

# INVICTA FFC

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JULY 2014

## NEWSLETTER 171

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

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### Editor's Notes

Anthony Bevan

It was good to see our old friend, Tony Bevan of Llanilar, looking so well and enjoying several days fishing during the Pilgrimage after the diagnosis of pancreatic cancer around November of last year.

Having been told his life expectancy was in the 3 weeks to 3 months category he was placed on chemo-therapy and promptly given an over-dose. However 10 months on Tony is fighting back and, hopefully, will continue to defy the odds.

Simon Kidd

A few days prior to the Invicta/Snowbee Floating Line event we heard that Simon had been diagnosed with cancer and couldn't be with us for the event. We have since heard that he will undergo an operation in early September. Apart from the Snowbee Simon has been associated with Invicta for many years and, in fact, was a member when he lived in the area.

We wish him well and hope when we hear again he will have had a successful operation.

### Pilgrimage 2014

As usual this annual get-together was arranged and organised by Glyn Williams of Llanilar and Steve Middleton of Invicta.



**Steve and Glyn at the Presentation**

Moving this event from Bristol Waters to Anglian reservoirs has proved an advantage to Invicta as, once again, our team triumphed over Llanilar in the Friday match by 143lbs to 138lbs.

This result was largely due to a spectacular effort by Simon Sells who had the heaviest bag overall and was the main contributor to best boat. He also caught the heaviest fish.

The week ended as usual with dinner at the Racehorse in Catworth followed by the awards and much conviviality.

We are now approaching 30 years since, I think, 4 members joined the Welsh club at Chew Valley Lake in the mid 1980's for the first time.



**Simon Sells receiving his Trophy**



**Mark Searle receiving Trophy for Invicta**

### **Fly Fishing in Madeirab**

**by Peter Oldham**

Fishing in Madeira is often associated with big game fish, fishing for marlin, tuna and wahoo, from a 40ft boat several miles out to sea. Prices for a day boat charter are typically around 1,000 euros, or £800, or a sixth of this for a single rod. This generally entails a full day's trip, leaving the family to amuse themselves for the day. The season is generally around our summer, May to September.

It is therefore apparent that fishing in Madeira has several things which do not lend it to a perfect holiday outing – unless you have lots of cash, a flexible family, and happen to be there in summer (many see it as a winter break destination.....perfect between January and April).

So, on my first trip there, to get away from an Anglian winter.....I took my rod anyway. Presuming that a spinning rod may be the most practical (and just happening to have a multi-piece spinner, which could be smuggled into a

suitcase). Also, on reading that the hotel (Cliff Bay, Funchal) had some rocky seafront areas, suitable for diving, and therefore presumably fishing, I thought it worth a go. Especially as the fishing is free.

On arriving, I found a very pleasant surprise – the best place for fishing was within the hotel grounds, only 100 yards from the bar within 2 minutes of our room, so an odd hour here and there whilst the Memsahib was otherwise occupied seemed ideal. The mark was an old concrete jetty, probably built for access for construction of the hotel. Madeira comes up almost vertically out of the Atlantic, and, from this jetty, appeared to go straight back down, as deep as I could imagine. Hurling a 30 gram spinner out as far as I could, - 50 yards? 70 yards? 100 yards? I don't know, but after letting it settle it was coming up from the depths almost vertically (so obviously not a wading venue).



**The view from the hotel jetty, looking towards Funchal town. On top left is the neighbouring Reid's Hotel, which lives on its name of abode of earlier guests such as Winston Churchill. The height of the cliff gives an idea of the depth of the water.**

After a couple of fruitless but relaxing sessions, just wondering whether to pack up and go to the bar, along comes a little old lady – probably approaching 80 - with picnic chair and small telescopic rod. With a polite good morning she holds the rod out over the jetty into the water and within minutes is pulling in a fish. Then another. And another. After about the sixth fish I went over and asked the usual...

