

## fly fishing club, cambridge.

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### INVICTA SUCCESS IN ANGLIAN WATER/AIRFLO INTERNATIONAL MIDLANDS QUALIFIER



**Safely through to the next round after an excellent qualification result at the heat held at Grafham Water. The Invicta team are all smiles as they pose for the team photo.**

**L to R are the 'Elegance Squad' Chris McLeod, Mick Facey, John Mees, Mark Searle, Graham Williams and Gary How.**

**(See full report (If I get it) on page 9.)**

### ARTHUR COVE'S GRANDSON WINS THE MEMORIAL MATCH.

Following the sad death of fly fishing legend Arthur Cove, a Memorial match was organised by lifelong friend Dave Oates in conjunction with Arthur's widow Pauline. This event was fished on 15th May and was in the form of a bank fishing competition at Eyebrook. Proceeds went to purchase a bench and plaque to commemorate Arthur's contribution to reservoir fly fishing.

It has to be said that the fishing at Eyebrook on the day of the match was challenging to say the least and competitors found fish extremely difficult to come by but all the more credit to one of Arthur's grandsons, 18 year old James Clark who won with a 2 lbs 5 oz Rainbow taken off the dam. James's prize was an Orvis Western 3 rod courtesy of Orvis UK - a very nice prize indeed. Many other organisations and several individuals donated prizes and cash and enough was raised for the desired bench and plaque. Ironically, I understand that Arthur did not approve of competition fishing himself but maybe smiled down on the event.  
*(Picture right shows James receiving his prize from Bill McIlroy.)*



## Invicta calendar of forthcoming events 2010

Jul. 10th	GRAFHAM (PRESIDENT'S CUP) Carr cup points apply. Draw for partners	8.30 for 9 am
Jul. 12th	AW/AF INTERNATIONAL MIDLANDS FINAL ROUND.	
Aug. 1st	INTER-CLUB FLOATING LINE COMPETITION Grafham Water	9.30 am to 5.30 pm
Aug. 14th	PITSFORD (CARL HUNTER BOWL) Carr cup points apply. Draw for partners	8.30 for 9 am
Aug. 17th	GRAFHAM FINAL TUESDAY EVENING LEAGUE EVENT. Draw for partners	5.30 to dusk
Sep. 4th	RAVENSTHORPE Carr cup points apply. Choice of partners.	8.30 for 9 am
Oct. 2nd	BEWL WATER. AMFC Autumn Match	tba
Oct. 5th	HANNINGFIELD Carr cup points apply. Choice of partners.	8.30 for 9 am
Oct. 10th	PITSFORD. AMFC Fun day.	tba
Oct. 14th	INVICTA WINTER EVENINGS START. Harston Village Hall	8.00 pm
Nov. 13th	ELINOR 'Fur & Feather' Bank fishing event.	8.30 for 9 am

We hope to circulate members shortly with details of our 2010/2011 Winter evening meeting programme which will be held at Harston Village Hall as previously on Thursday evenings 7.45 pm for 8.00 pm.

## KEEP IN TOUCH

For the convenience of members, a membership list is maintained giving contact details of all members to facilitate sharing boats, lifts, arranging fishing etc. In fact this list is a constitutional requirement for circulation amongst members and is (or should be) circulated on an annual basis. However, inevitably with such a register changes occur constantly. The Secretary and the Treasurer seek to maintain an accurate and always up to date list. Should you require to contact a fellow member and not have the necessary information the Secretary will always be pleased to e-mail the latest version upon request.

## THE INTER-CLUB FLOATING LINE COMPETITION.

There seems to be many members who are reluctant to take action until the last possible moment. The Treasurer tells me that payment of annual subs is a case in point..... strange that!

However, I am not chasing you for subs at the present time (six months to go for that to start all over again) but if you have not completed your entry form for the very popular floating line match at Grafham Water on Sunday 1st August. The original closing date for entries has been relaxed until a week before the event.

This event was originally initiated by GWFFA as a friendly competition between local clubs using floating lines only from the side of a drifting boat, otherwise all normal reservoir rules apply. This event has always been very well supported and deservedly so as it is great fun and always fished in a relaxed spirit and introduces one to potentially new friends.

This year the teams will be of up to 4 competitors from local clubs. Each club can enter as many teams as they wish on a first come first served basis. At the same time individual club members are encouraged to enter and the organisers will form teams of these from their respective clubs. Apart from the team event there will also be other prize categories. Entry fee is £25 which covers half boat, prize fund and a barbecue meal at the Wheatsheaf pub afterwards. It promises to be an excellent and enjoyable day and hopefully productive as Grafham Water is fishing wonderfully this year fueled by superb buzzer hatches. Every member has received an entry form - oh yes you have! If you need another e-mail or phone me.

