



fly fishing club. cambridge.

President: Norman Shippey <normanshippey@btinternet.com>; Chairman Lawson Wight <lawson@camsweep.co.uk>; Treasurer Alan Prevost <alan@prevost.net>
Secretary/Newsletter Editor Peter Reeves <piscator2003@yahoo.co.uk> tel: 01223 511992.
Bookings officer John Caldwell <john.caldwell@unep-wcmc.org> tel: 01480 381619.

Affiliated to the Federation of Midlands Fly Fishers (Anglia), the Anglers' Conservation Association and the Salmon and Trout Association.

Website: www.invictaffc.org.uk



THE 6th GWFFA/ENGLISH DISABLED FLY FISHERS ANNUAL MATCH, NOW WITH SUPPORT FROM INVICTA & EAST MIDLANDS TFA IS A GREAT SUCCESS.

(Photo courtesy of Anglian Water shows Mark Andrews (left) landing a fish amongst the tightly packed flotilla in Gaynes Cove and (right) Invicta's colourfully clad Chris McLeod trying so, so hard to ignore it.)

Held on 27th April at Grafham Water the now very popular event was extremely well supported with 90 anglers taking to 45 boats on a day with very changeable weather conditions.

Regrettably, for some, these did not suit drifting boats fishing the upper levels of the water and the best bags were achieved by those prepared to anchor and go deeper. Two boats managed to achieve double limits whilst three boats recorded double blanks, with all manner of results in between of course. A total of 255 fish were taken during the day showing a rod average of 2.77 which was a little disappointing perhaps given how well Grafham had been fishing prior to the event.

Some good quality fish were taken however and the winning boat was Harley Smith and Roy Palmer (100% GWFFA in fact) with 16 fish for 43 lbs 3 oz) Best bag was Roy Palmer with 8 fish for 22 lbs 6 oz and the heaviest fish 5 lbs 5 oz was taken by Dave Waters on an Olive Buzzer off the Sludge Bank. In all a good days sport made all the better by the great companionship this event generates.

Somewhat ironically, the tireless principal organiser, Gordon Watson was not there to appreciate the fruits of his labours as on the day of the event he was mysteriously stricken down with flu like symptoms and confined to his bed.

Nevertheless, his time and commitment put in earlier assured success of the event and thanks and congratulations are due to Gordon and his helpers. Recognition should be paid also to the EDFFF and of course to Anglian Water in their support for this event and in particular, John Mees and his cheerful, courteous and obliging team without whom this event would never be quite the same.

On a personal note I would add that Invicta had a good showing but there could have been more. I know that I am not the most committed to competitions but this match is not really about the results as weighed in but the much more lasting results from a mutually supportive and co-operative event with a lot of good blokes... and a growing number of ladies. If you have not tried taking part in this event - remember to respond early next year.

