

INVICTA FFC

WWW.INVICTAFFC.ORG.UK

DECEMBER 2012
NEWSLETTER 164

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

Editor's Notes

With the winter programme well under way we have been rewarded with some most entertaining and instructive talks so far. Highlights of these were Rob Mungovan's Rivers and Paul & Sue Sissons fishing travels and a John Mees/Kieran Bonus flytying evening. Full accounts of all of our programme will be recounted in this or subsequent editions of the Newsletter.

Annual subscriptions are due in January. Still £17.00 and good value at that. A full year-round programme surely is worth the price! A renewal form is included later in this edition.

The social occasion of our year, our Annual Dinner, is scheduled for Saturday 23rd February 2013. A new venue this year at the St.Neots Golf Club. This is not a "members only" event, wives, partners and friends are welcome. (a booking form may be found with this edition).

It's good to see some new members at our winter meetings, we hope you find it worthwhile and participate in our fishing outings. If you are interested in competition we cater for both serious and laid-back options. Ask around and you will find much good advice and encouragement forthcoming.

Committee Matters

Graham Williams has decided not to stand for election as Chairman at the next AGM in February. In fact he will be out of the country at some stage thereafter.

We also have at least one other vacancy on the Committee and await nominations to fill that spot. The call on your time is not onerous, we have 5 or 6 meetings a year and share responsibility for Club events. It is particularly important that newer members get involved as they tend to bring a new perspective to the group. Positions are open to fully paid-up members with a minimum of one year membership.

Winter Programme

Thursday 13th December

Stuart Crofts, Sex, Insects & Flyfishing
Not to be missed this one.

Thursday 10th January 2013

Celebrating 37 years of Invicta FFC in

April

Arundel House Hotel,

Chesterton Road,
Cambridge, CB4 3AN.

7pm Thursday, 10th January 2013
Buffet Meal £12.00

RSVP – alan@prevost.net

All Members & ex members welcome

Thursday 24th January
Fishery Management & Alaska Fishing
Ivor Jones,

Ivor, manager of Draycote, Thornton and Foremark fisheries will give us a perspective on fishery management and relate stories, with slides, of his Alaskan adventures.

Thursday February 7th -TBA

Thursday February 21st
AGM – reports, elections of Officers etc.

Saturday 23rd February
Annual Dinner, St.Neots Golf Club
Crosshall Road,
St.Neots, Hunts.
PE19 7GE



Thursday March 7th TBA

Thursday 21st March
Quiz Evening

Proof that there is more to fishing than just catching fish comes with photos taken on a recent trip to Pitsford. Alan Prevost and Lawson Wight sent me pictures of the sole remaining Avro Vulcan in formation with other historic aircraft.



Winter Programme Reviews

River Projects in South Cambs.

Rob Mungovan

By David Jones

If your journeys are mainly along motorways and you don't read the local press, then don't be surprised if some major building projects escape your notice. There seems to be a lot of earth movement around the Trumpington Park and Ride area and it turns out to be a major village comprising some 1200 homes, a school, shops and a village centre within an area of 155 acres. The website shows maps of the area which runs from Hauxton Mill, straddling the M11 and on up to the

Grantchester/Trumpington Road, almost entirely on the old Plant Breeding Institute grounds. The western boundary comprises a meandering River Cam and 250 acres of country park including a farm under the stewardship of the Wild Life Trust.

It is probable that the R.Cam in this area was “improved” during the 1970’s by wholesale dredging which removed the gravel bed and reduced the river to little short of a canal with steep banks. Flow was limited except in times of flood when any fry, lacking cover out of the torrent, were immediately washed out down through Cambridge and out onto the Fens.



This new project provided the opportunity to restore the river to its prime by introducing shallows, new sluices, a few backwaters, and most importantly grading the banks so that a wide variety of water plants could flourish. Habitats for birds such as Kingfishers would be established . Step up Rob Mungovan – Ecology Officer for South Cambs District Council.

Although starting out as a concept, any attempt to put ideas into practice must satisfy the Environment Agency. The River Restoration Centre

(www.therrc.co.uk) provided support.

