

INVICTA FFC

WWW.INVICTAFFC.ORG.UK

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NEWSLETTER 174

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

Editor's Notes

I am asked to remind you that Subscriptions were due on January 1st. Non payment by the end of March results in being ineligible to take part in any Club social events, competitive and non-competitive fishing events organised by the Club.

Your Committee strives hard to provide a varied and comprehensive programme throughout the year for which, surely, the Winter Programme alone is worth the current £17.00 a year.

There is no doubt that Invicta is amongst the short list of most active and ambitious flyfishing Clubs in the country offering a wide range of Game fishing interests on rivers, lakes and ocean.

Winter Programme 2015

Thursday March 5th

Cookshill Flytying by Steve Cooper

A welcome return for Steve who will present his excellent top quality natural materials for the tying enthusiast.

Thursday March 19th

Chris McLeod presents

The traditional pre-season quiz. Form a team of four and have a go.

Arundel Hotel Social Evening

January 8th

This evening has become a regular inclusion in our calendar. 27 past, present and prospective members met to enjoy this convivial evening with lots of fishing stories to be re-told (some may have been true!)

As usual the highlight was the amount and quality of the Buffet provided by the staff of the Hotel under the watchful eye of Executive Chef, Mark Searle.

Four of the wives took advantage of the occasion to book a table in the Conservatory for their own get-together.

If you haven't been before why not give it a go next year, currently @12-00 per head, and bring a friend or potential member.

Invicta Fishing Dates 2015-02-24

Pitsford, Monday April 13th

Rutland, Saturday May 2nd

Eyebrook, Friday June 5th

Grafham, Sunday July 5th

Draycote, Saturday August 15th

Ravensthorpe, Saturday Sept 5th

Grafham, Tuesday October 6th

All of the above may be fished as social events but for the competitive minded all 7 contribute points to the Carr Cup. In addition one venue carries the Hunter Bowl and one the President's Cup.

Association of Major Clubs

There will be three Groups of six teams competing this year. Invicta A will be in Group 2 and Invicta B will be in Group 3 this year.

This is a friendly easy going competition, an ideal introduction prior to more serious competition. If you would like to take part in either the A team or B team. (contact details below) The B team is an ideal starting point if you are new to competition.

To participate please contact David Moore as early as possible.

davidmoore48@outlook.com or Alan Prevost.

Sat 25th April, Spring Match, Grafham Groups 1, 2 & 3.

Thurs 7th May, Grafham, Group 3,

Tues 26th May, Bewl, Group 2.

Fri 12th June, Hanningfield, Group 3.

Wed 24th June, Draycote, Group 2.

Fri 10th July, Eyebrook, Group 2.

Sat 11th July, Pitsford, Group 3.

Sat 22nd August, Eyebrook, Group 3.

Wed 2nd September, Rutland, Group 2.

Sat 26th September, Autumn Match, Draycote, Groups 1, 2 & 3.

An Addendum to the above by our President

As one who represented Invicta FFC at the inaugural meeting in London I am a staunch and enthusiastic supporter of the AMC.

However, it does seem as though the Association is some kind of angling Marie Celeste drifting slowing onto the rocks with no one at the helm. Representatives to the recent AGM declare the Meeting to have been "a complete shambles". Constitution rules are not being followed inasmuch as Minutes of Meetings are not distributed at the appropriate time and important items/proposals which require consideration by Member Clubs are not notified in due time. In spite of an Agenda being distributed important items were 'bounced' on the Meeting, some under Any Other Business. A proposal to amend the catch limit was pushed through with no prior warning, the Committee even failing to consult the host fisheries which have their own designated list of catch or C&R tickets which will, almost certainly, clash with the proposal. I suggest that any Official who is unwilling or unable to uphold the established Constitution should examine their conscience, maintain their and the Association's integrity and stand aside before the final curtain falls.

A double presentation tonight February 5th

**Graham Williams demonstrated his
favourite flies for Canada.**

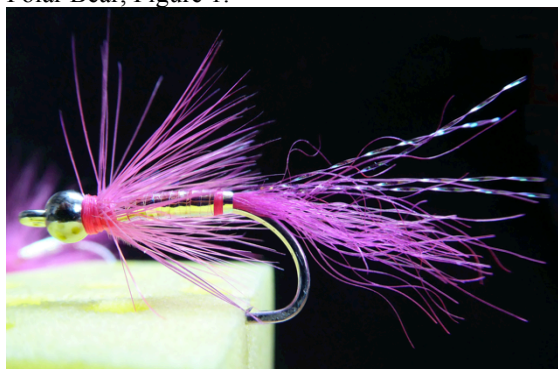
by David Jones

Graham Williams on flies for the Campbell River.
February 2015

Vancouver Island is on the Pacific Ocean side of Canada. The town of Campbell River has the reputation of being the "Salmon Capital of the World", gained from the fact that 5 species of salmon run the rivers and their numbers are counted in millions. I wondered how such a number of fish could be found in a river which is barely 5km in length. The internet reveals all: the river has three hydroelectric schemes in operation and the 5km refers to the distance up to the first dam. Any method is permitted on the lower 4km and fly fishing only on the last stretch up to the dam. The river is up to 50 metres wide, with a depth of around a metre and runs at some speed. The river has a "free stone" bed which can lead to tricky wading. With its reputation and density of fish, do not expect it to be wilderness fishing and it seems that at some times of the season, the snagging brigade is out in force.

