



Newsletter No.183 June 2016

President: Bob Ayres bobjen.ayres@virginmedia.com
Chairman: Andy Newman andy.di.newman@btinternet.com
Minutes
Secretary: Paul Stevens faith.paul@virgin.net
Treasurer: Alan Prevost alan@prevost.net;
Bookings
Officer: Mark Searle mark_hse@btopenworld.com
Website: www.invictaffc.org.uk
Affiliated to The Angling Trust

Editor's Notes

Fishery and competition rules

Many experienced competition anglers, and indeed pleasure anglers, still get confused over the many fishing rules associated with different competitions and venues. A recent letter in Trout Fisherman broached this subject, the writer asking about the differences between fishery rules and other competition rules; hook and fly sizes, drogues, and etiquette, which are just a few of the imponderables which the uninitiated have to contend with.

The editor's response was that he would arrange a future feature to explain the rules in full. Good luck on that one as different competitions have their own rules and every venue their own rules.

I hope that in addition to the various interpretations on the equipment rules the article will also include an explanation on Catch & Release and time bonus. Many competitions are now not just 8 fish kill but include an element of fish kill and catch and release.

The rules of any competition should be written in such a way that there can be no misinterpretation by competitors or organisers. There should be no need for committees and match organisers to adjudicate on situations such as the one that arose recently in an AMFC match. Rules are rules and should be adhered to no matter what the circumstances. An 8 fish kill limit means the first 8 fish!

NEXT CARR CUP DATE & VENUE

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. Contact Mark Searle to reserve your place.

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

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.

Visit to Grafham Water by
HRH the Duke of Edinburgh
Wed 25th May 2016
(Report by Bob Ayres)

HRH the Duke of Edinburgh visited Grafham Water on Wednesday 25th May 2016 to open the new Diddington Reservoir Resilience Scheme on the 50th anniversary of Grafham Water. The Duke had actually opened Grafham to the public in 1966.

In the morning of the visit the area in front of the Lodge was prepared to pristine condition (Jack, the young warden's main job was to ensure that no Canada geese visited and to wash off any deposits from previous visits.)

Exhibits were erected by Invicta (thanks to Paul Stevens), GWFFA, Grafham Water Centre, Wildlife Trust, D of E, the Nightingale project, Anglian Water.

Anglers were offered half-price boat tickets to encourage attendance which suited not only some of us from Invicta and GWFFA but also visiting anglers from Llanilar and Leslie clubs who were down for the Pilgrimage. At the appropriate time everyone gathered on the front lawn to welcome the Duke. He was formally introduced to officers from Anglian Water, the Sailing Club and the environmental Groups. Sadly his tight schedule precluded any formal representation from an Invicta member but he was introduced to Mr Gerald Bailey, a founder member of GWFFA. At one point he was presented with a box of fishing flies suitable for Grafham Water (I don't think it contained any of the 4 inch long minkie 'snakes' which the Scottish anglers were using on their visit!)

After raising new flag at the waterside designed by the local Buckden school children who were noisily present, the Duke went 'walkabout'. Ignoring his formal schedule he made a bee-line for 3 of the Scots in their fishing gear and chatted, followed by a similar chat with Scottish 'Rick' who was standing with Steve Middleton and yours truly. Two nil to the fishermen!!

All in all, it was a very pleasant occasion. The Duke looked well, braving the chilly N wind in only a suit and tie.



Invicta banners prominent for the official presentation



HRH suitably impressed with AW's demonstration of their new fuel efficient boats



The invicta team present played their part well, many thanks to all.

Carr Cup Round 3, Eyebrook
Saturday 4th June 2016
Report by Chris Mcleod

Now, if you are Mike Smith you would say that Eyebrook was fishing really well and you'd have no problem catching into double figures. If you were any one of the rest of the Invicta members who went there for the third day trip of the season, you would be inclined to disagree.



Mike Smith – Pulling a damselfly worked.

Perfect looking conditions are often not born out by the actual fishing, and so was the case when 20 members descended on this pretty and well run reservoir. The reception we get and the help from Andy, Stewart and all the staff is friendly, helpful and full of encouragement. Prospects were good. We knew that a recent stocking had meant there were fish all along the left hand bank outside the harbour and down to the island. Not everyone went there, and, in fact, little happened early on anywhere while the day warmed after the recent chilly week with northerly winds. Mike Smith though did find fish on the far side of the lake with an intermediate slime line and his 'size 16 black gnat'. But it was hard going generally with a number of blanks at lunchtime.