Rudimentary sketches were converted into architectural type drawings; hydraulic modelling demonstrated that introducing 1200 tonnes of gravel would not adversely affect the tendency for the river to flood. An archaeological survey was conducted which turned up nothing other than a nail of unknown origin! The underlying soil was found to be peaty which suggested that the area was once a lake and it was quite likely that the river followed a different path at the end of the Ice Age. Eel grass was introduced as it was thought to deter cormorants from fishing the river without adversely affecting the propensity to flood. What about mink someone asked? An extensive trapping programme by the Countryside Restoration Trust in the area has apparently almost eliminated this species from local streams.

It was not possible to achieve all of the desired modifications. Thus, when it was proposed to create a spawning area just 10cms deep, the land owner on the other bank objected as local shallows may encourage people to wade across the river onto his pheasant shoot. A compromise solution was to keep the minimum depth to just in excess of knee height which was considered an adequate deterrent to indiscriminate wading by the public. A backwater was developed by opening up a neglected ditch to enable the river to back fill the area, minimise flooding and provide a habitat for various species including toads as well as fry. Rob wanted to drop a large lime tree across the river but this was frowned upon by the EA. Instead, flow diversity was achieved by a series of logs, root balls and faggot bundles staked to the bed of the river in critical locations. Bank erosion caused by signal crayfish has been managed by suitable reinforcement in critical areas. It will be at least 5 years before an appraisal of the success of these methods. However large numbers of fry have been observed hiding in the crevices. Reasonable sized mature brown trout, perch and chub have

also been seen. Rob was asked about otters. Apparently they are prevalent in the streams of South Cambs although he has not actually seen one on this stretch of the Cam. It may be that their numbers are controlled by motorway traffic? His view was that otters only eat prey that is easy to hunt such as crayfish, bullheads and eels. Tell that to commercial carp fishery owners!

The signs are good although some might question the availability of adequate water. When I moved to Cambridge in 1960, the weirs in Cambridge were exactly that – weirs. One was used by the University Canoe Club as a slalom venue. The Silver Street weir generated two almighty eddies before rushing under the road bridge. Quality roach were to be caught with a sliver of silk weed on the hook. One can now count 100 punts moored in that semi stagnant area so it is not surprising the anglers voice is not heard. Similar observations apply to Hauxton Mill and the river at Linton. It was not a good omen that Cambridge Water Company, which draws its water from bore holes near the head waters of our local rivers, was the only one in East Anglia which did not feel the need for a hosepipe ban earlier this year. I wonder if CWC was relying on maintaining the (minimum) flow via extra deep bore holes in the chalk strata well to the south of Cambridge, but the wet summer saved the day.

This project cost £120,000 in total but the Government provided a grant of £85,000. It is now complete but the public will not gain access until 2014.

After a break Rob went on to talk about the R.Mel Restoration Project where he acted as adviser, for which the team including Norman Shippey won a National award. The techniques involved were essentially as described above. One of the successes was the growth in the number of water voles. Further information, including photos, can be found on

<http://melbourn.cambridge.co.uk/rivermel/the-river-mel/>

Another project involved the River Shep. This river rises in the RSPB reserve at Fowlmere which is a SSSI, cannot be allowed by law to run dry. A slide show can be found on

www.shepreth.org/?#!for-shep

A recent survey showed the fish population included brown trout, roach, dace, brook lamprey, stone and spine loach, gudgeon, pike and bullhead. Rob had a few copies of a brochure describing walks along the Shep: it doesn't appear to be on the web unless Rob knows better?

Finally we got our hands on the rod Rob like to use on these tiny streams. This was a 5ft jobbie, a superbly crafted rod, in tempered split cane by Rawson & Perrin. See www.rawsonandperrin.co.uk. Rob assured us that it had landed quite a few 4 pounders in the Cambridge area but surprise surprise he wasn't revealing his venues!

A Cormorant Story.....

This from the Field & Stream website. A Saskatchewan woman was driving through Craven, a local town, when she came across a cormorant in some distress. It had the strap of a small digital camera wrapped round its neck. The bird made no attempt to escape when she approached and retrieved the camera but flew away immediately after.

