

INVICTA FFC

WWW.INVICTAFFC.ORG.UK

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NEWSLETTER 173

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

Editor's Notes

The second newsletter in 2 months, don't get used to it!

I am asked to remind you that Club Subscriptions become due on January 1st.

A form is included with this newsletter.

Peter Oldham's excellent and varied Winter Programme alone make the £17.00 fee a bargain.

Steve Peterson from Fly Fishing Europe

by David Jones

Steve, like many of us, started fishing pond dipping for tadpoles and frogs, and progressing to hand lining in the sea off of the Northern Island coast. At the age of 7 he was taken out on his first deep sea expedition and managed to land a 3lb codling. The family elevated him to stardom which cemented his life-long love of fishing. Fly fishing was inspired by watching some anglers catching sea trout although attaching a fly onto a 15lb leader on a sea rod was not altogether successful; however by the age of 12 he was fully kitted out including a Babour jacket and deerstalker! He then moved with the family to England which facilitated a couple of years at Sparsholt College studying fishery matters. His first job was at a fish farm combined with bailiffing activities on the nearby River Dane. His first attempt to acquire more qualifications in 1994, initially as STANIC member, were thwarted by the fact that he was underage but he was awarded a near miss and further instruction eventually lead him to the AAPGAI qualification (Master casting instructor) – probably one of the youngest ever members at the time.

By now he had acquired plenty of contacts and soon he received an invitation to join Sportsfish at Thule where he became Assistant Manager and casting instructor. The clientele were very up-

market and *he reluctantly had to travel the world to acquire fishing experience in distant destinations!*

This was the kind of job you only dream about. 4 years on he received another phone call, this time from Hardy who offered him a job as Territory Sales Manager for the Midlands, Wales and Ireland. He left Sportsfish with a heavy heart but the transfer enabled his wife to return to her roots in Cheshire. He was struck by the lack of professionalism in the retailing of fishing gear (with the notable exception of the AW shops!). He had to handle a fault in the Angel fly rod which was prone to breaking. Nevertheless he was obviously well thought of and was invited to the post of the Head of Marketing at Alnwick. He was part of the team that introduced the nanotechnology based 3M composite Zenith and Sintrix rods which proved to be a massive success. However, hard times were ahead and coupled with redundancies at Alnwick and the dreary nature of Northumberland in the winter months, another phone call 18 months ago lead him to accept a job with Flyfish Europe as a self-employed sales agent.

OK so you have never heard of them? They import gear from Simms, Scott, Scientific Anglers, Waterworks Lamson, Loon, DeYoung and Smiths Optics. We were privileged to see kit not previously released to the public.



I was a bit shocked that as a self-employed guy, he had to purchase all of the gear on display! Total sales in the UK were said to be 5 times less than in Montana! However UK anglers were recognised as discerning users and originated ideas which proved invaluable elsewhere in the world. Hence we are seen as an important market

Top of the range waders from Simms will set you back £800. You should be able to find a pair which fits as they are available in 16 sizes. Peter justified the cost on the basis that they are acknowledged to be the best in the business. It is essential to ensure that waders are dry before being stored as certain microbes have been found to eat the pores out from Gortex which makes it permeable to water. Superlative waders need top of the range boots which come in at £239. Inspecting the boots showed the excellence of the construction. The design and construction was based on some scientific principles, the name of which escaped me! The boots were described as ultra-durable and provided superior ankle support. There was some discussion on the merits of various soles. Felt was considered to be best on rocks but is deadly slippery on wet grass. Felt soles are banned in New Zealand because of the perceived danger of transferring alien species between waters. The Boa was a new addition to the range in which conventional lacing was replaced with stainless steel wire tightened or released by turning a single knob.

A basic grade wader/boot package was available for £340.

He has set his sights on increasing sales on still waters on the basis that some boat anglers are taking more than 20 reels out in a competition. Lampson reels are traditionally thought of as the most expensive on the market. They have now introduced a budget model, the "Liquid" which incorporates pressure die cast components although you would not notice from the elegant lines. This will retail at £99 with spare spools at £45. They intend to do a package of a reel plus 2 spare spools housed in a robust fabric case for £140. A peculiar device alongside the reels turned out to be a cutaway drag mechanism which is the same as incorporated into their top of the range reels. These drags are recognised for their simplicity and effectiveness as the best in the business. Another nice touch were coloured rings which slipped over the drag housing to remind the angler what line was in use.

