



Newsletter No.181 April 2016

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Editor's Notes

The committee are in the process of arranging speakers for next winter's evening meetings. We strive to offer a varied programme and would welcome any suggestions on content or speakers. If you have any suggestions please contact Peter Oldham p.oldham111@btinternet.com

We'd like to remind all club members who attend a Carr Cup trip, and come off the water ahead of the official finishing time, that it is your responsibility to inform either Mark Searle or Chris Mcleod of your catch result. Failure to do so may result in your catch being incorrectly recorded. We try and update the points table on the website within a few days of the match so please get in touch with Mark or Chris as soon as possible.

AMFC

A big thank you to all the 24 members who are making up our two teams this year with some representing Invicta for the first time. The first fixture is the Spring Match at Rutland Water when both our teams will be fishing so good luck to them. We are still a rod short for Bewl on Wednesday 11th May so if you aren't already fishing for one of the teams then this is a great chance for a trip to fish this attractive reservoir with a good stock of fish. If you want to join us then please contact me or Gary How who is captain for this match. David Moore davidmoore48@outlook.com

NEXT CARR CUP DATE & VENUE

RUTLAND – SATURDAY 14th MAY

This time of the year there should be some really good buzzer fishing, around the basin and up the south arm. Please contact Mark Searle to book your place.

The Invicta Floating Line Competition sponsored by Snowbee, Grafham 7th May

this is teams of four fishing floating lines only. It is fished 10.00-13.00 stopping for a ploughman's lunch and 14.00 - 18.00, then in for the weigh in, dinner in the lodge with prize giving. This is another excellent day with some amazing prizes kindly donated by Snowbee fishing tackle, not to mention the wonderful raffle. If you are interested in entering this competition please let Gary How gary@howbuilders.fsnet.co.uk know and he will fit you into a team. Gary tells me that currently he has 2 Invicta teams entered but there are still boats available for more teams.

Disclaimer: Statements, opinions and claims expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of Invicta FFC or of the Committee.

Any questions or suggestions on the running of our Club or ideas for subjects or speakers for our Winter Meetings should be sent to Paul Stevens for inclusion in a future Committee meeting. It should be noted that the programme needs to be finalised several months ahead.

Carr Cup Report

Round 1, Pitsford Reservoir Wednesday 6th April 2016 (by Chris Mcleod)

Although the weather had played its usual trick and decided to change from the balmy, buzzer fishing conditions of the previous couple of weeks, this first boat trip of the year saw a magnificent turnout of 29 members. Many members had met up for the now traditional breakfast, perhaps forgetting that they were getting a free lunch later? But this is now very much part of the day, and a chance to catch up after a long winter.

The weather was cold and blustery with squally showers interspersed with very bright sunshine which are precisely what we do not like to see on Pitsford. But early season is usually a fish bonanza regardless, and, for many, this proved to be the case. Not only was it windy but it was in the west, blowing straight up the Narrows. Strong westerlies on all our local reservoirs are bad news, but there was just enough north in it to allow comfortable fishing in the corner from the Causeway to Stilton Point, and luckily, there were a lot of fish there.

This was our 40th anniversary almost to the day, so organiser Mark Searle split the day into two with a lunch supplied by the celebrated Gordon Walker of the Ravensthorpe Chequers. This is always welcome on a chilly day and the question is always asked as to why other venues can't provide similar meals. No fuss, on time, efficient and delicious. Thanks Gordon.

The weather before lunch was kinder and boats did manage to venture out into the waves as far as the Gorse bank where some managed to do well. There were plenty of fish all along that North bank but it was tough going in the waves and most boats gradually congregated in the calmer waters where some had bagged up already. The idea was to kill 6 for the Anniversary Trophy weigh in, then release another 2 to give the standard Carr Cup maximum of 8 fish and 50 points. As is often the case, catching quickly and bagging up early does not result in the biggest bag. Those who caught after lunch did take slightly better fish which meant something like a two pound difference for 6, with one or two good ones amongst the stockies. All fish, though, were in very good condition and fought hard with an average weight of around 2 pounds each which is

very good. Thanks again Anglian Water for maintaining the high standards we have come to expect, but do not take for granted!