The camera had obviously been in water but the woman removed the memory card, dried it out and found over 200 frames of guys on a fishing expedition. Having no luck when placed on her Facebook page she got a slot on a local radio show and traced the owner of the camera. He had lost it as he netted a fish for his colleague. It is evident from the report that the reporter of this event was only sorry she let the bird go.

www.cbc.ca/news/canada/saskatchewan/story/2012/11/14/sk-bird-with-camera-1211.html

Field & Stream App can be downloaded from Google Play Store where many serious and not so stories may be found such as “How to Grill your Wild Turkey”

A Fly Tying Evening

John Mees and Kieran Bonas

By David Jones



I have heard these events being dismissed as not worth attending. That has not been my experience and whenever I have the opportunity to see John Mees in action, (Its OK John your secrets are safe with me! Ed.), I know I am going to learn something new.

Booby Zonker

This fly probably came from the box of Dave Downie tied to International rules on a size 10 Kamazan 175. The materials required are some black mink (£3.00 a packet from the AWA shop), peacock herl, red holo tinsel and some booby cord. (I am sure John said mink and not rabbit). Along with many others, I have always tried to tie the booby cord directly to the hook shank. The easy way is to loop it onto the silk a few cms away from the shank and wind the silk onto the hook until the cord comes into contact, when it is simplicity itself

to secure the eyes symmetrically about the shank. Dave Downie himself demonstrates how this is done on <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4XNbhJsQ2G8>

A bit of saliva on the mink facilitates it being tied down at the rear. A couple of strands of peacock herl and a length of holo was tied in to make a thin body with a spiral of red holo. The mink was pulled tightly over the body and secured behind the eyes then pulled over between the eyes rather like a wing case and tied off at the eye. John does not favour a whip finish but prefers a couple of half hitches performed with the aid of the tip of a biro case.

This technique is demonstrated on <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mjZ07WFkS-Q>

Grafham Shrimp



Everyone knows how the rogue shrimp in Grafham has transformed the bank fishing to the extent that rumour has it that other fisheries are looking forward to it appearing in their own waters! There are numerous patterns on the market usually aimed at exact imitation: a modified Hares Ear is a good example.

John tied a simple variant using hares ear fur on a rope – available of course at the AWA shop. If you examine the photo you will see that the fur also contains deer hair which will probably slow the rate of sink.

Tying was simple – red cock fibres for the tail and as much hares ear as it was possible to pack onto the shank. I met Chris McLeod in a well-known supermarket the other day (buying salmon!!!!) who told me that the fishing at Grafham was exceptional and that, not only had he caught some mighty fish in the 6 pound category, but that he had not blanked over many visits. So what kind of shrimp was he using? Ha! Ha! A large lure with a green fritz body and a long black overwing, slowly retrieved just under the surface.

B'jesus

Sounds as if this pattern might have an Irish origin but it is basically a booby damsel tied on a 175 hook. Yellow booby eyes were tied in at the front followed by light olive marabou at the tail using olive silk. Olive marabou is also tied in behind the eyes and wound down the body. Green UTC tinsel was wound up the body in an open rib which allowed some marabou fibres to protrude. The body was reinforced with turns of silk. This pattern was described as a good point fly at Pitsford.

A pulling buzzer?



This pattern was attributed to Patrick Kelly and was tied on a size 12 grub hook. A bed

of tying silk was sparsely overlaid with olive seals fur and ribbed with ice blue UTC tinsel covering about 2/3 of the shank. A couple of turns of peacock herl served as a thorax with a few turns of hackle at the front. The fly was finished with a wing case of blue lurex. This looked more like a fly for fishing sub-surface rather than pulling – maybe my notes were wrong?

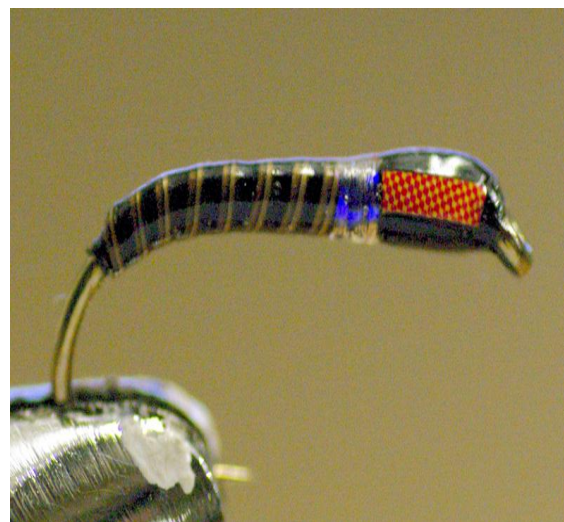
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Kieran Bonus now took over the vice. He has enjoyed a very successful 2012 as Captain of the England Youth Team and amongst other things, also won the Tuesday Evening Boat League at Grafham for the 2nd consecutive year.