Lunch in the lodge is always very sociable but talk of the stockies meant that most boats headed for them in the afternoon, including Mick Facey who decided to anchor close to the west bank and try and get his boat partner Sue Potts a fish....and he did! 2 in fact with 8 for himself! Mike came over to the same area and managed another 6 for a total of 10. Both he and Mick found gentle stroking back with lures the most effective, but some persevered with nymphs until things died off towards the end of the day. A disappointing Eyebrook that can be so good with top of the water action. But the weather was the cul-

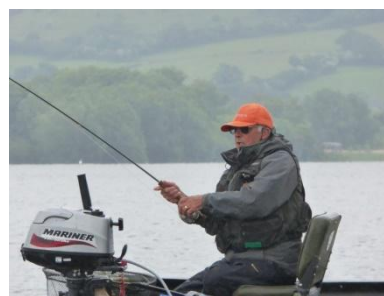
prit and the water was still cold with very little fly life. A rod average of below 2.5 was poor, and it would have been a lot less without those stockies!

Saturday 10th July on Grafham is the next trip. It'll probably be snowing by then! But we will be sharing the water with the East Midlands and Grafham clubs on the day, so lots of fun and banter will be on offer (and maybe even a BBQ??).

AMFC G2 Round 3 at Chew



Gary How and a nice Rainbow



David Moore concentrating on landing a fish



Members of the Invicta team at the weigh-in

On the day Invicta were announced as runners up to Bristol but at the time of publication there was still an issue to be resolved which could change the overall positions.

Pilgrimage 2016.

Report by Steve Middleton

Our visit to Grafham this year was an eventful time for the Club since we not only fished against our old friends but had the privilege of meeting the Duke of Edinburgh during his visit to the lodge on Wednesday afternoon.

Bob decided that we would fish that day and help with the set up for the club but Paul Stevens had that all in hand so we went out fishing before the Duke arrived.

The Duke, looking remarkably well for his age, broke from the planned schedule and spent most of his time talking to anglers.

He had a long chat with Kenny Miller from the Leslie club, a retired police diver. Kenny told him that they had met before when the Royal Yacht Britannia came into Leith Docks. Kenny explained that he had been sent down to check the hull of the vessel and he remembered that the Duke had given him a tot of rum. The Duke replied quietly 'don't say that in front of the cameras'.

The Duke was only there for a short time but it was a memorable occasion for the club members that attended and plenty of photographs were taken to add to the Clubs history.

The fishing was something else however, the last time Bob and I fished Grafham we had plenty of fish but we were told by several people that the fishing was hard.

Some of the Scottish and Welsh boys had had a wonderful time the day before fishing lures and dries at Draycote, Andy Gourlay and Henry Russell catching 46 fish but most had struggled at Grafham.

Wednesday was hard, with a cold Northerly wind and the day was not pleasant but we did manage to catch a few fish and when we all met up on Thursday morning we were quietly confident.

The day turned out to be a complete contrast to the day before, probably 12 degrees warmer with very light Southerly winds and flat calm conditions in the afternoon.

Bob and I did catch a few fish using a Kelly Green line in the flat calm. Mick Facey was by far and

away the best rod catching 23 fish, way beyond anyone else.

We retired to the Wheatsheaf in the evening for dinner and we all enjoyed the steak and kidney pudding, if you ever feel desperately hungry I recommend that you give it a try.

With the boat pairings drawn we set off on Friday morning with moderate expectations but the wind had switched to Northerly again and we were blessed with bright sunshine.

The fishing was extremely hard and few people caught fish, the few best rods caught fish using Di7 lines and green pea lures (black with a green head).

The dinner on Friday evening at the Racehorse in Catworth is always a memorable evening since the Leslie and Llanilar boys can relax after fishing for 6 days and everyone has a lot to say and catch up on.

Because Llanilar were a party of 7, Leslie a party of 10 and Invicta were a party of 14, Glyn decided to split the teams into random groups of 7 with Invicta having an 'A' and 'B' team and the 'B' team fishing against the rest.