There were nine bags of 8 fish and thirteen anglers managed to catch 6, so a very good result given the conditions. Appropriately the top rod and trophy winner on the day was our esteemed chairman Andy Newman. His smile said it all, but he had a good bag of 15lb plus for 6 fish, including a lovely grown on rainbow of 4lb 4oz. Peter Hartley, proving he can catch on buzzers, was second and Steve Ottridge was third.

It was great to see some new faces and beginners, and doing well, particularly Sue Potts who took 5 fish and thanks to Gary How for helping her take them off the hook! But special mention goes to our founder member Dave Jones. He rarely fishes these days although he is active in club affairs and writes up all the winter meeting reports. But, suitably dressed for the harsh conditions, it was excellent to see him knocking out 5 fish. Let's hope that encourages him to come along more often.



Limited headroom through the causeway tunnel



Andy Newman being presented with his best bag and biggest fish trophies by Mark Searle.



THE 40TH ANIVERSARY TRIP TO PITSFORD **REPORT BY DAVID JONES.**

The weather forecast did not bode well for our trip to Pitsford. I was so convinced we would be restricted to the bank that I prepared for the worst and in doing so almost forgot my rods! In fact although it was windy and we experienced a few showers, the day proved to be quite reasonable and 15 boats set sail, all carefully negotiating the tunnel leading to the main reservoir. Keith Gilchrist drew the short straw and was my companion for the day. I could see he was well equipped with a large tackle box on wheels, a couple of rods and all the attributes of an experienced boat angler: he was in fact, a member of the Fish Hawks team. I was therefore surprised to find myself 2-up in a relatively short time. I had visions of a limit before lunch. Keith was having none of that and soon the silo opened and out flew the drone equipped with sonar, fitting of an electronics engineer from the RAF! Of course that is complete b*ll*x, added just to encourage you to read on!

The objective of this note is to record what I learnt on this trip which was not too difficult as I had not been afloat for many years.

My first lesson was to put my permit and licence away and remember which pocket I had used. That doesn't sound too difficult but I must have wasted a good 10 minutes searching the dozens of pockets to be found in the various layers of clothing I was wearing.

I then realised the benefit of being mobile before getting afloat. Quite a few anglers had wheels either on their tackle boxes or fitted on their thwart seats which were then used as a wheel barrow.

Given the forecast, I had just one strategy, simply to fish a size 8 black and green minkie on a sinking line, and keeping warm and dry! I only had 2 lures so another lesson was to replace flies after a fishing session.



My fish seemed to take as the lure was lifting off of the bottom which seemed to be pretty barren and weed free.

I had a bag in which to keep my fish as free issue from Trout Fisherman. You get what you pay for – the bag did not reach the water and in any case it was waterproof and would not sink! It managed to spew a load of water into the boot of my car on the way home. Yuk!! I will have to purchase a proper bag, a strap to lower it fully in the water and a tub in which to convey it home. So that is another reason why many anglers use a cooler box!

It inevitably rained and Keith mentioned that he had just reproofed his clothing. Silly me, I thought that these expensive waterproof outfits relied on a membrane such as Gortex. In fact they need reproofing especially if washed at a temperature above that recommended. I looked at a bottle of Grangers 2 in 1 treatment and noticed that it required a tumble dry to "set" yet the washing instructions on the garment warned against such treatment. Has anyone experience of reproofing? (I think most anglers when they realise that they have genuinely waterproof clothing they never wash it, it gets cleaned in the rain –Ed)

Such was the variability of the wind, I learnt the benefit of having an adjustable drogue in order to drift straight down the wind. I think I remember reading recently how to construct such an arrangement, and I will seek it out.