Graham has visited Vancouver Island on many occasions over the past decade or so, and spent the evening showing us some of the patterns which he has found successful. He strongly advised using a professional guide for anyone new to the venue. He initially used a 13½ ft double handed rod and skagit lines but this was replaced by a much lighter reservoir style outfit and a floating No.6 sink-tip line.

Pink salmon run in July and they seemed to like pink coloured flies. Graham showed us how to tie a Polar Bear, Figure 1.



A description of the tying method is hardly required for such a simple design. The hook is a No.6 long shank debarbed as this is required by the rules. The tail and throat hackle was constructed using really bright pink feathers although Graham has experienced problems getting hold of these. The wing is dyed polar bear hair, which is usually translucent and sparkling but has degraded in quality in recent years because the only bears available were those caught marauding in villages and feeding on junk food. I think some anglers use arctic fox instead. A few lengths of Crystallflash type material added to the lustre. A tungsten bead on the head is required in order to get the fly down to the fish. About half the fish are foul hooked and if this should be in the tail then the resulting fight is quite lively.

Coho run from September onwards and might weigh in at up to 15 pounds. The fly to use for these beasts is the Coho Bugger – a pattern that is very similar to the Woolly Bugger as used in the UK. This was originally a fly to be used at sea. The idea in Campbell River is to cycle up and down the road alongside the estuary until signs of fish are spotted. Blue is the preferred colour in the sea whereas pink (again) is the colour of choice in the river. Figure 2 shows examples of Graham's patterns.



There are plenty of posts on YouTube showing the method of tying so I will not go into detail here. The third fly was a bit of a monster tied on a Waddington style shank with a flying single at the

back-end linked with a double length of 49 strand soft wire (Google pike trace wire).



Basically the fly, Graham style, was tied on the shank, in two halves linked by a base covered in Bodywrap (fine). This is a narrow flat Mylar braid which I had not encountered before but will soon be available from Veniards. The fly uses Schlappen feathers which originate from the lower back of the bird. They are large with webby fibres so that they support other materials in the fly, and collapse and open when suitably retrieved (rather like a jelly fish). See Figure 3.



There are many styles of this fly which are collectively referred to as Intruders. I refer you to YouTube. Note that these films can occupy 20 or more minutes which reflects the time needed to tie Intruders. Commercial varieties can cost £8 a piece. Favourite colour combinations are black/green, orange/white, and red/purple. I think that you might have problems casting these monsters on a No.6 line!

www.campbellrivertourism.com gives a good general introduction to the area where there is plenty to do apart from fishing – like dodging the wild wildlife! However, I cannot find a decent site dealing in detail with fishing. Graham recommends Gene Berkey as a guide (www.seabeyond.ca) although others are available.

We wish Graham a productive trip and look forward to hearing of his adventures in the future.

Waterlog Magazine

by Norman Shippey

At a recent Club evening Mac McDonall introduced me to this publication.

www.waterlog.co.uk £35.00 a year for four editions.

Each edition runs to 20 or more fishing stories, some historic, informative, humorous, occasionally far fetched but entertaining.

The Vendace

I was reminded of the Vendace, a fish I knew of but knew little about. A herring like fish with an adipose fin which may suggest some relationship to the salmonids. It is only known to be present in one or two locations in Cumbria. Derwent water is a known habitat and some attempt has been made to transfer fry from there into Sprinkling Tarn in an effort to maintain the species. It is our rarest British fresh-water fish.

The Herring

Known to the old trawler men as the “silver darling” in the 19th century 100,000 people were dependent on the fishing industry. Around the year 1700 some 600 boats and 4000 men were fishing the Firth of Clyde alone and 3750 tons of their catch was exported. On the Fife coast 168 boats exported 12,000 barrels of herring and the small town of Crail exported 2,400 barrels. Each barrel contained 1,000 fish.

As the season progressed the fleets followed the shoals south right down to Great Yarmouth and Lowestoft with hundreds of Scottish fisher-women following down the coast to gut and pack the fish as they were landed.

By 1826 it is estimated that approximately 379,233 barrels of herring were cured.

