INVICTA FFC

WWW.INVICTAFFC.ORG.UK

November 2013 Newsletter 168

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

Editor's Notes

This is the last Newsletter for this year. We wish you all the Compliments of the Season, all that you would wish for yourselves and we hope you will continue to enjoy your membership of Invicta FFC.

Perhaps this time of the year is a good time to reflect on the state of our Club. It is a fact that most clubs, not only fishing clubs, are struggling for members at this time. The state of the economy is, no doubt, a factor but we in Invicta have a stable membership with a small but steady influx of new members.

This is surely due to our year round programme of activities, social and competitive fishing events during the season and one of the most comprehensive winter programmes of social events and top class guest speakers to rival any club I know of, irrespective of club size.

All of this is achieved within an annual subscription of £17.00. Your Committee, carefully monitored by Alan Prevost, Hon.Treasurer, ensures an almost 100% record in bringing each event home within a budget our annual income allows.

Please find included menu, wine list etc. for our Annual Dinner at the St.Neots Golf Club on Saturday 22nd February 7.30 for 8pm.

Arundel House Hotel, CB4 3AN

7.30pm Thursday 9th January 2014 with Buffet included at £12.00 per head.

An informal gathering for present, old and new members.

Please book and pay by 2nd January latest. No money or entry accepted on the night

By cheque to Alan Prevost please or into our bank: Sort Code 20-43-63,
Account No: 70514004

Alan Prevost, 15 Willingham Road, Over, CB24 5PD Tel: 01954 230678, email: alan@prevost.net

Winter Programme 2013/2014

Thursday 21st November

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

Thurday 5th December

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

2014

Thursday 9th January

Arundel House Hotel

A get-together for all old and current members.

Thursday 23rd January

Philip Sheridan, of Tenkara Days.

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

Thursday 6TH February

James Lewis of the Angling Trust

James will explain the system of the National Fishing League and schemes of the Trust

Thurday 20th 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 22nd February

Invicta Annual Dinner at St Neots Golf

<u>Club.</u> Menu and application form with this Newsletter. A reminder that wives, partners and friends are welcome.

Thursday March 6th

Adrian Freer. "Valuable Information from the Fishes Mouth".

Autopsies and Matching Food

Thursday 20th March

Quiz night with Chris McLeod in the chair

Association of Major Clubs

Results for 2013

In Group 2 Invicta A finished the season with a third place in the Autumn Association match on Rutland. This secured second place in Group 2 for the series. Top scorers were Chris McLeod with 5 fish and Mark Haycock with 4.

Invicta B managed 2nd spot in the Group 4 in the Autumn Association match at Rutland gaining 3 points. Simon Sells caught 3 fish for his team. This ensured a 3rd place finish to the season.

The Carr Cup

After Final Venue (Hanningfield)					
1 Graham Bodsworth	245				
2 Gary How	230				
3 Mick Facey	205				
4 Chris McLeod	195				
5 Mark Searle	170				
6 Alan Prevost	165				
Mike Smith	165				
8 John Caldwell,	160				
9 David Moore	130				
Paul Heavens	130				
11 Peter Oldham	115				
12 Steve Middleton	110				
13 Alan Briggs	105				
14 Bob Ayres	100				
15 John Mees	70				
16 Allan Sefton	65				
17 Andy Newman	55				
18 Alan Taylor	40				
Paul Stevens	40				
20 Ron Lusardi	35				
21 Graham Williams	20				
22 Peter Hartley	15				
23 Clive Bews, Craig Foggo,					
John Krailing	10				

The Presidents Cup

Is one venue included in the Carr Cup programme but is recognised as a one-off event for the Presidents Cup and is decided on the best bag up to the fishery limit.

This year Gary How has taken the trophy with 5 fish at Grafham

Fly Tying with Wendy Gibson

A report by David Jones

Wendy Gibson is a fly tier of some repute not the least for devising simplified techniques in order to encourage new comers,

Figure 1.