It was difficult to get the anchor to set and during one heavy blow we soon drifted out into the middle of the reservoir. I was extremely relieved that Keith's boat handling skills got us back into calm waters. In the meantime my thwart seat had skewed out of position. I later read the fishery rules and found that these seats must be strapped down. I have never ever seen this in action but one which I will adhere to in future. (I liked the fact that the reservoir rules were plainly printed on the back of the fishing permit).

The fishing was pretty quiet after lunch but inevitably flies were changed and tangles sorted. By now my fingers were numb and far from nimble. Tying knots was not made easier by the shiny bright aluminium background on my seat. A patch of Fablon might be useful here. I vaguely recall that river anglers tied up casts in advance and kept them on castellated plastic discs. In the



event of a foul-up it is simply a matter of cutting off the tangled rig and replacing it with the new made-up cast. I think I might look into this technique. (something which quite a few Invicta members already do – Ed)

The next day I was surprised to find that I was not full of aches and pains but I had a red conk! My stripping hand was swollen which I suspect may have been caused by an insect bite. Thus I think a simple 1st aid kit might have been useful.

I would like to thank Keith for looking after me. We both had 5 fish which was very pleasing for someone who cannot recall ever catching a limit.

Well done to everyone who turned up on what looked like a potentially dodgy day. An excellent venue. Thanks are also due to the committee who organised this special occasion: the hot lunch was particularly welcome.

Roll on another 40 years but somehow I think I must present my apologies in advance!

DavidGJones 12.4.2016

AMFC Dates and venues

R1 G2 & G3 Rutland	Sat 23 rd April
R6 G2 & G3 Chew	Sat 8 th Oct.

Group 2

R2 Bewl	Wed	11 th May
R3 Chew	Wed	1 st June
R4 Draycote	Sat.	16 th July
R5 Grafham	Mon	26 th Sept

Group 3

R2 Hannningfield	Thursday	7 th July
R3 Pitsford	Saturday	23 rd July
R4 Eyebrook	Saturday	20 th August
R5 Grafham	Thursday	8 th Sept

Contact David Moore for further information

davidmoore48@outlook.com

SUMMER PROGRAMME 2016

Carr Cup Dates and venues

EYEBROOK – SATURDAY 4th JUNE

Eyebrook reservoir. I would hope to be fishing nymphs and buzzers, ether by the dam or in one of the bays. If the weather is right dry fly works well, ether static or pulled through the surface.

GRAFHAM – SUNDAY 10th JULY

Grafham water this is our Presidents cup match, which will also incorporate an inter club match with GWFFA, we fish the day with our own club members, come in for a BBQ lunch and a chat, back out to fish the afternoon. We all come in for the weigh in at the lodge and results.

DRAYCOTE – SATURDAY 13th AUGUST

This is the club Carl Hunter bowl match. Draycote is a well stocked water and is often a good water for dry fly fishing, also has a good head of 3lb + fish, if you are lucky.

RAVENSTHORPE – SATURDAY 3rd SEPT

At this time of year this water can produce some very large fish which will also come up for the dry fly. As this is a smaller water than most, nobody is far away, so if you are finding it tough there is always someone close by to give advice.

GRAFHAM – TUESDAY 4th OCTOBER

This is our last Carr cup match for the season where the cup can be won or lost. Even if you are not in the running or not interested in winning the Carr cup just listening to all the banter between the few that are still competing is worth the trip alone, you will hear permutation of points that Albert Einstein would be proud of.

Other Invicta Dates and venues

ELINOR 6th NOVEMBER

This is our fur and feather match, more of an end of season get together. We start about 9.30 and finish about 16.00 and make our way to the pub for a warm up, drink and to sort out the prizes. For this trip we all bring a prize and we all get to take home a prize, as with all our trips this is a very sociable day with help and advice in abundance.