invicta calendar of forthcoming events 2008

May.13/Aug 12th	TUESDAY EVENING LEAGUE GRAFHAM WATER Draw for partners.	5.30 for 6.00 pm
May 19/23rd	'International' Pilgrimage event Chew Valley	see Chris McLeod
June 13th	EYEBROOK Choice of partners. Carr cup points apply	8.30 for 9.00 am
June 29th	AMFC round 3 RUTLAND WATER Organised by Soldier Palmers 'B'	tba
July 9th	AMFC round 4 GRAFHAM WATER Organised by Invicta FFC	tba
July 6th	GWFFA Inter-club FLOATING LINE COMPETITION Grafham Water.	tba
July 13th	GRAFHAM WATER/PRESIDENT'S CUP Draw for partners. Carr cup points	9.00 - 6.00 pm
July 6th	GWFFA Inter-club FLOATING LINE COMPETITION Grafham Water.	tba
Aug. 16th	DRAYCOTE/CARL HUNTER BOWL Draw for partners. Carr cup points	8.30 for 9 am
July 6th	GWFFA Inter-club FLOATING LINE COMPETITION Grafham Water.	tba
Sep.6th	RAVENSTHORPE Choice of partners. Carr cup points apply	8.30 for 9 am.
Sep.14th	AMFC round 5 CHEW VALLEY Organised by Royal Navy/Royal Marines	tba
Sep.17th	BEWL BRIDGE FC 'GRAND MAX' FLOATING LINE COMPETITION	tba
Oct. 4th	AMFC RUTLAND WATER. Autumn Association Match (John Caldwell.)	tba
Oct, 7th	HANNINGFIELD. Choice of partners. Carr cup points apply	8.30 for 9 am
Oct. 12th	AMFC FUN DAY at EYEBROOK.	tba
Oct, 16th	STEVE SKUCE (GRAYLING SOCIETY). Harston Village Hall	7.45 for 8 pm
Oct, 30th	INTERNATIONAL FLY TYING. Stanislav Mankov demonstrates at Harston VH	7.45 for 8 pm
Nov. 13th	The ever popular MICK BEWICK. Mick makes an overdue return to Harston.	7.45 for 8 pm
Nov. 27th	BRIAN MARSHALL. Keeping Salmon and Trout in our rivers. Harston V.Hall	7.45 for 8 pm
Dec. 11th	INVICTA DESTINATION FISHING & XMAS SOCIAL. Harston Village Hall.	7.45 for 8 pm

***PLEASE NOTE THE REVISED DATE FOR THE EVENT AT DRAYCOTE ***

WHAT HAPPENED TO THE..... STICK FLY?

Some years ago, when you & I were younger, fly boxes were rather different. Indeed many were not boxes at all as high fashion items were then the very popular Bob Church flexible zip fly wallets. They must have made Mr. Church a wealthy man as every Barbour pocket seemed to have one in it.

The contents were rather different as well, as the Pheasant Tail nymph held sway, with buzzers and Ivens' Brown & Green nymph also strongly represented. Lures were big and black, with white Badger lures, Nailers and Whiskey flies in serried ranks. One fly which most contemporary fly fishermen would resort to under warm summer conditions (when we had them), would be the Stick fly. I note it does not get much mention now in the weekly fishing reports or much mention in the fly catalogues for those that don't roll their own. They certainly caught a lot of fish and were always understood to represent a cased caddis. Running an internet search I find they are still listed occasionally but with a dressing that does not really seem to represent a partially emerged cased caddis.

The dressing is really simple, generally on a slightly longer shank hook, weighted underbody of lead wire if required with a peacock herl (what would we do without it?) body, with any ribbing of choice to protect the body, part of which is fluorescent material

to represent part of the exposed body, black head and a red game hackle to represent the legs.



A commercially tied 'Stick Fly'



A drawing of a cased caddis



A Stick Fly as I remember it and fished with. Now which is the correct pattern or, more importantly, most effective?

EVENING MEETING REPORTS - Dave Jones brings us his take on Nigel Savage and Mick Huffer.

Nigel is best known as a warden on Rutland Water but I was surprised to find that he hardly ever fishes for trout these days, preferring to put his efforts into fly fishing for pike.

The tackle required for this activity needs to be a bit beefed up compared with normal trout fishing. He uses a Fox 4-piece rod rated at 10# which is the minimum requirement for casting large lures. There was some doubt if this model was still available but there are others also around the £100 mark. The reel also needs to be on the large size. He had a liking for the Okuma range because of their very effective drag system. The reel is loaded with an Airflo slow sinking Cold Saltwater non-stretch line, marked so that Nigel knows when the lure is 10 feet from the rod tip. The fly line terminated in a 5ft Airflo Tarpon Polyleader. A 12" wire link to the fly was preferred over hard nylon. Proleader, which is knotable, is the favoured brand with a No.6 swivel at the line end and a split ring to join the fly. Interesting that this gross terminal tackle doesn't seem to put the fish off.