She has run fly tying courses for 30 years and has appeared at numerous Game Fairs and other shows. Fees are often donated to charities. She is an instructor with both the APAGI and STANIC organisations. Wendy also acts as an assessor for GAIA. In the meantime she has managed to write 4 books.

By the time I arrived to the parking chaos, Wendy and husband Ray, were well established which included a comprehensive display of fly tying materials. I think Wendy may have acquired some of the late Steve Parton's stock. John Caldwell provided a Video camera and projector.

Wendy started with a little lecture to the effect that she expected every one of us would learn something from her demos. I am sure that would not be difficult even if it meant discarding long used habits or deciding to try new materials.

The theme of her talk initially was the use of CDC in fly tying. For the uninitiated, CDC feathers originate from the preen glands of birds. I learnt that excellent CDC feathers can come from geese.

Wendy has located a source in Ireland originally from the Czech Republic, which surpasses all other examples she has come across. Decent feathers with a dense flue mean that the effects are more impressive and in the end, less are used. Although the floatability of flies incorporating CDC is pretty useless after deceiving the first fish, the properties can be revived by allowing them to dry out. Ray recommended having up to a dozen spares: he is obviously a more successful angler than me!

Personally I had in the past associated CDC feathers with the Shuttlecock and F-fly patterns. I had forgotten about the sedge patterns which use a loop wing of CDC feathers, Figure 2



I can't describe exactly how the fly was constructed and details are available in magazines and books. Wendy likes Steve Parton's tying "silk". I liked the use of different coloured spools to facilitate identification without resorting to reading the label. The initial body was constructed with open turns in order to avoid increasing the diameter of the fly excessively. Wendy likes to use lots of half hitches in the course of tying a fly but always finishes the head with a whip finish. Observers were impressed by the dexterity of her fingers but she also demonstrated how to use a biro case to facilitate tying these knots. Varnish was not in evidence but she does use it to secure bunches of hair and to bind wire together in leaded bodies. She did not seem too keen on the latest UV cured products.

The fly of the evening, in my opinion, was the mayfly imitation shown in Figure 3.



The detached body was made from a tapered strip of a latex based elastic bandage apparently available from Tesco's. Look out for Profore 4. The same material was used for a daddy long legs, Figure 4.



The hackle on the DLL was from a Hoffman cape. She prefers this source because the stem is very fine and can be wound on the hook many more times without bulking up the dressing.

I do not think she tied a parachute fly. However on request she produced a parachute fly in which the body and post were constructed from another naturally buoyant material namely wool from a wild sheep. I think there is a joke here about what makes a sheep wild?

Figure 5.



Wendy is always looking out for new materials. A piece of 600 grade abrasive used as a finishing abrasive when wood turning. This is a mesh-like sheet which probably contains silicon carbide particles and should not be cut with anything other than domestic scissors, Figure 6.



Wendy probably produced 10 flies to a very high standard during the evening. My apologies for the poor photos and a failure to give much detail in the construction. Wendy has produced a book "Fly Dressing the Easier Way – A simple step by step guide to fly dressing by APAGI instructor – Wendy Gibson". She does not appear to have a website so in order to obtain her materials contact her using fliesbywendyg@homecall.co.uk or 01773761645.

DGJ 11.10.2013

<u>Chris McLeod on Winter fishing at</u> <u>Grafham</u>

A report by David Jones

It seems that a proposal has been sent to Natural England seeking permission to extend the fishing season at Grafham up to the 2nd week in February with the 2014 season starting on March 1st. Fishing will be typically from 9am until 3pm. The full complement of boats will be available up to the end of the year: 10 will be available in the January/February period. The extended period will include predator fishing. Bank fishing will be restricted to specific areas – I think it was from Gaynes Cove around to Pylon Point. The terms of catch and release will be modified to avoid wiping out too much of the over-wintered stock. Exactly how the possible extension will be applied to season tickets has yet to be decided. The extension may also be applied at Rutland and Pitsford. By the time you read this I expect the details will be confirmed.

