

## Winter Evening Report

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### Invicta A team – 20/10/16

#### Chris Mcleod

Following the success of the Invicta A Team in winning promotion to the top division after 10 years of trying, Chris opened the Invicta Winter season talks with an introduction to the Association of Major Fly Fishing Clubs.



#### John Caldwell presenting the trophy at the final match to Chris Mcleod, Gary How, David Moore, and Jeff Hickson

Invicta was a founder member of the AFMC when four other clubs (Bristol, Rutland, Bewl & East Midlands) aimed to move away from the professional dominated events at the time and to promote friendly inter-club events.

The idea was to encourage wider participation within club members who might not otherwise consider entering competitions: 24 different Invicta anglers took part last season in two teams of 6 participating in a possible 6 events. In order to be selected in the Invicta A Team anglers must prove their ability via the B Team.

The selection method seems to work as Invicta teams beat the rod average in every match. Have no fear about entering because the B Team ended up at the foot of the league! Obviously potential anglers must be available on the allocated dates and ideally, practice. Some venues require considerable travel but car sharing is usually easy to arrange.

Anglers are expected to fish to International Rules with a few modifications. Fish killed is limited by the purchase of a single ticket. A time bonus scheme is in operation, a rule introduced by the AMFF and now adopted in many other competitions.

Anglers fish sitting down, casting out of the side of the boat, fishing between the hours 10-6pm. Flies must fit the International gauge, but no weighted flies or beads are permitted. On the other hand, 4 hook-points are allowed on a leader which means that anglers may use 2 doubles and thus by-pass the concept of unweighted flies. Similarly, I think I heard that mobile telephones must not be used to exchange fishing information yet there are surreptitious, non-verbal ways of conveying messages to one another! Think of bees in the hive!

(Does Invicta still employ the day-glow pink vests? - Ed)

Anyway if you think the rules are complicated then just look at the regulations applied to anglers participating in the Grayling Society's 2016 Symposium.

(The AMFC full constitution and rules can be found here:

<http://amfc.co.uk/constitution-and-rules/> )

There were a few questions from the floor but not really about the Team. One newcomer (I think) asked about storing leaders with flies already attached. Rig winders were recommended. I thought that these were only to be found in the GAC Sea Fishing catalogue (p. 43) but I see that they are stocked at the Grafham lodge. Note that these are made from a fairly soft EVA foam and come in a pack of 5 colours. They could be useful for experimental floating flies.

Strange that you are allowed to use "floating assisters" but not connecting rings (Wt. 0.0005g) on the leader. Someone mentioned Gigafish line. According to the website ([www.gigafishline](http://www.gigafishline)) it is not a fluorocarbon but has "an unparalleled diameter to strength ratio". TF reckoned it was ideal for fishing emergers or dry flies. Alan Prevost, our Treasurer, on the other hand, sent his back as it was too brittle. Talking about this discrepancy afterwards suggested that there were different types of Gigafish line.

The essence of the competition is to maintain a friendly atmosphere. It was fairly clear from the slide show after the talk that this was much in evidence. I was delighted to see a photo of Viv Church who at 92 is still participating in competitive fishing. He visited the club in the early days to explain the mysteries of traditional reservoir trout angling when most of us were fresh from coarse fishing.

So there we have it. Congratulations to Chris McLeod, Mark Searle, Mark Haycock, Kieran Bonas, John Caldwell, Jeff Hickson, Mick Facey, Graham Bodsworth, Gary How, Alan Briggs, Keith Gilchrist and David Moore who fished in the A Team.

If anyone fancies giving it a go then contact David Moore  
[davidmoore48@outlook.com](mailto:davidmoore48@outlook.com)



Mark Searle – Captain of Invicta A – and Keith Gilchrist receive the Kew/Queen Mother Plate at the 1<sup>st</sup> match of the year at Rutland

**Dave Jones. November 2016**