The Bonas Blob

First up was a blob tied on a #12 B175. This was a two-tone jobbie with Fluo lime green mini-fritz at the rear 2/3rds with fluo orange at the front. A short tail made up of UV tinsel was firstly tie in. For the body, the key was to pack as much fritz on as possible, stroking it backwards as the turns were applied. This could be fished either as a pulling fly, as a p[oint fly in a washing line set-up, or as a top dropper over a couple of nymphs.

Epoxy Buzzer



This was tied on a #10 175. Kieran demonstrated how to strip peacock herl using an eraser. This was carefully applied over a flat bed of thread, taking care to space the turns to create a regular ribbed effect. A UV strand of tinsel was used to build up the thorax. A couple of cheeks cut from a crisp packet were fixed to the side of the thorax. Chicken flavoured Walkers provided the approved orange colour. The fly was not finished until it had received at least 3 coats of "Hard as Nails" varnish. There is little doubt that the ribbed effect created with stripped peacock is very attractive to trout and it seems to be well worth the extra effort needed to prepare the materials.

Kieran Sometimes fishes 4 of these nymphs on a cast, each with different coloured cheeks – but you will have to seek out the specific flavours for yourselves.

Nemo



Kieran tied this fly short on a #10 175. A few tail fibres served as the tail. Another couple of fibres made up a thin body which was reinforced with a rib of red holo and gold wire. A couple of turns of peacock herl served to act as a thorax. 3 turns of hen furnace hackle were put in at

the front. The red holo from the body was threaded through the hackle to form a red head.

I was impressed by the skill and maturity demonstrated by Kieran. I am sure that a very successful future awaits him both on and off the water.

The next Committee Meeting is scheduled for Thursday 31st January 2013. Questions for the Committee should be with the Paul Stevens, the Minutes Secretary well before that date.

On the subject of Club Trips. These are social events with a modicum of competition if you require it. Newer members are encouraged to take part. You may specify someone you know as boat partner on several events or request boating with an experienced angler. In some competitive events partners are decided by a draw but, of course, you are not compelled to compete so can treat the day as a social outing.

Graham Williams would also appreciate early knowledge your wish to take part in the AMC or any competition as soon as possible after they are advertised.

St. Neots Golf Club
Saturday 23rd February 2013

Starters

- (1) Garlic Mushrooms in Filo Pastry Basket
- (2) Crayfish & Herb Mayo Cocktail
- (3) Chicken Liver Pate, Cranberry Relish & Toast

Main Course

- (4) Braised Beef with Root Vegetables in a Red Wine Gravy
- (5) Roast Chicken Breast with a Creamy Mushroom, Bacon & Thyme Sauce
- (6) Pork Loin Steak with a Whole Grain Mustard & Sage Sauce
- (7) Vegetarian Option – Roasted Vegetable & Quorn Hotpot

Served with Roast Potatoes & fresh Vegetables

Dessert

- (8) Warm Apple Pie & Custard
- (9) Lemon Tart & Cream
- (10) Chocolate & Hazelnut Torte & Ice Cream

Cheese & Biccuits £4.50

Coffee/Tea & Mints

Dinner Price £26.00 Please note, we have been asked to order our wines at least a week prior to the Dinner. Wine to be paid for over the Bar on the night.