Chris was very bullish about the quality of the fishing at Grafham over the past 2 winters. He thought it was as good as anything he has experienced anywhere in the world. He attributed this to the effect of the "killer shrimp" in attracting large fish close into the bank. Rainbows of 5

pounds plus were common and Chris has at last managed a 7 pounder.

Chris started with a slide show many of which were archive photos dating back to the early days of the reservoir in the 1960's. Quite ironic was the fact that it was necessary to park yourself on the dam the previous evening if you were going to find a spot to fish. Nowadays, thanks to the shrimp, the dam is again crowded once more at least in the winter months, thus providing essential revenue for the reservoir. A map of the reservoir showed that it banana shaped so that a westerly wind bites into the so-called north bank and renders the area unfishable because of the muds slick which is generated. Strong winds dictate that a trip is made to Savages although it involves a substantial walk from Hill Farm car park. In the early days there was no harbour and boats had to be manhandled from the bank. There was some discussion regarding the location of the horizon in one of the pictures. In the early days some of the stars would not authorise the publication of a photo unless the background was obscured. Thus favourite spots were kept a secret. However, it was soon realised that if you knew the car number plates of certain anglers, it was not difficult to find out where they were fishing.

The fish generally patrol along the dam a short distance out and make the occasional forage towards the bank rather as though they were attacking fry but shrimps are usually the real target. It is important to keep a low profile and the experts tend to sit on the concrete. Flies are flicked out a short distance with a couple of shrimp imitations set a foot apart beneath a bung. No retrieve is required. Takes tend to be gentle with the bung sliding away.

Fishing the natural bank requires a different technique. Stealth is not the order of the day! Again the fish are close in but they can be attracted in by shuffling in and out of the water creating mud stain in which, providing you have chosen a good spot, may be full of shrimp. Chris wore a pair of steel tipped, vastly oversized, safety boots to minimise wear and tear likely to occur with normal boots. At £15 a pair they are much more economical as well. He got through several pairs a season which implies to me that his idea of shuffling is considerably more aggressive than the word suggests - sounds more like the changing of the guard! The idea then is to ground bait up, await the fish to enter the mud stain, and cast directly at any surface disturbance. Chris discovered that black coloured shrimp imitations, based on a diawl bach, were much more effective than the golden olive varieties often recommended. He would fish an 18 foot leader on a floating line, typically rated as AFTM 8 or 9. Shrimp imitations were placed at

12ft, 15ft, 18ft, and finally a buoyant fly on the tip incorporating foam. He is not shy of using strong leaders and expressed a preference for 13.7lb.bs Grand Max soft plus which will set you back some £20 for a 100m. However, he does keep his tackle set up in the car so very little leader is lost through continually setting up at each visit.

Chris showed a very interesting slide of waders which had been thoroughly cleansed at the washing station at Grafham, only to be found stuffed full of shrimps when the boots were examined at home. Shrimps, it seems, are able to penetrate into every eye-hole and crease and resistant to even the most intense cleaning. The shrimps were placed in an aquarium and it was observed that they all clung together rather like a bait ball.

Chris wore breathable waders (repair tip – use transparent silicone bath sealant on the inside) on top of which he had a cut down neoprene suit. This had a hole strategically cut in the crotch to facilitate easy peeing. He wore a buff (a tubular scarf fitting around the neck) and multiple layers of clothing. He claimed that a pair of latex surgical gloves kept his hands warm. All I can say is that he must have better circulation than me! A landing net, fitted with a flotation collar on the shaft, was clipped to a waist belt. The net was sometimes used as a line raft in windy conditions.

As soon as the first frosts set in, lures take over from shrimps. By far the preferred imitation is a black tailed beast with a fluorescent green body. This is fished on a slow sinking 8 or 9 wt. line, with a 15.9 lb.bs leader at maximum casting distance and immediately subjected to a slow rolypoly retrieve. A small minkie lure is sometimes set about 2 feet up from the point fly. Takes can be violent. Again it is important to locate the fry feeding fish. One tip was to look out for flocks of fish eating birds settling around the harbour arms for example (I presume not cormorants!). The fish tend to go mad for short periods. Chris had a photo of a 6 pounder which had consumed 110 2" fry weighing 9oz, none of which appeared to be in a state of decomposition. According to Chris the weather is not a good indicator of the likely feeding intensity expected from the fish. Frost, sun, rain etc. doesn't seem to make much difference although I think I would have given the 28th October a miss!

