A briefing by John Mees on the jetty sees the boats away from 10am to 1pm, an excellent ploughman's lunch provided by our new tenant in the Lodge restaurant, out on the water again until 6pm, weigh-in and dinner again provided in the Lodge. Finally the presentation of awards, a dazzling array of prizes to grace any competition. Clothing and equipment by Snowbee, presentation engraved glassware, packs of beer, crates of wine, money vouchers and more provided by Invicta.

A day of light winds and bright conditions resulted in low catches although, as usual, one or two anglers found the fish and the method.



**Simon Kidd & John Mees see off the boats**

## Results

<u>Tunbridgewells Youth</u>	11 fish	31lb	06oz
<u>Invicta B</u>	5	17	05
<u>Hanningfield</u>	6	16	10
<u>Queen Mother</u>	4	13	10
<u>Bristol</u>	5 fish	12lb	15oz
<u>Invicta C</u>	3	8	11
<u>Greenwell Persuaders</u>	3	8	10
<u>Tunbridgewells Geriatrics</u>	2	6	00
<u>England Ladies</u>	1	4	00
<u>Bewl Bridge</u>	1	3	04
<u>Invicta D</u>	1	2	10
<u>GWFFA Red</u>	1	2	09
<u>GWFFA Blue</u>	1	2	03
<u>Invicta A</u>	1	1	09
<u>Old Bill</u>	0		
<u>Soldier Palmers</u>	0		
<u>Orvis Team Rutland</u>	0		

### Runners Up                      Invicta B

Mark Searle,  
John Mees  
Mark Haycock  
Adam Worker

### A notable Invicta award winner

Lawson Wight shared Best Boat prize  
On account of his boat partner boating 7  
and Lawson 1

Best Fish 4lbs 14ozs  
Keith Nicholson, Tunbridgewells Youth

Top Rod 22lb 04ozs  
Keith Nicholson, Tunbridgewells Youth

Total Fish Caught 45

Rod Average  
0.66



**Simon of Snowbee & Andy Newman, our Chairman, at the Presentation**



**Chief Invicta Organiser, Gary How, with Simon and the most successful Lady Angler.**

### **Extract from email to Gary How from Simon Kidd of Snowbee**

*I know it's been said already but I wanted to feed back that it was a superbly well organised and clearly popular event on Saturday and a real pleasure to support. I know Gary has mentioned about expanding it perhaps next year, which would be good too, but whatever happens, the spirit of the match and the atmosphere in which it is fished must remain the priority. The fishing has been tough as hell for the last three years but equally, every year someone does the business and comes in with a bag full as Keith did on Saturday*



*to prove it can be done, despite the weather and conditions. As John Mees pointed out to me, it helps the Fishery at a time when it might otherwise be desperate too, so there has to be benefit in that for everybody.*



**The Trophy Winners**



**Team Invicta B collect their swag**

**Association of Major Clubs**

**Results to July/August**

In Group 2 Invicta A continue to do well having achieved top spot and 5 points at Grafham.

Mark Haycock set the pace with 8 fish for 27lbs 14ozs, an average of 3lbs 15ozs per fish. He was backed up by Kieran Bonas with 8 fish for 17lbs 6ozs,

Invicta A are currently in second place in their Group.

Invicta B managed 3<sup>rd</sup> spot in the Group 4 match at Rutland and are currently 3<sup>rd</sup> in a group of 4. John Caldwell had best fish of 4lbs 3ozs.

**The Carr Cup**

After 5 venues.

Graham Bodsworth	180 pts
Chris McLeod, Gary How	175
Mick Facey	150
Mike Smith	115
Alan Prevost	105
John Caldwell, Mark Searle,	
Peter Oldham	100
Steve Middleton	90
Bob Ayres	85
Alan Briggs, David Moore, John Mees	70
Paul Heavens	65
Andy Newman	55
Allen Sefton	45
Paul Stevens	40
Ron Lusardi	35
Alan Taylor, Graham Williams	20

**Pilgrimage 2013**

**Report by Steve Middleton**



**Steve & Glyn conduct the Presentation**

I suppose that 'pilgrimage' is the right word to describe this unmissable annual event that brings Invicta, Ilanilar from Aberystwyth and Leslie from Fife in Scotland together.