Luckily for us our 'B' team had 13 fish and the 'A' team only 4 fish so we won the Bowl beating Llanilar with a total of 26lb 5oz to their 22lb 10oz, a good result on a hard day.

The overall shield winners were Leslie's 7 man team with a total of 20 fish for 39lbs 5oz.

Not that it is all about winning, we have known these people almost 40 years and we were all young men in the early days.

We are all much older now and some people have fished every Pilgrimage and still look forward to meeting up each year.

One noticeable absence this year was the great Tony Bevan from Llanilar, he was given six months to live over two years ago and could not make it this year because he is fishing for Wales in an International in Ireland. He is still suffering from the treatment that he is under but still has the resolve to fish for his country, what a man.



Whilst the behaviour of all of the team members was exemplary there was one of our members who let the side down and could have been arrested again for exposure in a public space.

The photograph says more than I could put into words.



Bob Ayres telling another of his fishy stories – it was this big, honest guy!



Boat	Name	Fish	Heaviest	Bag Weight
11	Andy Gourlay	7		15lb 12oz
3	Bill Patrick	8		13lb 10oz
11	Mark Searle	5		10lb 10oz
14	Andy Linwood.	4		7b 15oz
14	Kenny Miller	4		7lb 4oz
10	Mick Moran.	3		6lb 0oz
15	Mark Hamblin	3		5lb 12oz
4	Brian Stewart	2	2lb 13oz	4lb 15oz
2	Peter Bevan	2	2lb 3oz	4lb 6oz
7	Chris McLeod	2		4lb 5oz
6	Paul Heavens	2		4lb 1oz
6	Dougie Dargie	2		3lb 14oz
3	David Moore	2		3lb 9oz
13	John Roberts	2		3lb 7oz
1	Henry Russell	1		2lb 5oz
4	Paul Cushnie	1		2lb 0oz
10	Graham Bosworth	1		1lb 15oz
5	Glyn Jones.	1		1lb 13oz
2	Gary How	1		1lb 12oz
7	Rick Stewart	1		1lb 12oz
12	Dewi Rees	1		1lb 12oz
1	Steve Middleton			
5	Bob Ayres			
8	Alan Taylor			
12	Mick Facey			
15	Mick Thorpe			
9	John Brown			
13	George Brown			
8	Jim Laird			
9	John Cowan			

TEAM COMPETITION.	
Invicta A	4 fish for 7lb 14oz.
Invicta B	13 fish for 26lb 5oz.
Leslie	20 fish for 39lb 5oz.
Llanilar	11 fish for 22lb 10oz.

INDIVIDUAL COMPETITION		
Andy Gourlay	7 fish	15lb 12oz.
Bill Patrick	8 fish	13lb 10oz.
Mark Searle	5 fish	10lb 10oz.

BEST FISH		
Brian Stewart		2lb 13oz.

BEST BOAT				
11	Mark Searle	5	10lb 10oz	26lb 6oz.
11	Andy Gourlay	7	15lb 12oz	
3	David Moore	2	3lb 9oz	17lb 3oz.
3	Bill Patrick	8	13lb 10oz	
14	Andy Linwood.	4	7lb 15oz	15lb 3oz.
14	Kenny Miller	4	7lb 4oz	



Andy Linwood accepting the Bowl on behalf of the Invicta B team



David Moore and Mark Searle receiving the Best Boat prize from Glyn Jones

(Since Andy Gourlay and Bill Patrick had already won prizes the heaviest boat prize was shared between Mark Searle and David Moore and the second best boat went to the third boat of Andy Linwood & Kenny Miller.)



Henry Russell with the Overall Team Winners' Shield



Brian Stewart with his Best Fish prize



Andy Gourlay - Top Individual



Bill Patrick – 2nd Placed Individual



Mick Facey – Winner of the Booby Prize.
Mick was one of several who blanked but his name was drawn out of the hat.



A team of mixed fortunes – Paul Cushnie (1 fish), George Brown (0), Bill Patrick (8) - but all finished up in the winning team



Peter Bevan



Rick Stewart, Andy Gourlay, and Alan Taylor



Brian Stewart, Andy Gourlay, and Bill Patrick
SUMMER PROGRAMME 2016

Carr Cup Dates and venues

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.