Chris gave a practical demonstration on how to tie these flies. He kept his hooks on a magnet. I would also recommend a magnet on a telescopic rod, available from Tesco's @ £1.00, for retrieving hooks/flies dropped on the floor. The shrimp pattern was constructed from any dark fibre for the tail, curved around the bend of the hook. The body

was peacock herl reinforced with a spiral of gold wire or whatever. The thorax region was built up with thread to enable the bib to stand out from the body of the hook. Note the hook was finished in black nickel and varied in size between 10 and 14, the smaller size being used in bright clear conditions. Chris was sold on miniature probe clips for holding freshly tied flies whilst the varnish dried. Maplin (stock no. N60BY) sell them (along with a mini UV light @ ~£5) but he sourced his from e-bay. Another supplier is Harvey Angling who are selling a wooden plinth complete with 10 clips for £8.99. The lure was tied on an AW competition heavyweight hook, typically size 8. The tail/wing was made from a bunch of black marabou, the body was black fritz overwound with green cactus straggle and a head made of a couple of turns of green chenille.

Winter fishing as described by Chris was quite exciting and a mild spell should get a few more anglers extending their season to 50 weeks. Good luck!

DGJ 25.10.13

Campbell River, BC. Canada trip 2013

An account by Graham Williams as a result of his extended stay in British Columbria, Canada.

For any of you that have been to the west coast of British Columbia there is one word that you will be familiar with – AWESOME. Everything is described as awesome, the scenery, the food, the wild life, the fishing and much more.



I would agree that the fishing is awesome but that description needs to be qualified; to be a successful angler in BC, as in many other places in the world, one needs information and lots of it. The predominant species that the visiting angler is

likely to be targeting are Pacific salmon (Pinks, Chinooks, Sockeye, Coho, and Chum) and Steelhead. All of these species are migratory so the visiting angler will need to do a lot of research into the timing and location of the migrations to ensure that his holiday coincides with the return of the salmon or the Steelhead runs.

There are many rivers local to Campbell River, where I spent 6 months during 2013, but not all of these rivers contain all of the species and those that do only have the fish during specific months of the year—see the calendar

Additionally, there are both winter and summer runs of Steelhead, and many rivers containing wild rainbows.

It is obvious that getting the timing right for the species you are targeting is crucial – you can't visit a river and catch fish that haven't entered the river and are still waiting in the ocean. Equally, even if you get the timing right you still need to be in the right location – there's no point in targeting a species in a river which doesn't contain that species. This might all seem obvious but it's quite easy to turn up at a river and fish an inviting looking stretch of water only to find it's the wrong time and/or the wrong place.

As an example of this I drove about 90kms (plus another 20kms down an active logging road) North from Campbell River to fish for Pink salmon in a river which I had fished very successfully several times in previous years. Having arrived at the river it was obvious that the Pinks hadn't entered the river and this was confirmed by an 3un- happy camper in an RV park adjacent to the river who had been fishing unsuccessfully for 2 days for them. I was told that in 2012 the Pinks arrived on 10th July – the date of my visit this year was the 9th July –

you're a day too early I was told! As it happens this year the fish run was even later on around the 20th.



Stay alert whilst driving on logging roads, you might meet one of these. They have right of way and you wouldn't want to argue with one of them!