*"hello, you're doing well, mind if I ask what you're using?"*

*"Oh, just a bit of parma ham and smoked salmon from the breakfast table"*

*"Hmm, right"*



*“want to try some?”*

*“well, it’s not my usual style, but I’ll try it, thank you”.*

After snapping the hook off a spinner, and attaching parma ham, within 2 minutes a good fish. Never seen one of these before...



**Madeira Wrasse. Or a psychedelic grayling.**

Just goes to show that in angling, as many other things in life, you are never too old to learn. Even from a little old lady. (She did say later that she had been quite successful in the carp fishing competition world).

So after that, had several other short sessions on the jetty catching wrasse. They run to about 1<sup>1/2</sup>-2lbs, and fight reasonably well. Was told later by one of the pool workers that they sometimes fish for and catch tuna and wahoo from the jetty, but when and how? Suddenly the grasp of English is gone and he doesn’t understand the question....

Further enquiries elsewhere revealed that there are also some streams running off the mountains that hold stocks of rainbows and browns, and in the small reservoirs and pools fed by the streams and levadas or small water courses that are dug into the hillside. There are reports of fish up to 4lb, but these are probably quite rare and the majority seem to run to about 1 lb. The fish are wild....original stocks were browns from Portugal and rainbows from US, which appear to be breeding and small fingerlings are quite common in some stretches.



**Typical mountain stream.....free to fish, but reached only with strong ankles and a tame mountain goat.**



**Typical wild trout, rainbow and brown, from the stream.**

So, looks like next winter’s holiday could be Madeira again.....this time with a fly rod secreted in the luggage.

### **Summer Programme 2014**

	14	Thursday Night League Grafham
	16	Carr Cup (Carl Hunter Bowl) Draycote
September	6	AMFC B team Draycote
	7	AMFC A team Grafham
	13	Carr Cup Ravensthorpe
	17	Grand Max Bewl

October	4	AMFC A & B teams Hanningfield	<b>February 19<sup>th</sup>.</b> Invicta AGM
	7	<a href="#">Carr Cup Hanningfield</a>	

Please note the Hanningfield venue is liable to change

## **Winter Programme 2014/15**

**2014**

### **October 9<sup>th</sup>. John Emerson.**

John, well known grayling and trout champion, writer, distributor of Hanak products and proprietor of Unique Flies, will tell us about river fishing and how to increase the catch when fishing the river in winter.

### **October 23<sup>rd</sup>. Chris Reeves.**

Chris, of the Fly Dressers Guild, will tell us of the activities of the Guild and give a demonstration of some tying techniques.

### **November 6<sup>th</sup>. Mick O'Farrell.**

Patterns and methods for successful dry fly, wet fly and emergers on reservoirs.

### **November 8<sup>th</sup>.**

Fur and Feather social day, Elinor.

### **November 20<sup>th</sup>. Steve Peterson.**

Steve, of Fly Fish Europe (distributors of Simms, Scott, Scientific Anglers, Lamson and others) will talk about his knowledge of the tackle trade and his fishing experiences.

### **December 11<sup>th</sup>. Allan Sefton.**

On the last meeting before Christmas, what else but Allan's recent fishing adventures on Christmas Island.

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**2015**

### **January 8<sup>th</sup>.**

Invicta Social, Arundel House Hotel.

### **January 22<sup>nd</sup>. Stuart Illsley.**

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

### **February 5<sup>th</sup>. "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.

**February 21<sup>st</sup>.** Invicta Club Dinner. Details in due course

### **March 5<sup>th</sup>. Cookshill Fly Tying.**

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

**March 19<sup>th</sup>** The traditional pre-season quiz with Chris McLeod in the chair.

### **Invicta/Snowbee Interclub Floating Line Match.**

**Grafham Water 26<sup>th</sup> July 2014**

#### **Results**

#### **Winning Team**

	<b>Fish</b>	<b>lb</b>	<b>oz</b>
<b>Bristol</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>8</b>
Martin Cottis, Peter de Kremer Mark Stevens, Andrew Flitcroft			