It is probably close to 30 years since I was persuaded by Norman to go down to Chew Valley to fish this, then new, event and I have glowing memories of the characters that we fished with and the quality of the dry fly fishing as it was in those days. Like all things in life things change and in recent years we have fished together at Grafham Water because this area now offers a greater choice of waters for our visiting friends.

Organising the event this year was the least of the problems since, regrettably, we couldn't organise the weather. We had difficulties in raising eight members to fish and, due to the economic situation there were only eight members in the Leslie team.



**John Roberts of Llanilar received a prize for using a sinking line for the first time in a career of 30years angling**

To Llanilar and Leslie this is not just a two day event, they arrive here on either the Saturday or Sunday of the previous weekend and fish all week, taking in Rutland , Pitsford and Grafham.

Between myself, Glyn Jones and Paul Cushnie we arrange to fish a practice day on the Thursday followed by a BBQ at the Wheatsheaf in the evening and a dinner at the Racehorse at Catworth in the evening of Friday, the 'match' day.

Anyone reading this report should take into account that this is not a deadly serious competition, it is more of a friendly match between people who, over

the years, have become friends and enjoy meeting and sharing experiences with some real characters where age is the only thing to have changed.

Invicta were the defending champions after taking the title last year so we had everything to fish for. We had planned for 7 Invicta members to fish on practice day, incidentally Bob Ayres birthday, and 8 members on Friday but that plan fell apart on arriving at Grafham because single anglers were not allowed on the water due to the weather conditions. The wind was gusting quite strongly and heavy showers were expected throughout the day. Mike Smith kindly, and sensibly, decided to drop out for the day so we paired up and set out onto the water.

The birthday boy and I went out together and I think it is fair to say that our enthusiasm for the day wilted within the first hour when conditions deteriorated and we were hit by a heavy hail storm. We battled on and caught a few fish but black cloud and curtains of hail caused us to shelter close to the jetty near G buoy to avoid the near gale force winds. I have a photo for Bob's birthday album of him holding a snow ball made of the hail stones piled up in the boat after one of the showers. We were glad to get off the water at the end of the day to seek refuge in the bar of the Wheatsheaf.

Our opponents had fared better than us and had caught quite a lot of fish in Sanctuary Bay and Valley Creek to the left of the Lodge. Having enjoyed a good BBQ and caught up on the days catches we were quite optimistic about the match on Friday, the only concern being the deteriorating weather condition that were forecast. Regrettably the forecasters are getting better and the conditions on Friday morning were exactly as predicted. The strong wind was from the North West and was forecast to increase and change direction to the North East with heavy showers. After much head scratching and concern by the staff we were allowed out at 9am. Wind force at the pontoon was

22mph, just below the limit of 24mph so it was decided we could fish but only in a restricted zone drawn between the tower on the north shore and the harbour. During these deliberations several people decided to drop out and head for home. In hindsight we should not have gone out because once the wind changed anything to the left of the line was the worst place to fish but the staff were adamant we should only fish this area.

The conditions were extreme out on the water, the north westerly wind was gusting near gale force at times but the west shore did provide some shelter in Valley Creek but a dragging anchor was still a problem and casting was not easy. We struggled to catch a few fish but in the back of my mind was the fact that once the wind started to swing round we would be totally exposed and unable to continue fishing. Sure enough by about 1.30pm the wind started to shift and we headed for the north shore in yet another heavy shower, easier said than done. By this time the wind was wild, we had a slow journey across the water into the wind, waves and rain requiring us to pump the boat out twice.

Although the north shore offered some slight protection from the wind but the wind continues to swing to the east and conditions deteriorated further. We did get the anchor to hold for a while but it was almost impossible to get your line out behind you when casting and the boat was taking a battering all the time.