Please return the portion with you selections & Cheque (payable Invicta FFC) or pay into
Bank Sort Code 20-43-63 Account Number 70514004

Return by Friday 11th February 2013 to Alan Prevost by post or email
15 Willingham Road, Over, Cambridge CB24 5PD. **With wine order please.**

Name	Selection			Name	Selection		

WHITE WINES

	175ml	250ml	Bottle
1. Colombard –Ugni Blanc, Le Sanglier, Caves Foncalieu, France Rounded, appley and deliciously fresh.	£2.90	£3.85	£11.10
2. Sauvignon Blanc, Terramater Vineyard Reserve Central Valley, Chile Dry, ripe, gooseberry and grapefruit flavours.	£3.60	£4.80	£13.85
3. Rioja, El Coto Blanco Rioja, Spain Well-balanced white displays refined citrus fruits.	£3.55	£4.70	£13.55
4. Chenin Blanc, Keate's Drift Western Cape, South Africa Flowery bouquet and hints of melon fruit. Off Dry.	£3.25	£4.25	£12.30
5. Pinot Grigio, Villa Borghetti Italy Dry and refreshing with a hint of almond on the finish.	£3.45	£4.50	£13.10

CLUBHOUSE CELLAR SPECIAL RESERVE WHITE WINES

From the oldest winery in New Zealand

6. Sauvignon Blanc, Mission Estate Marlborough, New Zealand Aromatic, zesty dry, with pink grapefruit flavours.			£17.95
7. Riesling, Mission Estate Hawke's Bay, New Zealand This excellent dry Riesling has an aroma of honey and subtle lime notes.			£18.30

ROSE WINES

8. Rioja Rosado, El Coto Rioja, Spain Wonderful Rioja. Refreshing apéritif. Soft strawberry fruits with a great creaminess on the finish.	£3.55	£4.70	£13.55
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RED WINES

9. Merlot, Delle Venezie, Le Collezioni Italy Lightly oaked, with soft, plummy fruit.	£3.00	£4.00	£12.30
10. Carignan-Grenache, Le Sanglier Caves Foncalieu, France Award winning producer near Carcassonne in the sunny South of France. Silky smooth wine with brambly fruit.	£2.90	£3.85	£11.10
11. Rioja Crianza, El Coto Rioja, Spain Fantastic Rioja with an aroma of vanilla and tobacco.	£4.35	£5.75	£16.80

	175ml	250ml	Bottle
12. Shiraz Cinsaut, Keate's Drift South Africa A great wine with bags of character. Full bodied with plenty of ripe fruits.	£3.10	£4.10	£11.75
13. Pinotage, Keate's Drift South Africa Robust red, rich, dark, with smoky notes and some earthiness.	£3.30	£4.40	£12.70
14. Cabernet Carmenère, Terramater Vineyard Reserve <i>Unfiltered</i> , Chile Notes of chocolate with a rich velvety finish. This wine is unfiltered to give extra richness and fuller flavour so may throw a sediment.	£3.60	£4.80	£13.85
15. Shiraz, Crystal Brook South Eastern Australia Very well balanced, minty red with plenty of ripe juicy fruit. Peppery notes on the finish.	£4.00	£5.30	£15.45
16. 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.			£15.60

CLUBHOUSE CELLAR SPECIAL RESERVE RED WINES

17. Merlot, Highwood, Beresford South Australia Ripe, juicy and sweet textured fruit.	£18.35
18. Real Reserva, Museum Cigales, Spain Superb wine! Made from vines up to 100 years old. Rich, concentrated with a heady mixture of chocolate, liquorice and spice.	£19.95

SPARKLING/CHAMPAGNE

19. Varichon & Clerc, Blanc De Blancs, Non Vintage France Bottle fermented bubbly from the France. Nutty undertones and packed with zestiness.	£15.60
20. Prosecco, Brut Spumante, Non Vintage Donna Trevigiana, Italy Dry, light, easy-drinking bubbly from north-east Italy. Tangy apple and peach notes.	£16.95
21. 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.	£32.95

PORTS

22. Club Ruby Port	50ml Glass	£2.00	Bottle	£18.95
23. Taylors, Late Bottled Vintage Port	50ml Glass	£2.50	Bottle	£21.95

BLUE CARD HOLDERS RECEIVE A 15% DISCOUNT

Membership Renewal Form

Dear All

Just a reminder that the annual membership fee of £17 is now due. Please send your cheque payable to Invicta FFC to me at the address below.

If you would like to pay your subs straight into the Bank theSort Code 20-43-63 Account Number 70514004 An email receipt will be sent

Could you also supply your latest contact details below:

Name

Address.....

.....

.....

Post Code

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

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

Alan Prevost
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