Nigel ties his flies on a single hooks typically 3/0 – 6/0 and debarbed. Kamasan B940 is one brand but I was also interested in another type, previously unknown to me Teklon Sakuma which had a cranked shank which would house dumbbells nicely and perhaps cause the fly to swim upside down or assist in sink and draw tactics? The use of EP fibres (Enrico Puglisi) has revolutionised the development of large flies as they dispel all water on the first false cast. They are also highly translucent when immersed. Nigel has also incorporated llama fur which is softer than EP but more resistant to the pikes teeth. White was a popular colour but almost any pattern imaginable was on the cards particularly with the help of Pantone pens. What isn't obvious from photographs of pike flies is the fact the hair wings are built up sideways as well as in the tear-drop side view to create a fish-like profile from all sides.

Pike anglers are not known for revealing hot spots. Nigel recommended the top end of Rutland on either the north or south arms! The renowned Pike Alley in the north arm of Rutland follows the path of the old river which roughly runs halfway between the shores but veers slightly towards



Nigel Savage

Armley Wood. Ideally a fish finder such as the Garmin 140 and maybe a GPS device is useful in following the contours and locating the drop-offs where pike like to live. At Rutland this generally means searching for water with a depth of 15-20 feet. Nigel's tactics are to fish from an anchored boat but to move frequently if no fish show. Cast no further than 25 yards, allow the lure to sink to the bottom and retrieve figure of 8 until the fly is close to the boat. When the fly is 10-15 feet away from the rod tip (remember the line mark?) lift the fly up from the bottom and perhaps wave the rod tip from side to side to change

the direction of retrieve. This is often the critical time for a take to occur. A pair of Polaroid glasses is essential if the presence of a pike is to be detected. Takes can be vicious, far harder than your average trout, but for a spectacular fight you need to visit one of the Irish Loughs. He had a novel method of playing fish in so far that he allowed the fish to make an initial run, and then point the rod directly down to the fish and wind it in.

Pike are quite delicate fish and need to be handled with care. Ideally unhook them whilst they are in the water. If they have to be brought into the boat then an unhooking mat and an assortment of forceps and pliers are vital to ensure that the hook is safely removed. Sometimes it is necessary to insert a hand up the gills. Again care is required as this area is easily damaged and it also happens to contain some sharp plates. Nigel advocated taking some alcohol wipes out on the water in case first aid is necessary.

Although zander prefer to feed a few hours after dark, both Rutland and Grafham hold a fair number of specimens which might take a lure intended for pike. Apparently it is soon apparent if a zander has been hooked as the fight is feeble and consists of much head shaking. In the boat, the zander is adept at locking its jaws tightly together. The solution to this problem is to press fingers under the chin towards the roof of the mouth, rather than attempting to prize the mouth open.

Colin Brett is our leading exponent of fly-fishing for predators who I am sure will help in procuring tackle and suggesting techniques. There are also several web sites of which www.pffa.co.uk is the most useful (Pike Fly-fishing Association).

Nottingham based instructor Mick Huffer opened the 2008 Invicta talks with a fly tying demonstration. Mick has contributed to Fly Fishing and Fly Tying for the past 14 years through his Text Book Fly Tying articles. He had some interesting handouts, which described the basic styles of flies, and the proportions the various component parts should meet. Whilst I appreciate for judging purposes there should be a set of standards, I personally feel that advances in fly-tying and patterns come from deviating from the norm.



Mick Huffer

But then who am I? The plan of action for the evening was for Mick to tie 6 patterns, which he considered had wide applications, mainly in still waters. He was using a simple HMV fly tying vice, which had clearly seen long service. He was not a fan of the modern all singing, all dancing vices. He had two pairs of scissors, Dr Slicks carbide faced, I believe. I liked his idea to mark the scissors with dabs of paint to indicate whether they were to be used for cutting feathers or wire. Tiemco were the favoured brand of bobbin holders.

The 1st fly up was the Hares Ear Spider which only required a bit of rabbit skin, some hen hackles, red wire and beige coloured tying thread. Mick had a liking for Spartans micro 8/0 thread. A tail was made from rabbit guard hairs. The body was dubbed using rabbit underfur and guard hairs. I noted that he was not a fan of spinning dubbing preferring the age-old method of twisting it on a single thread. The idea is to create a dishevelled look. A couple of turns of a furnace hackle were fitted to the front end leaving enough room for a final couple of turns of a partridge feather. A good generic pattern according to Mick.

