



Newsletter No.191 January 2017

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Affiliated to The Angling Trust

Fly Tying

Although I wasn't at the talk by Steve Johnson I'm hearing that there was quite a lot of interest shown in the laser pen that Steve used to cure the resin that he used on his flies. There's also more information in David Jones's report on the evening. One of our members, Tony Day, has managed to find a supplier of this pen and suggests that if anyone wants to buy one (priced £11.00 inc P&P) they contact North East Angling Supplies at:

72 Derwent Street
Chopwell
Newcastle upon Tyne
Tyne and Wear. NE17 7HY
Tel: 01207 560931

Did you catch a big trout in 2016?

This is a reminder to any club member who has caught a large trout during 2016 that there are trophies awarded for the largest Rainbow and Brown trout:

The Brown Trout Trophy to be awarded for the heaviest Brown trout caught from a public day ticket reservoir.

The Beecroft Shield, for the heaviest Rainbow trout caught from a public day-ticket reservoir.

If you think you might qualify contact Mark Searle mark_hse@btopenworld.com to report the following details: weight, date caught, venue, was it witnessed and if so who by. If you have a photograph please supply a copy.

Winter Evening programme 2016/7

Venue - Harston Village Hall, 7.30 for 8.00pm
All meetings free to Invicta members: Visitors welcome, £5 including a beer or soft drink.

Jan 19th -Alan Briggs

Alan will give a talk about his father's (mainly) salmon fishing career with pictures. Alan is himself a keen salmon man and the meeting will include a general discussion on salmon fishing.

Feb 2nd Jon Marshall and Angela Tarry (Anqlian Water) - AW prospects for 2017

Feb 16th - AGM

Feb 25th-Annual Club Dinner

at St. Neots Golf Club

March 2nd -Allan Sefton

Fly Fishing Coach and much travelled angler Allan Sefton will talk on BoneFishing experiences in different venues.

March 16th Quiz night

With host Chris McLeod. Expect an evening of fun and banter!

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.

Casting Clinics Spring 2017

Following on from last year's popular clinics, Peter Hartley has kindly agreed to run three sessions.

Venue: Grafham Water Lodge
Dates: Tuesday March 28th
Friday April 7th
Tuesday April 18th
Time: 09:30 – 12:30
Cost: £10 per session.
Pay Peter on the day

There is a limit of 6 persons per session. Please "book in" with Paul Stevens if you wish to attend. Contact Paul on:

faith.paul@btinternet.com

Phone.01480 403529

Mobile. 07831 235069

Arthur Sexton's Fishing Tackle

As previously announced Arthur has kindly donated his fishing tackle to the club to dispose of with the proceeds being donated to club funds. The money raised will be used to buy a trophy which will be named after Arthur and fished for each year.

Update - Arthur's tackle has now been disposed of, the major items being purchased by club members. There were some small items that didn't sell which were donated to the charity F4S (Fishing For Schools). The items were handed over to Charles Jardine on his recent visit to the club.

<http://www.countryside-alliance.org/the-foundation/fishing-for-schools/>

Committee meetings

If any member has any comments on the running of the club or a suggestion for a speaker for the winter evening meetings please contact our Secretary Paul Stevens at least 1 week before the meeting to ensure that it can be considered for adding to the meeting agenda.

The next committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 25th January 2017

AGM Feb 16th

As the next AGM is fast approaching I thought it worthwhile to remind all members of the Club rules regarding General Meetings,

GENERAL MEETINGS

15. The Annual General Meeting (AGM) shall be held each year in the month of February at a time and place to be notified to members by the General Secretary at least fourteen days in advance.

16. All members shall have the right to vote at General Meetings except Hon. Members

17. The quorum for General Meetings shall be twenty percent of the membership. Should a quorum not be present for a general meeting then the meeting shall be recalled at a time and place to be notified by the General Secretary at least fourteen days in advance. The business of the recalled meeting shall be decided by the majority of members present.

18. Club Officers and Committee Members shall normally be appointed at the AGM by a simple majority vote. Nominations of absentees will be accepted provided they have expressed their willingness to stand to the General Secretary.

19. Members may place items on the agenda for the AGM by notifying the General Secretary before the meeting.

20. Proposed changes to the Club's Constitution shall be adopted only when carried by at least a two-thirds majority of members present and voting at General Meetings.

21. An Extraordinary General Meeting may be requested by any member to deal with any matter relating to the Club. Requests shall be notified to the General Secretary in writing and signed by six members. At least fourteen days' notice by the Secretary is to be given to members for an EGM to be called.



Slugging it Out at Grafham & Rutland Water

Report by David Moore

Those Invicta members hardy enough to have fished at Grafham over the Christmas holiday will have noticed the water levels falling at a time when they are usually recovering. It's worth a look even if you don't want to catch fish in their best condition of the year.