Perhaps that and the present idiotic EU laws on returning undersized fish (dead) have practically denuded the North Sea of fish.

Hardy Bros.

A concise history of this company indicates what a remarkable effect it has had in promoting flyfishing over many years.

I will re-cycle these mags at future Club meeting if anyone is interested in a good read.

Incidentally Paul Heavens took one copy with him anticipating a long wait in the dentists waiting room. Inadvertently he left it amongst the 10 year old Autocars, Country Lives and Readers Digests. He went back next day but it had disappeared. Someone knew a good read when they saw it!

I have a 1931 edition of Hardy's catalogue. Cane rods at that time were on sale for six guineas and ten guineas (£6.30 & £10.50) Not surprising that most fly fishermen at that time were lawyers, architects or senior rank military men!

Oscar Boatfield presenting his new Company & Guiding Services by David Jones



I can't think of a previous occasion when a speaker started by praising the Invicta for the help they have given them in progressing their careers but that is exactly what Oscar said. Thank you very much for the accolade. It must be said that Oscar started fly fishing at the age of 6. He joined the Invicta at 11 and by the time he was 14 he was selected for the England Youth team, winning a couple of gold medals in three appearances. He also managed to fit in a couple of World Championships where his top individual performance was 26th but picked up a silver team medal when the event was held on the Wharfe the following year. He had fishing in his bones and spent a couple of years at Sparsholt College near Winchester which, apart from providing management skills, enabled him to fish the Test and Itchen. Last year he worked a few days a week at Farlows in London.



A peep into Oscars fly box

So based on his hands-on his top level experiences in Hampshire, Wiltshire, Exmoor, Yorkshire, Derbyshire, France and Slovakia (not to mention

local reservoirs) he has set himself up as a guide. Ears pricked up when he mentioned the availability of free chalkstream fishing at Lambourn, Winchester, Shawford, Wimborne St Giles, and Eastleigh. The term "you get what you pay for" comes to mind. I recollect that he used to hone his technique on the Cam and indeed, it is pretty pointless traveling miles to expensive waters if the pupil has not mastered the basics. I recall going to the paddling pool at Newnham to try something new only to find that it was drained in the winter!! Oscar raved about French style fishing which he first came across aged 11 on holiday in France. He received tuition from the French National champion! He is in the process of co-authoring a book on the subject. I feel a book signing event coming on! The ultra-clear rivers racing down the Pyrenees, would only yield their fish if super long leaders were employed and this developed into dispensing with the fly line altogether in order to minimise drag. Thus the set-up would consist of a reel line of 30lb bs nylon, with a progressive taper made up of 40cm lengths of thinner nylon until the tip region of say 0.020mm is reached. A strike indicator consisting of a bunch of floss was used, set at a distance determined by the depth of the stream. Using flies tied on jig hooks with a tungsten bead, Oscar claimed to be able to cast (or lob) 30 yards. John Mees reckoned that the method was about to be banned which was news to Oscar. I can see that some might think it akin to ledgering. I wondered if it was possible to use Spey or related casting techniques which are essential in confined spaces.

Oscar has introduced a range of 10ft rods specifically to use with French nymphing, equivalent to handling AFTM 2, 3 and 4 lines. They are made up on imported pale green blanks with sleeve type ferrules, housed in a brushed aluminium carrying tube. The rods are mostly soft actioned which he preferred as it reduced the number of fish bumped off. However, there was a 9½ ft tip actioned model AFTM#4, which John Mees seemed to appreciate apart from the relatively small diameter of the handle. No problem because Oscar makes these rods up from their individual parts and any diameter handle (and other parts) was available to order. These rods retail at £400 and are covered by a 1 year guarantee providing that it can be shown that the material was defective.

He had a few CNC machined aluminium alloy reels, which balanced these rods nicely, for £60 I think.

He does not like spring type bite indicators formed into the tapered leader. He does use floss and is currently investigating the application of a fluorescent grease in order to increase visibility at long range. He prefers nymph fishing but changes to dry fly if the circumstances demand. Patterns are generic rather than matching the hatch. A pattern claimed to be deadly was made from a dissected

squeaky toy. No, they are not available from Tesco's! The cast must be fished back to the anglers feet as the quarry, particularly grayling, are attracted by food released by shuffling the anglers footwear. Another essential is a decent pair of polarising glasses. He had a preference for Costa Del Ma but expect to pay megabucks.

There was quite a lot of interest in his fees. These are £200 per day with no limit on the number of participants although realistically up to 4 would be preferred.

Further info on his enterprises can be found on www.boatfieldflyfishing.co and his personal address is boatfieldflyfishing@gmail.com I am sure we will all closely follow his progress and wish him well for the future.

[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 Thursday March 12th 2015.](#)

Disclaimer

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