Scientific Anglers were the first to manufacture polymer fly lines which replaced silk. They are the market leaders in the USA but have slipped to around 3rd in the UK, something that Steve hopes to rectify. I note that he thought that Airflo made good *sinking* lines. Rio probably holds sway in the UK at the moment. A feature I like about Rio is that they provide a diagram showing the profiles of their lines. In fact SA do the same but you have to

look them up on their web site. Someone said that the cost price of manufacturing a fly line was less than £1 a piece and Steve did not disagree. He had a Scott rod for examination the finish of which was flawless. I was unsure of the type but it featured an unground blank and I do not think that they have gone down the nanotechnology route. Prices are comparable with top end Hardy products.

The Scott G4 Pro is the flagship wading jacket which was described in a recent issue of Trout and Salmon as "the most desirable clothing an angler can buy". Although a shell jacket, it was full of pockets and other essential features with input from Simms guides from all over the World. It was a snip at £499!



There are of course less expensive models. Some jackets were insulated with PrimaLoft which is a sort of synthetic down amenable to machine washing and highly rated. Undergarments were also available such as fleece pants for £160. If you have any change after purchasing this lot, you might care to treat yourself to a pair of pliers, intended for seawater use, a snip at £150. I wonder if they float?

In fairness to Steve he recognised that the gear he sells is expensive but justified it on the grounds that it was of the highest quality. Someone asked why the products were the same price in £'s in the UK as they were in \$ in the States. Steve pointed out that there were extra taxes in the UK, plus a warehouse in Rotterdam, and an unrivalled repair centre in Oslo, both of which contribute to a superb after sales service.

The full range of kit can be seen on Flyfisheurope.com and Steve can be contacted on steve@flyfisheurope.net.

Ed. Nylon snips were on offer for £36.00, whether they were made by Abel I know not but theirs are priced at £44.99 in this month's Trout&Salmon.

Winter Programme 2015

January 8th.

Invicta Social, Arundel House Hotel.

For this event please be aware the cut-off point for booking your place is Friday 2nd January.

It is unfair on the organiser and the caterer not to pre-book so consideration please.

January 22nd. Stuart Illsley.

Eyebrook Tackle. Stuart will tell us of the latest fly tying products and tackle for the forthcoming season.

February 5th. “My Favourite Flies.

Graham Williams will demonstrate Canadian patterns for Steelhead, Cutthroat and Salmon flies. Also, members will reveal their most successful flies over the last couple of seasons.

This will also include an introduction by **Oscar Boatfield** on his new Coaching and Guiding business. Oscar is also intending to include rod production at some stage.

February 19th. Invicta AGM.

Your chance to tell the Committee where they have gone wrong/or what they have done right. Failing satisfaction you could always get yourself nominated to join the Committee but be warned, there is a heavy workload and everyone gets their share!

February 21st. Invicta Club Dinner.

Will be held at St. Neots Golf Club and the cost will be £27.00pp. Details and booking form with this newsletter.

Please note this event is our social occasion of the year. You are welcome to invite Wives, Partners and Girlfriends (it's better if you don't bring all three!) and your friends are welcome. Please order but do not send Alan money for your **Wine Order**. That should be paid at the Bar on the night.

March 5th

Steve Cooper of Cookshill Flytying will talk on natural materials: the history of some of our favourite fly dressing materials, examining some of the folklore behind their origins and use. What determines the quality of specific materials and why some are in such short supply.

March 19th

The traditional pre-season quiz with **Chris**

McLeod in the chair.

Jack Perks Photography

by the Editor

This 23 year old gave a presentation at the recent Grayling Society Symposium in Derby. He is a dedicated wild life photographer and specialises in under water work. One of his projects is to film every species of freshwater fish in the UK in their environment.

He recently appeared on BBC Breakfast in company with Tim Jacklin of the Trent Rivers Trust and Tim Birch of the Derbyshire Wildlife Trust. He was attempting to film salmon mounting a weir on the Derbyshire Dove.

For several years the two Trusts with the EA seeded the Dove with 140,000 salmon fingerlings each year. This stocking has now ceased as mature salmon are regularly returning to the river and successful spawning is taking place on the evidence of the number of immature salmon present.

Incidentally the weir in question was about 100 meters up stream from where Alan Taylor and I were fishing on the Sunday of the Symposium. We were alerted to the presence of salmon at the weir by the number of amateur photographers and families passing to and fro during the day.