Even in these conditions I got totally smashed by a fish which just about signalled the end for me. Shortly after this I got a phone call from Bob, very concerned and in a low state of panic. He and Dewi Rees had decided they had had enough and returned to harbour only to find that, due to the conditions, they couldn't get off the boat without assistance. By this time, around 3.30pm the harbour was taking the full force of the waves, Bob managed to put his boat seat onto the pontoon but it was immediately blown into the water, luckily he managed

to grab it before it sank. Bob sent me a message to go round and tell other boats in the area to collect at Hill Farm with a view to making our way to Hedge End and then crossing direct to the harbour downwind.

He also said that Alan Taylor was coming out in the rescue boat but the idea of being rescued by a knarled 70 year old Lancastrian put the fear of God into me and my first thought was to swim for it however I couldn't leave my good friend, Henry Russell, to the mercy of the elements and Alan Taylor. Thankfully all made it back safely but what a day. Without doubt the worst day I have ever experienced on Grafham! We were all exhausted by the time we arrived at the Racehorse for dinner where the car park was under a blanket of hailstones.

The evening was as eventful as ever and although the result was irrelevant considering the events of the day Invicta lost the title to Llanilar. In summing up a short speech of thanks the Welsh Wizard, Tony Bevan, said we should be grateful for the quality and choice of fishing that we have in this area, it is second to none in the country.

Ironically Alan Taylor, manning the rescue boat, came off worst by falling in the boat and suffering a nasty injury.

### **More on Cormorants**

Following is an extract from a report in FlyFishing & Flytying.

After 3 years of campaigning the Angling Trust has won the right of angling clubs and fishery managers to protect their fish stocks from predation by cormorants and goosanders.

### **New measures:**

1. No set limits on numbers that may be shot.
2. Cormorant and goosander numbers will be assessed annually on a catchment basis.
3. 4 advisors to be appointed to advise fishery managers. These

will be employed by the DEFRA and EA.

4. The scheme will continue annually as long as the conservation status of the birds is not threatened.

I've no doubt this is only one small step and, equally, I've no doubt much squealing will be heard from the bird lobby!

Is there not something both dictatorial and slightly dishonest the RSPB can justify the shooting of certain bird such as the magpie which may be predated fluffy little garden birds but turning a blind eye to the cormorant and goosander situation?

Many years ago a story went round that pike were predated dab-chicks, not for long they weren't!

If it wasn't for such groups as the Angling Trust, Fish Legal, WTT, the Grayling Society, S & TA, hundreds of angling clubs and, not forgetting thousands of ordinary anglers acting as early warning and combatting pollution where would the kingfisher, the dipper etc. be? Dead rivers are no more good for the bird lobby as for anglers. A pity the RSPB don't see it that way.

I was incensed to read in the February edition of Birds, the RSPB magazine, the CEO, no less, referring to "the shooting of two hen harriers on the Sandringham Estate in October" It had been established at this time that no evidence had been forthcoming yet it was still being peddled as fact. Later I received a copy of the Mendip Messenger for April and a repeat article was contained therein. This paper serves the Bristol and Bath area.

I wrote to query the assertions in these articles and was told, Quote "It is rather a case of not being able to please all the people all of the time" and followed by "was not treated in a really sensational way, as there was nothing more to add, no evidence was found" Are they saying that the statement "the shooting of..... is not sensationalist?"

According to my correspondence there were 367 cases of deliberate bird-of-prey shooting, trapping, poisoning and nest destruction reported in 2006. This begs the question.....surely one of these 367 cases would have made better case in the interests of birds than one where there is an admission of no evidence?

All quotations are either from correspondence with RSPB or from their magazine "Birds".

**The next Committee Meeting is scheduled for Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2013. Questions for the Committee should be with the Paul Stevens, the Minutes Secretary well before that date.**

**On the subject of Club Trips. These are social events with a modicum of competition if you require it. Newer members are encouraged to take part. You may specify someone you know as boat partner on several events or request boating with an experienced angler. In some competitive events partners are decided by a draw but, of course, you are not compelled to compete so can treat the day as a social outing.**

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