2nd fly was the Silver Invicta. A priority here was to keep the body flat through the careful application of body materials. The tail was constructed from a golden pheasant crest suitably bowed upwards at the end of the shank. Two layers of silver Lurex was applied to the hook shank and the body finished with a rib of silver wire. A red game hackle was palmered along the body – typically with 4 or 5 turns. I can't remember if he used jay for the throat but that is the standard tying. The wing was a hen pheasant. Mick showed us how to select the feathers and pair them together and install them at an angle

Of 30° to the hook shank. This is a useful fly for imitating pin fry and is also effective during a buzzer hatch. The super-glue buzzer was the next fly up. The body incorporated two layers of red thread with a fine silver wire ribbing. The key bits were the side cheeks on the thorax which come from the golden wrapping on a McVitties Krackawheat packet. No wonder obesity figures are on the up! It appears that the attraction of this particular material is the stability of the colour, the foil backing and the fact that it very thin. The thorax region was thickened up with more turns of thread. Arctic fox was also tied in and brought back and forwards a few times before being cut off to represent the breathers. Mick used Zap-a Gap super glue to paint the body. Some super glues develop a bloom. A further coating of nail varnish ("Hard as Nails") usually restored the desired transparency.

Love it or loath it, the next demo was a blob. Mick used a big mouth bass hook for this pattern. A tail of marabou (or tinsel depending upon the pattern) was first tied in. Vampire was identified as the best brand of fritz with the brightest colours. Simple to tie – it was a matter of packing the stuff on as tight as possible and stroking it backwards to avoid trapping fibres underneath one another. Finally, trim some fritz from underneath in order to expose the hook point.

The final fly (OK I know it is only No.5 but I might have missed one) was the Scratch head dry which Mick described as useful rather than a wonder pattern. This features a tail fashioned from rabbit guard hairs, a body dubbed with rabbit fur and a fine nylon rib – I think it was probably invisible mending thread. Buoyancy was provided by a thin strip of foam tied in over the top of the body. You can get a life times supply in different colours for a few pounds at Heffers in town. A thorax was built up with SLF dubbing teased out with Velcro and finally finished with a few turns of a ginger brown hackle.

In the course of a question and answer session he revealed one of his secrets which was to use dropper loops rather than the 4-turn water knot. This saves having to change the whole cast when the dropper lengths are too short to reuse. I recall Peter Thomas telling us about this technique in the early days of the Invicta meetings. Mick Huffer can be contacted via his website www.huffer.free.uk.com.

REFLECTIONS FROM THE WATER

PETER REEVES TURNS HIS THOUGHTS TO THE LESS THAN MEEK WHO SEEK TO INHERIT THE WATER AND INVITES YOU TO HELP THEM.

Whether we care to admit it or not, whilst the current state of our sport lies in our own hands the future is in the hands of the young. Now the mention of 'the young' may bring me out in a rash and does very little for my blood pressure but this simple fact is inescapable. Now most of us have been young ourselves (there do seem to be a few notable exceptions where serious doubts exist) and can carry forward from this state some concepts of the difficulties involved.

We probably recall without undue strain on our memory the enthusiasm of the unblunted and non-jaded mind. We likely recall some of the problems caused by this tunnel vision attitude when it fails to recognise the broader picture. Then there is the question of resources which never to young minds ever seem to be adequate or allocated to best effect suiting their particular interests. This may be a problem mainly faced by parents wrestling with self inflicted consequences but if our sport is to continue and is to develop we must bite the bullet. We surely have to encourage and support the younger element with advice (rarely acted on of course), assistance (usually with tackle and transport) and active encouragement to participate... even to the point of actually fishing with them! Mind you I am advised by those that have already experienced this that the reality is rather less fearsome than the initial trepidation.