Jack's website is :

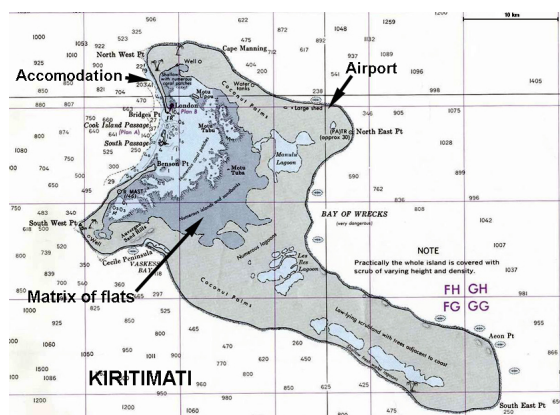
www.jackperksphotography.co.uk where links to his Facebook and Twitter pages can be found. He features many stills and some interesting video clips on Facebook including a few weeks ago under water footage of browns and grayling milling about together in the River Anton, a tributary of the Test.

A fishing trip to Kiritimati, Allan Sefton December 2014

by David Jones

A NOTE TO KITH AND KIN WHO ARE WONDERING WHAT TO BUY THEIR OTHER HALVES FOR CHRISTMAS. Allan Sefton's first bone fish trip was 20 years ago, the result of a gift from his wife! The ultimate Christmas gift – go do it!!

Allan's talk related to a trip he took in August 2014. This was his second trip and he rates it the most interesting place he has visited and, given Allan's wanderlust, that is saying something. Kiritimati (Kee-Ree-Mass) – formerly known as Christmas Island – not to be confused with the detention centre off of Australia – is roughly located on the equator, in the middle of the Pacific and about 1200 miles south of Hawaii . It sits in the trade winds which always blow according to Allan.



The weather is pleasant enough thanks to the moderating effects of the trade winds. Full protection from the sun is essential. Contrary to popular belief the atoll was *re-discovered* by Captain Cook in 1777, annexed by the UK in 1888 and granted sovereignty in 1979; English is the spoken language. It was not populated until 1912 when various religious groups moved in. The population is now 5000 but a sad fact of life, according to Allan, was that few people survive past 45 due to a preponderance of diabetes. (*Wikki says that the average age is around the mid 20's but life expectancy is at least 60 years*). Allan travelled with Frontiers, which cost \$2350 per person for double occupancy and a shared guide. Air fares were extra; the journey involved a flight from London to Los Angeles, on to Honolulu and down to Kiritimati (1 flight per week). Although Allan said that Frontiers were amongst the most expensive of the travel companies, he praised their competency. The air-conditioned cabins on the atoll looked perfectly acceptable to me. A great advantage of organised trips is that you can insist on going when the tides are ideal for fishing the flats.

Unlike Los Roques, Kiritimati remains unspoilt. The lagoon is the largest in the world and covers 320 km². As yet there are few tourists. There are three fishing operations each supporting 5 anglers so that it is unlikely that there will be more than 15 anglers at a time. Last August there were 4 anglers! The map is slightly misleading because the lagoon is filled with a mosaic of interlinking flats so that the shore line is immeasurably great. Anglers are taken to venues on home-made Polynesian style boats featuring an out-rider. Fishing the flats is then done by shallow wading. The sand is a dazzling white but the coral is deadly sharp and necessitates decent boots to avoid getting cut to pieces. A line raft was useful if fishing was conducted near the reef. The sea is usually transparent but a severe blow might generate some murky areas in which case a spinning outfit is essential if fishing is to remain productive. Long distance casting is not required at Kiritimati so that a 20 foot chuck would be considered sufficient. It does need to be accurate. A 7 weight rod would normally be

considered an ideal weapon. However, given the short casts it might be necessary to use a lower rated rod for it to be fully loaded by the short length of fly line in the air. A fluorocarbon leader with a 12lb bs tip would be the norm for these fish which weigh in at 2 - 5 lbs. The usual flies such as streamers, gummi minnows, and crab imitations are not the usual fare at Kiritimati. Flies tend to be on the small size – no larger than 10's, lightly tied on stainless steel hooks by Allan himself. The colour of the fly was chosen to match the sea bed. Note that the fly was tied to the tippet with a Kreh loop which allowed maximum articulation. Fishing is catch and release so the barb must be removed before use.



Allan made some interesting points about tackling bonefish. They are renowned for making long runs especially in shallow water. The advice is to stop them as soon as possible or they will spook all of the other fish in the area. Bonefish are notorious for being invisible. It needs practice and, according to Alan, you are unlikely to acquire the skill in just a week of fishing. Sometimes the fish are hiding in the weed. If it is sunny, the fish may cast a shadow on the sand. In shallow water, the fish in their attempts to explore the sea bed, may stick their tails out of the water. The tides are critical because shallow water offers bonefish protection from being chomped by cruising barracuda; aim for a rising tide.