I returned to the same river towards the end of the month intending to fish the pool I had fished in previous years, only to find 3 anglers had beaten me to it, I continued on down the logging road, keeping an eye out for oncoming logging lorries, which don't slow down for anyone, to the river estuary where I discovered another dozen anglers had already filled the available space. Not fancying another 220km round trip wasted journey I decided to fish the beach adjacent to the river mouth and was rewarded by catching about half a dozen nice sized pinks which were waiting to enter the river. The fishing ended abruptly when a pod of 3 Orca surfaced about 15 yards in front of me. This was an amazing sight and left me rooted to the spot maybe I should have waded back to shore but I think no matter how quickly I could have got out of the water those Orca would have been quicker if they had been inclined to attack me.



What an awesome sight! And only 15 yards in front of me

As the Orca had killed off the fishing I decided to have another look at the pool further upstream only to find that the 3 anglers were still there. As I considered the pool to be over-crowded I decided to sit and watch whilst having a sandwich and waiting to see if any of the anglers would leave. Within 20 minutes those 3 anglers were joined by another 8 – it was definitely overcrowded then! I have been visiting Campbell River for the last 6 years but until this visit I had never actually fished the Campbell. At the height of the season the river can become over-crowded with fisherman and canoeists. This year I managed to choose a time that wasn't too busy and experienced some excellent fishing. Pick the wrong time and you might be met with this sight



Who needs an audience?

Throughout my visit to Campbell River this year I was able to experience a variety of river and ocean fishing, both guided and un-guided. My un-guided fishing would not have been possible without the generosity of my guide Gene Berkey. I know that sounds a bit strange but Gene has guided me on many occasions over the last few years and as a result of that we have struck up a good friendship. This year Gene let me into some of his secrets – which rivers to fish and when - so I was able to strike out on my own. I have purposefully not mentioned the names of any of the rivers that Gene recommended. His livelihood is earned by guiding and it's not in his interest to give away the information and knowledge that it's taken him a lifetime to gather. He did ask me not to fish certain rivers when he knew he would be guiding on them and I was happy to oblige. I feel privileged that he shared some of his knowledge with me so please don't ask me to divulge it.

For anyone who has a desire to experience the wilderness fishing on Vancouver Island I would recommend that you contact Gene http://www.seabeyond.ca/index.html and discuss your requirements with him. Check out the Facebook link on his website for recent

photographs, there are some awesome fish displayed and you might even spot someone you recognise. He is one of the few guides in Campbell River who covers all aspects of game fishing, especially fly fishing on remote rivers. His real love is rafting down the big rivers fly fishing for Steelhead



but he is equally at home in his 24' Grady White boat on the ocean trolling for the Sockeye and Chinook or fly fishing for Coho.



If your pockets are deep enough (and mine aren't!) have a go at the heli-fishing during April when Gene does guided trips to remote parts on the mainland.





I'm quite happy for anyone to contact me for further details about the fishing and accommodation in and around Campbell River and I'll help out as much as I can, but as I stated earlier please respect the confidential guiding information which I'm not able to divulge. And by the way, no I'm not on commission from Gene.

Graham Williams

gj.williams1@ntlworld.com

The next Committee Meeting is scheduled for Thursday 14th November 2013. Questions for the Committee should be with the Paul Stevens, the Minutes Secretary well before that date.

Disclaimer

Statements, opinions and claims expressed in this document by contributors are not necessarily those of Invicta FFC.

Club Dinner 22nd February 2014 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) ½ Roast Chicken
- (6) Salmon Fillet with Herb Hollandaise
- (7) Red Pepper & Goats Cheese Parcel (V)All Served with Roast Potatoes and Seasonal Vegetables

Dessert

- (9) Sticky Toffee Pudding & Custard
- (10) Fruit Basket
- (8) Chocolate Cheesecake & Cream
- (11) Cheese & Biscuits

Coffee/Tea & Mints
Dinner Price £26.00

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 2014** to Alan Prevost by Post or email alan@prevost.net
15 Willingham Road Over Cambridge CB24 5PD