Now I can hear some of you, knowing me to suffer paedo-phobia asking what on earth brings this on? Well, it came home to me when I was asked in respect of a competition, what was the situation of junior members? Well of course in the establishment of the event nobody had given

a thought, i.e., nobody had taken into account the future of our sport! This concerned me as we should be mindful of such important issues. As such I was anxious to raise the matter of a policy towards juniors in competition etc. at a committee meeting, where, somewhat unusually, a rapid consensus emerged. The following extract from the minutes is I feel helpful and worthy of public attention. " *It was agreed that the Clubs do not have resources to subsidise them but that Competition organisers could arrange possible reductions with the Water Managements for junior competitors in addition to permit reductions already available. In addition they could consider restructuring cost recoupment to accommodate possible junior involvement although at the stage of establishing costs it would not be known how many, if any, juniors would be interested in taking part.* "

I know that this newsletter has a circulation beyond Invicta membership and is read by officials of other clubs and organisations and would urge those to think hard about this and to take into account that there could well be enthusiastic juniors anxious to become more involved with our sport. not only in competitions of course but club days etc. and who may need just that little more consideration and help.

This is an area of course in which we can all help to make a difference by being aware and possibly a little more co-operative, who knows, we may even see a sprinkling of different and diverse hair styles appear amongst the older, wiser and greyer heads that seem to predominate on the water at present where, that is, the hair is not invisible!

A VERY SATISFIED MEMBER

The committee of Invicta do try hard to give you a varied and interesting programme throughout the year. Not always easy since your needs and interests are wide ranging. However, it is always gratifying to receive unsolicited encouraging comments.

Duncan Tait was the winner of our fly tying competition for 2008 and in an e-mail to the secretary added the following observations.

"Also you might like to include in the next newsletter that having received my reward for

winning the tying competition, I am really chuffed with a prize that totally outstripped my expectations and knowing what I now know about what's at stake I for one will be putting in a lot more effort next time. Thanks for everything... Duncan."

Thanks for that Duncan and also thanks of course to Norman Shippey who donated the prize. If you would wish to be similarly delighted after the 2009 competition with a similar prize from Norman's collection, watch this space for details of the patterns to be tied and be sure to enter, if you don't, you cannot possibly win.

THE AMFC COMPETITION SCENE. How is Invicta faring?

The initial match of the year in Invicta's new group (Three) saw two teams fielded under our orange caps and new pale blue shirts. Both teams acquitted themselves well but despite making positive fashion statements and Lawson bagging up, were unable to prevent the Royal Navy/ Marines from taking coveted top spot. Results are shown, as in Miss World contests, in reverse order.

GROUP THREE RESULTS. BEWL BRIDGE APRIL 25th

CRAWLEY F.C. 8 fish Bag Wt. 13 lbs 9 oz Time bonus 0 lbs 0oz **13 lbs 9 oz**

INVICTA F.F.C. 'A'

	Fish	Best Fish	B/R	Bag Weight	Finish	Time Bonus	Total Weight
Graham Williams	2	2 lb 12.5 oz	R	4 lb 8.5 oz	18 00	0 lb 0 oz	4 lb 8.5 oz
Mark Searle	2	1 lb 7.5 oz	R	2 lb 11.5 oz	18 00	0 lb 0 oz	2 lb 11.5 oz
John Mees	3	1 lb 10.0 oz	R	4 lb 8.0 oz	18 00	0 lb 0 oz	4 lb 8.0 oz
Lawson Wight	8	2 lb 14.0 oz	R	14 lb 1.0 oz	16 30	1 lb 8 oz	15 lb 9.0 oz

INVICTA F.F.C. 'B'