Giant trevally frequent the flats where they cruise up and down the deep water inlets. These fish are aggressive feeders and a lure dropped in their vicinity will be taken with little discrimination and the angler will be faced with runs of 200 metres. GT's can weigh in at over 30kg. Tackle needs to be beefed up. Allan liked a Snowbee Blue Water

No.12 4 piece 9 ft jobbie. This model is currently on offer at £150. The reel was equally beefed up, also a Snowbee, which I think was a Geo, loaded to the rim. A 60-80lb.bs leader was required. An articulated fly was used. The fishing technique was to visit the flats on a boat. Hand the GT rod to the guide who might use it to point to potential quarry. The routes these fish take through the flats is well known to the guide but contact with them is relatively uncommon. Once located, the GT rod is returned and it is up to the angler to do the business. Not quite as easy as it might seem as the GT's move through the flats at a considerable speed. Allan did manage to catch a GT but it was of a modest size and succumbed to a spinner. A relatively undeveloped aspect of fishing on Kiritimati lies in the deep water beyond the reef. At present the guides are using their flats boats for trolling which are far from ideal. However, Allan noted the capture of two black marlin as well as yellow finned tuna, barracuda and GT's. The elusive milkfish lurking around the mouth of the lagoon and weighing in at 40-50 lbs, look to be an inviting quarry. There is a danger of this fishery being destroyed by legally authorised commercial operations from Japan, Korea and China. There is an alternative route to Kiritimati which might interest anglers visiting Australia/New Zealand. This involves a flight from Sydney to Fiji and on to Kiritimati. This will set you back about A\$1800. The contact in Aus is Nial Logan in Queensland and he is well worth Googling to reveal his numerous publications on the www.

Finally, I was encouraged to hear that Allan's attitude to the high cost of these trips was that they took you to wilderness areas and that alone is worth half the fee. For those who remain unconvinced I recommend Allan Sefton's book "Getting Started at Flyfishing for Trout" which retails at £5.99. I was delighted to hear that he has just finished a new text on salmon fishing. I will make that top of my reading list for 2015.

DGJ Dec 2k14

References

Frontier Travel

(http://issuu.com/frontierstravel/docs/swg_2015_swg_issuu?e=5749889/9902080)

Aussie Agent Nial Logan contact nial@learntoflyfish.net

www.thevillages.com does not work
www.learntoflyfish.net is an excellent source of information

Kiribati Tourist Guide - good for fishing photos
http://kiribatitourism.gov.ki/images/Downloads/Kiritimati_travel_trade_brochure_2014.pdf

The River Mel Restoration Group by the Editor

Work continues on this project. Planning commenced in 2006 so the Group has almost completed 9 years on the river.

There are many such restoration groups country wide but few take on tasks of this size, often confined to short term work cleaning out a pond, clearing fallen trees and debris from water courses etc.

Whilst the Meldreth stretch is almost down to care and maintenance in the parish of Melbourn it may be two years or more before that stage is reached. Success or failure must be judged by the wildlife. Something in the region of 200 tonnes of various grades of gravel including several tonnes of chalk boulders have been deposited in the river at strategic points to provide riffles to encourage spawning.

For a couple of years mature brown trout have been seen constructing redds on the gravel riffles with significant success as there are now frequent sightings of immature browns. Water vole are in residence as are kingfisher and a population of coot. There is no evidence of Mink in the Mel at this time.

Any questions or suggestions on the running of our Club or ideas for speakers for our Winter Meetings should be sent to Paul Stevens for discussion at the next Committee Meeting. It should be noted that the programme needs to be finalised several months ahead.

Next Committee meeting scheduled for 15th January 2015.

Disclaimer

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



INVICTA FLY FISHING CLUB CAMBRIDGE

Club Annual Dinner 21/02/2015

7.30pm for 8.00pm

Choose one from each course

Starters

- (1) Prawn Cocktail
- (2) Leek & Potato Soup
- (3) Chicken Liver Pate

Main Course

- (4) Roast Beef & Yorkshire Pudding
 - (5) $\frac{1}{2}$ Roast Chicken
 - (6) Roast Cod Loin with a Spring Onion & Prawn Creamy Sauce
 - (7) Vegetable Shepherd's Pie with Goats Cheese Mash (V)
- All Served with Roast Potatoes and Seasonal Vegetables

Dessert

- (8) Apple Crumble & Custard
 - (9) Raspberry & White Chocolate Cheesecake & Cream
 - (10) Fresh Fruit Salad
 - (11) Cheese & Biscuits
- Coffee/Tea & Mints

Dinner Price £27.00 pp

Please return the portion with your selections & cheque (payable to Invicta FFC or pay into

Bank Sort Code 20-43-63 Account Number 70514004

Return By Friday 14th February 2015 to Alan Prevost By Post or Email

15 Willingham Road Over Cambridge CB24 5PD

Name	Selection	Name	Selection

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WINE ORDER TO BE PAID FOR ON THE NIGHT

SPARKLING/CHAMPAGNE

125ml Bottle

1. Prosecco, Brut Spumante, Revino
Non Vintage, Italy £3.25 £16.50
Intense fragrance of fruit. Mellow and full-bodied, yet dry thanks to its refreshing character.
2. Champagne Brut, Louis Barthélémy,
Amethyste, Non Vintage £34.95
This Award winning champagne from a family controlled house is dedicated to high quality. Dry, crisp and elegant, with a wonderful richness on the finish.