One of my favourite bank fishing spots is around Cove Point on the north shore and here the roots and stumps of a submerged hedge are stretching well out into the reservoir. If anyone lost a drogue here last season it is now mine !

I fished here a couple of times after Christmas, arriving after 3pm to find clear shallow water, a flat calm and dazzling sun so nothing much was happening. As the sun set behind the sailing club and the air dropped towards freezing the other rods packed up and missed the action.

Immediately the light had faded the fish moved into casting range and in just 40 minutes I had 3 silver fish 2 to 3lbs and missed two more before the line was freezing in my rings and it was time to go, I went back 2 days later and repeated the experience taking 4 fish all on a foam GRHE on the point and was broken twice all in a hectic 45minutes after sunset.

With the water level so low the fish are having to swim into very shallow water to get the shrimps and obviously reluctant to risk this in the bright sunshine and clear water.

I contacted Anglian Water about the water levels here at Grafham (currently 78%) and at Rutland Water (currently 82%) and they confirmed that extraction from the Great Ouse, Nene and Welland has been restricted because of high concentrations of metaldehyde, the active ingredient of most slug pellets (molluscicides) used by gardeners and farmers. The concentration in the reservoirs has to be controlled to meet drinking water standards and fortunately it doesn't affect aquatic snails as it acts by dehydrating terrestrial molluscs. I contacted AW for an official statement and they have responded as follows-

"The reservoir levels at Grafham and Rutland Water are lower than normal for this time of year in part due to the metaldehyde levels in the rivers we take water from to fill them.

"Metaldehyde causes a big problem in the water treatment process as it cannot be removed by

conventional treatment technology. The only way to reduce high levels of the pesticide is to monitor our rivers for metaldehyde, and to not take water from them when metaldehyde concentrations are high. We have been unable to take water from the rivers which supply Grafham and Rutland Reservoirs on a number of occasions throughout the autumn."

"Neither reservoir is far below the expected level for this time of year and we are confident that with metaldehyde concentrations now starting to reduce and with good flow in the rivers, both should soon return to their normal operating level"

AW is working with farmers to reduce the problem with a campaign called Slug it Out!

In 2015, Anglian Water launched Slug It Out in six reservoir catchments to look at how levels of metaldehyde in rivers and reservoirs could be brought below the strict European standard of 0.1 micrograms per litre (or parts per billion) in treated water. This is the same as one drop of water in an Olympic sized swimming pool.

Through our catchment management strategy and our team of in-house farming advisors we're working collaboratively with farmers and the agricultural sector more closely and more effectively than ever before.

Initially, we worked with 89 individual farmers - a 100% uptake. The trial area removed an estimated 1,613 kg of metaldehyde from the farmed landscape, bringing the average levels in reservoir tributaries down by 60%.

The second year of the scheme we extended this to include Rutland - the largest natural catchment in the UK for a reservoir at 7,500 hectares - effectively doubling the trial's hectareage. This will allow us to verify our findings over an even larger farmed area and timeframe, build on our evidence base and help to identify the package of measures needed to reduce metaldehyde levels in raw water sources.

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Social Evening at The Arundel Hotel 5th Jan

On Thursday 5th January around 30 members enjoyed a very pleasant evening of conversation and friendship in the delightful surroundings of the Arundel House Hotel in Cambridge. As usual the hotel put on an excellent buffet – no doubt much helped by input from Mark Searle.

Many old friends turned up and it was a pleasure to see John Gale and Ian Baldock in such good form. At their peak, they were absolutely unbeatable at Rutland and John wrote many guides on trout fishing Rutland Water. However the star of the evening has to be Arthur Sexton who just short of his 95th birthday is still as sharp as ever. Our Chairman Andy Newman congratulated Arthur on his upcoming birthday who maintains that his secret to longevity is to carry on fishing and don't give up your bike!

In addition to the usual suspects that always support these events, it was nice to see our three regular angling ladies Joan Russell, Sue Potts and Lisa Monks enjoying the evening.

Andy reminded people that the club is holding both its annual dinner and AGM in February and hope that members would support both functions.



Andy Newman & Neil Potts



Gary How



Mark Searle



Alan Taylor



David Moore & Jeff Price



Steve Harding & Paul Stevens



Lisa Monks, Sue Potts & Dave Monks



Paul Stevens, Alan Briggs, Peter Hartley & Malcolm Reece



Dave Monks, John Brown & Joan Russell



Table including Steve Harding, John Brown, Gary How, Mark Searle, David Moore



Table including Andy Newman, Steve Middleton, & Bob Ayres



Alan Taylor, Arthur Sexton, John Gale, Ian Baldock, Jeff Price, and a couple of Trappist Monks