	Fish	Best Fish	B/R	Bag Weight	Finish	Time Bonus	Total Weight
Andy Newman	4	1 lb 14.0 oz	R	6 lb 14.0 oz	18 00	0 lb 0 oz	6 lb 14.0 oz
Alan Prevost	5	2 lb 6.0 oz	R	8 lb 14.5 oz	18 00	0 lb 0 oz	8 lb 14.5 oz
Mick Facey	6	2 lb 6.0 oz	R	10 lb 9.0 oz	18 00	0 lb 0 oz	10 lb 9.0 oz
Peter Oldham	2	2 lb 2.0 oz	R	3 lb 15.5 oz	18 00	0 lb 0 oz	3 lb 15.5 oz

ROYAL NAVY / MARINES 22 fish Bag Wt. 38 lbs 5.5 oz Time bonus 3 lbs 0oz **41 lbs 5.5 oz**

The second round on 4th May saw the senior service consolidating their grip in this group to date but the Invicta A team gave them a run for their money and at the same time made up for the surprise, and unwelcome, defeat by the 'B' team at Bewl previously.

The Soldier Palmer B team's showing needs to be viewed against the fact that only one angler took part so they, or rather he, was at a distinct handicap at Hanningfield.

HANNINGFIELD GROUP THREE RESULTS May 4th

SOLDIER PALMER B	0 fish	Bag wt. 0 lbs 0 oz	Time bonuis 0 lbs 0 oz	0 lbs 0 oz
INVICTA B	15 fish	Bag wt. 27 lbs 12 oz	Time bonus 0 lbs 0 oz	27 lbs 12 oz
CRAWLEY	17 fish	Bag wt. 31 lbs 13 oz	Time bonus 5 lbs 0 oz	36 lbs 13 oz
INVICTA A	31 fish	Bag wt. 61 lbs 5 oz	Time bonus 4 lbs 0 oz	65 lbs 5 oz
ROYAL NAVY/MARINES	39 fish	Bag wt. 75 lbs 13 oz	Time bonus 8 lbs 0 oz	83 lbs 13 oz

We do have a number of new members this year, several of whom will have joined after the invitation was sent round by our Club Captain. Should any of you have an interest in participating in the structured Association of Major Fishing Club events in the future, then you should contact our Club Competition Captain, Graham Williams, <graham.williams@transvent.co.uk>, or Tel: 01954 230878, Mobile: 07831 198554 to register your interest and have any queries you may have regarding competition rules, requirements etc. answered.

It can be great fun and very rewarding.



MEMBER'S PROFILE No. 11 - Bob Ayres interviewed by Peter Reeves on his earlier fishing.

PR - Bob, do you remember when you first started fishing?

Bob: Yes, as a youngster catching sticklebacks, minnows, etc (by hand), in the stream at Lode. Then graduating to the main river using a home-made bamboo cane rod, etc - for roach mostly..

PR -When did you first target trout and was it with fly or bait?

Bob: Probably when Alan Taylor & I, about 40 years ago when supposedly coarse fishing, discovered trout in the Granta – and it was definitely bait! Can't remember whether it was white or brown!

PR - In your early years (supposing you can still remember) was fishing readily available to you?

Bob: Yes it was always coarse fishing for bream & roach mainly – on the River Cam near Bottisham Locks or the Swaffham Lode. We used bread paste for bream & flake or boiled wheat for roach. Later the Cambridge Isaac Walton Society on the River Granta opened the door to very big roach & my first real chub fishing, as did the Wensum, Bure & Yare in Norfolk.

PR -What is it about fly fishing that appeals to you?

Bob: I like hearing Steve Middleton swear when I whack him in the back of the head in a boat – preferably with a lead-head!

PR - What is your preferred method of fly fishing?

Bob: Has to be nymphing in the current climate – because I think I can do it & it catches me fish when they're 'on'. Dry-fly is terrific when it works, as is Sparkler Booby fishing!!!

PR - Do any other species than trout interest you?

Bob: Bass & cod fishing in a boat off Southwold on a nice calm, sunny day.

PR -Where would be your dream fishing venue?

Bob: Somewhere warm, where the game-fishing is easy, the beer's cool, the food's terrific and the girls are good-looking. Don't think it's Grafham! Could be Bermuda perhaps but never been.