WHITE WINES

175ml 250ml Bottle

3. Chenin Blanc, Keate's Drift
Western Cape, South Africa £3.45 £4.50 £12.95
Flowery bouquet and hints of melon fruit. Off Dry.
4. Pinot Grigio, Villa Borghetti
Italy £3.65 £4.85 £13.95
Dry and refreshing with a hint of almond on the finish.
5. Rioja Blanco, El Coto
Rioja, Spain £3.85 £5.10 £14.65
Well-balanced white displays refined citrus fruits.
6. Sauvignon Blanc, Terramater Vineyard Reserve
Maipo Valley, Chile £3.85 £5.10 £14.65
Dry, ripe, gooseberry and grapefruit flavours.

CLUBHOUSE CELLAR SPECIAL RESERVE WHITE WINE

From the oldest winery in New Zealand

7. Sauvignon Blanc, Mission Estate
Marlborough, New Zealand £19.95
Aromatic, zesty dry, with pink grapefruit flavours.

ROSE WINES

8. Rioja Rosado, El Coto
Rioja, Spain £3.75 £4.95 £14.40
Wonderful Rioja. Refreshing apéritif. Soft strawberry fruits with a great creaminess on the finish.

125ml Glasses Available on Request

BLUE CARD HOLDERS RECEIVE A 15% DISCOUNT

RED WINES

175ml 250ml Bottle

9. Merlot, delle Venezie, Le Collezioni
Italy £3.35 £4.40 £12.50
Lightly oaked, with soft, plummy fruit.
10. Shiraz Cinsaut, Keate's Drift
South Africa £3.45 £4.50 £12.95
A great wine with bags of character. Full bodied with plenty of ripe fruits.
11. Pinotage, Keate's Drift
South Africa £3.50 £4.60 £13.20
Robust red, rich, dark, with smoky notes and some earthiness.
12. Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon, Le Sanglier de la Montagne
Vin de Pays, France £3.50 £4.60 £13.20
From Caves Foncalieu, an award winning producer based just outside the ancient walled city of Carcassonne. This is a delicious wine with minty and slightly leafy rich fruit.
13. Shiraz, Crystal Brook
South Eastern Australia £4.25 £5.60 £16.35
Very well balanced, minty red with plenty of ripe juicy fruit. Peppery notes on the finish.
14. Malbec, Alta Vista Classic
Argentina £4.25 £5.60 £16.40
Beautifully robust, full bodied wine with hints of liquorice. Very powerful and especially wonderful with beef - just as the winemakers intend it to go with their Argentinean beef.
15. Rioja Crianza, El Coto
Rioja, Spain £4.55 £6.00 £17.75
Fantastic Rioja with an aroma of vanilla and tobacco.

CLUBHOUSE CELLAR SPECIAL RESERVE RED WINE

16. Real Reserva, Museum
Cigales, Spain £22.90
Superb wine! Made from vines up to 100 years old. Rich, concentrated with a heady mixture of chocolate, liquorice and spice.

PORTS

17. Club Ruby Port 50ml Glass: £2.50 Bottle: £21.75
18. Taylors, Late Bottled Vintage Port 50ml Glass: £2.70 Bottle: £23.95

Membership Renewal Form

Dear All

Just a reminder that the annual membership fee of £17 is now due. Please send your cheque payable to Invicta FFC to me at the address below.

**If you would like to pay your subs straight into the Bank the
Sort Code 20-43-63 Account Number 70514004 A email receipt will be sent**

Could you also supply your latest contact details below:

Name

Address

.....

.....

Post Code

Tel No

Mobile No

e-mail: (To enable us to send the club newsletter)

If you do not wish to re-new your club membership could you let me know by e-mail or post.

For those who are not re-joining the club it would be useful to us if you could tell us if there are any particular reasons for not re-joining. e.g Economics/giving up fishing/club not meeting your needs/any other reason.

We would like to have your feedback to help enhance the service that the club provides. E-mail any comments to me at the address below

**Alan Prevost
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