#### **Runners Up**

<b>Invicta B</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>12</b>
John Mees, Chris McLeod Mark Haycock, Mark Searle			

#### **3rd Team**

<b>Invicta C</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>2</b>
Gary How ,Kieran Bonas Graham Bodsworth ,Mick Facey			

#### **4<sup>th</sup> Team**

Tunbridge Wells Geriatrics  
Russell Bell , Jeff Latter  
Mick Priest, Bob Shaw

#### **TOP BOAT**

John Mess	<b>3</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>4</b>
Alex Rothwell			



## Old Interclub Trophy

### Invicta B

Fish	lbs	ozs
4	8	12

John Mees, Chris McLeod  
Mark Haycock, Mark Searle

### Best Fish

Mark Stevens 4 10

### Top Rod

John Mees (Invicta B) 7 4

**Total 39 Fish – 62 Anglers**  
**Rod Average 0.63**

**It reflects great credit on the Invicta sub-committee that organises this prestigious and popular event. We owe much to Simon Kidd and Snowbee for supporting the day so generously. One would be hard-put to find another event where winners walk away with, literally, arms full of goodies.**

It may well be necessary to re-think the date of this match due to the catch rate to date. Some disquiet has been voiced over this and, I'm sure, this will lead to further discussion bearing in mind an already congested fishing programme.

## Carr Cup

Pitsford	Rutland	Eyebrook	Grafham
07-Apr	03-May	06-Jun	16-Jul

					pts	fish	av
C.McLeod	8	4	8	8	180	28	7.00
G.How	7	2	3	6	130	18	4.50
J.Caldwell	8	5	3	1	125	17	4.25
G.Bodsworth	6	4	4	2	120	16	4.00
M.Facey	8	4	0	3	115	15	3.75
P.Oldham	6	5		6	115	17	5.67
A.Briggs	3	8	3		100	14	4.67
M.Searle	8		0	6	100	14	4.67
J.Mees	8			8	100	16	8.00
D.Moore	8		4		80	12	6.00
S.Middleton	7	2		1	80	10	3.33
J.Russell		3	8		75	11	5.50
P.Heavens	3	2	1	1	75	7	1.75
G.Williams	8	1			65	9	4.50
A.Prevost	6	0	0		60	6	2.00
M.Smith	7		1		60	8	4.00
P.Stevens	4	0	0		50	4	1.33
R.Hurren		7			45	7	7.00
R.Ayres	1		1	1	45	3	1.00
A.Newman	6				40	6	6.00
J.Brown			2		20	2	2.00
A.Sefton	1				15	1	1.00
E.Osimo			1		15	1	1.00
A.Taylor			0		10	0	0.00

Fish caught	113	47	39	43
Nm of anglers	19	14	17	11
Rod average	5.95	3.36	2.53	3.91

## Invicta in The House of Lords

By Peter Oldham

Invicta were represented at a lunch in the House of Lords in May, with members of the flyfishing tackle trade, riparian owners and flyfishing organisations. The lunch, in aid of Fishing For Forces, was at the invitation of Lord Dear; also present was Lady Brassey, of Apethorpe Manor, supporter of FFF. Also in attendance were some members of HM Forces.

The dress code did not permit orange Invicta cap or blue fishing shirt, however the enamel Invicta badge was prominently displayed.

Following lunch an auction took place; bidding was for various original paintings, jewellery, fishing on rivers, lunches in expensive restaurants.....and lunch for 2 on a nuclear submarine, donated by an RN Commander.

## Association of Major Clubs

With 4 of the 6 Rounds completed Invicta A are in 3<sup>rd</sup> position with 16 points in Group 2. Bewl Bridge are in 1<sup>st</sup> place with 23 points followed by Tunbridge Wells with 18.

In Round 4 five of the 6 man team caught 8 fish for a total of 88lbs 10 ozs trailing Tunbridge with 105lbs 9ozs and Bewl with 100lbs 6ozs.

In Group 3 Invicta B are in 5<sup>th</sup> place from 6 with 7 points.

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

### Disclaimer

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