PR - Do you have any unfulfilled fishing ambitions?



Bob: Yes – to find Steve Middleton's reel that still lies in the mud in Blagdon boat dock, despite my naked attempts to retrieve it at the time!

PR - Has the attraction of fishing been constant?

Bob: As constant as anything in my life.

PR - What was your most memorable fishing experience?

Bob: Could have been when Alan Taylor found a pair of scissors on Grafham dam years

ago and in testing then for sharpness as we walked along, sadly cut right through his fly line. (The scissors ended up somewhere in the middle of Grafham). Oh, and winning the Carl Hunter Trophy 3 times at Pitsford. . Oh & the 6lb 12oz brown from Rutland bank years ago – caught on a Silver Invicta. Or the 220 cod in a boat one day off Southwold! Wonderful times.

PR - Do you have any misgivings over fishing at all?

Bob: Live baiting (which I wouldn't do), casting 'heavy' fly lines, windy days, getting really cold and/or wet & gutting trout late in the evening when I'm knackered. I'm a fair-weather sort of person I think!

PR - Where do you go from here in a fishing context?

Bob: Probably more of the same – with hopefully the odd overseas trip thrown in. Who knows?

PR - How important has your involvement with 'Invicta' been to you?

Bob: Very important. Met lots of nice people, some of them good anglers! The winter meetings, Club fishing days and peripheral activities have provided a focus over the years. It's particularly pleasing to see the Club currently in such good heart – due solely to the hard work & commitment put in by a good number of people & the members who support the activities.

Thanks to you all & long may Invicta FFC flourish!

OTHER FISHING EVENTS INVICTA MEMBERS ARE INVITED TO

You have been recently offered the opportunity of fishing the the GWFFA's Floating line competition on **6th July at Grafham Water**. I have closed my list for Invicta now but if anyone changes their mind and now wishes to participate, do not contact me (I will not be here) but contact Mark Brinkman of GWFFA on 01767 677806.

Thursday 10th July. Floating Line Day at Eyebrook. In aid of Prostate Cancer Research. Fishing to International Rules from a drifting boat. Supported by Rio, Vision, C & F, Eyebrook Fishery & Eyebrook Tackle Shop. Sessions 10 am - 1 pm and 3.00 - 8.00 pm. Prizes for each session and overall winner from £500 prize pool. Entry £50 per person which includes barbecue lunch. Contact Stuart Illsley, Eyebrook Tackle Shop, stuartillsley@rutlandfishing.com for details and entry or call 01536 772128.

Wednesday 10th September at Pitsford. EMTFA Inter-club Autumn Gathering. On similar lines to the successful Anniversary match and fun day last year. Fishing from 9am to 1pm and from 2.30pm to 6pm. Lunch approx £9 with a complimentary drink. Chris McLeod is co-ordinating the Invicta participation in this event. Chris can be contacted on Tel: 01832 270058 Mobile: 07841 398087 or e-mail chris.mcleod@dial.pipex.com.

THIRTY YEARS AGO

FROM NEWSLETTER NO. 7 DATED JUNE 1978 - BY DAVE JONES

“Grafham from the bank... Again. (On a talk by Alan Brown.) How do you go about fishing Grafham from the bank? If you are feeling hard up, look at the distribution of catches through a season - do not bother going after the first week* until the water warms up in mid-June. Forget about August and start again for the last four weeks or so of the season*. Fill in between times with boat trips but do not expect them to be easy.

....During the break, when incidentally it was snowing like hell, Alan assembled some of the rods he makes. ...Personally I can no longer see any reason for paying inflated prices for establishment rods....

...Once again we were thrown out at 11.00 pm. Ken Lynch summed up the meeting well - It was a pleasure to hear a bit of unassuming common sense for a change.”

(** At that time, as I recall, Grafham opened circa 1st May and fished until mid-october. Ed.*)

LAST CAST -

Where else, other than fishing, can one find contentment and satisfaction amongst the peace and tranquility of the natural world, away from the cares and pressures of everyday life