Name	Selectio	n	Name	S	election	n

Wine Order

Name	Number On List	Wine description from List

PLEASE NOTE WINE ORDER TO BE PAID FOR ON THE NIGHT

	175ml	250ml	Bottle	175ml	250ml	Bottle
SPARKLING/CHAMPAGNE 1. Vicente Gandia Cava, Brut				RED WINES 10. Shiraz Cinsaut, Keate's Drift		
Spain Dry and fruity, with a lingering aftertaste. Very well balanced	£4.50	£5.70	£16.95	South Africa £3.20 A great wine with bags of character. Full bodied with plenty of ripe fruits.	£4.30	£12.35
Prosecco, Brut Spumante, Non Vintage Donna Trevigiana, Italy Dry, light, easy-drinking bubbly from north-east Italy. Tangy apple and pea	£5.00 ach notes.	£6.25	£18.95	11. Merlot, delle Venezie, Le Collezioni Italy £3.35 Lightly oaked, with soft, plummy fruit.	£4.40	£12.85
Champagne Brut, Louis Barthélèmy, Non Vintage This family controlled house is dedicated to high quality. Dry, crisp, elegant Champagne with a wonderful richness on the finish.			£34.95	12. Pinotage, Keate's Drift South Africa £3.40 Robust red, rich, dark, with smoky notes and some earthiness.	£4.50	£13.10
WHITE WINES 4. Chenin Blanc, Keate's Drift Western Cape, South Africa Flowery bouquet and hints of melon fruit. Off Dry.	£3.45	£4.50	£12.95	13. Cabernet Carmenère, Terramater Vineyard Reserve Unfiltered, Chile £3.85 Notes of chocolate with a rich velvety finish. This wine is unfiltered to give extra richness and fuller flavour so may throw a sediment.	£5.10	£14.85
5. Pinot Grigio, Villa Borghetti Italy Dry and refreshing with a hint of almond on the finish.	£3.65	£4.70	£13.95	14. Shiraz, Crystal Brook South Eastern Australia £4.25 Very well balanced, minty red with plenty of ripe juicy fruit. Peppery notes on the finish	£5.60	£16.35
Rioja, El Coto Blanco Rioja, Spain Well-balanced white displays refined citrus fruits.	£3.85	£5.10	£14.65	15, Malbec, Alta Vista Classic Argentina 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.		£16.55
 Sauvignon Blanc, Terramater Vineyard Reserve Central Valley, Chile Dry, ripe, gooseberry and grapefruit flavours. 	£3.95	£5.20	£15.15	16 Rioja Crianza, El Coto Rioja, Spain Fantastic Rioja with an aroma of vanilla and tobacco.	£6.00	£17.75
CLUBHOUSE CELLAR SPECIAL RESERVE WI From the oldest winery in New Zealand		ES	101	CLUBHOUSE CELLAR SPECIAL RESERVE RED WINES	3	
8. Sauvignon Blanc, Mission Estate Marlborough, New Zealand			£19.55	17. Merlot, Highwood, Beresford South Australia Ripe, juicy and sweet textured fruit.		£20.70
Aromatic, zesty dry, with pink grapefruit flavours. ROSE WINES			1	18. Real Reserva, Museum Cigales, Spain Superb winel Made from vines up to 100 years old. Rich, concentrated with a heady mixture of chocolate, liquorice and spice.		£22.75
Rioja Rosado, El Coto Rioja, Spain Wonderful Rioja. Refreshing apéritif. Soft strawberry fruits with a great	£3.75	£4.90	£14.25	PORTS 22. Club Ruby Port 50ml Glass	22 20 Dat	de £20,75
creaminess on the finish.				23. Taylors, Late Bottled Vintage Port 50ml Glass		te £23.95
125ml Glasses Available on Request				BLUE CARD HOLDERS RECEIVE A 15% DISCOUNT		

Membership Renewal Form

Dear All

A reminder that the annual membership fee of £17 will be due soon, January 2014. Please send your cheque payable to Invicta FFC to me at the address below.

Could you also supply your latest contact details below:

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

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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. Eg. Economics/giving up fishing/club not meeting your needs/any other reason.

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

Alan Prevost, 15 Willingham Road, Over, Cambs. CB24 5PD Tel: 01954 230678. Email: alan@prevost.net