***So, if you have yet to fill your form in, it is not too late get your pen and cheque book out NOW, yes NOW and post to me a.s.a.p!***

## THE CARR CUP 2010 ROUND ONE AT PITSFORD - PETER REEVES

Our opening round of this popular club event is at Pitsford, a water of which I have become rather fond. Being the curtain raising event of the season it is of course quite early in the calendar and has given rise to this event being strongly associated with extreme weather conditions. Approaching the date it looked very much as if our booking officer had picked a pleasant day for a change as the preceding days were warm and sunny but cometh the day - cometh the weather and we were faced with a very cloudy day with a biting brisk easterly breeze.



**Alan Prevost getting to grips with the action.**

Nevertheless 20 Invictas set out from the moorings with optimism - it had allegedly been fishing well (where have I heard that before?) I know that in our boat and I expect in most if not all of the others, this optimism faded in the face of early failure. From observation I think that other members generally employed initially the same tactics of drifting boats covering mainly the shallower areas and then moving on in the hope of better things. The breeze, although uncomfortably cold was not presenting any problems but even with the drogue deployed the boat was moving very briskly. Having concluded, not having seen any sign of fish, that they were deeper than my nymphs were reaching, we decided to anchor up and explore a greater range of depths. Finding a suitable spot where we would not be a nuisance was not easy with the flotilla all drifting gradually working their way down towards the dam but we did find a spot on the north shore between the gorse bushes and the sailing club which was out of the traffic. Checking on the depths didn't produce instant better fortune but did give ample opportunity to

watch the frenetic boat traffic in search of fish. Eventually on a deep and slow black buzzer a gentle take was converted into an enraged rainbow being netted. This encouraged a prolonged and unfruitful stay but eventually we set off to try the shallow water off the muddy banks of Pitsford Creek but to no avail. We then decided to look at the smaller half where it was more sheltered and where we discovered many other Invictas were fishing. We moved away from the crowd in amongst the submerged trees and resumed slow deep nymphing from anchor and were intrigued to see John Mees and Kieran Bonas drifting along the edge both using a frantic roly poly retrieve obviously with fast moving flies close to the surface in the style of synchronised swimmers - the opposite to our tactics. Both methods worked though as I saw them slip the odd fish back and I dropped a couple including a really good fish with a very deep body and broad shoulders and landed another all to a small red 'magic glass' buzzer before we retired gracefully at 4 o'clock although I sensed that the water was then just starting to open up. My partner though, who could not settle to any particular flies or approach and was constantly seeking an answer, finished without a single pull. There were 4 blanks on the day but a few had good catches one way or another - such is fishing!

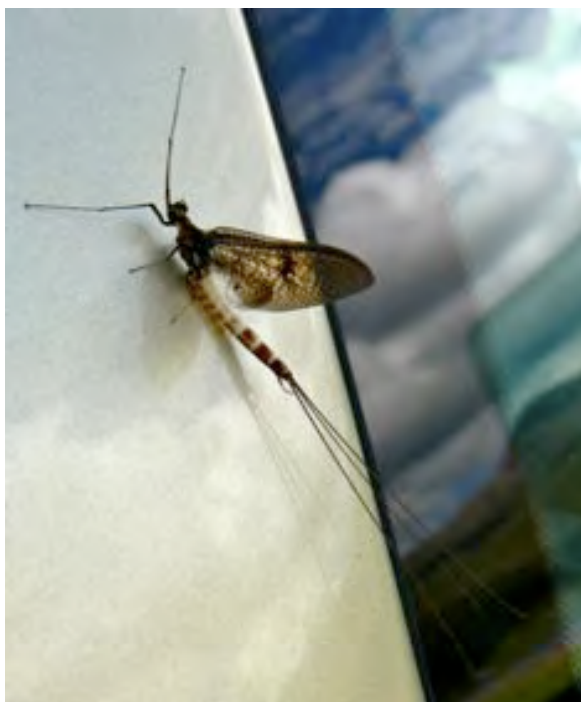


*No. I cannot explain that either Chris!*





## 2010... THE YEAR OF THE MAYFLY ? - PETER REEVES



**A Loch Awe Mayfly hitch-hiking on my car**

I have found the 2010 season thus far very interesting. Having a personal preference for what may be broadly termed 'imitative' fly fishing I do tend to take particular notice of the fly life. This awareness has been sharpened by the general lamentations that hatches are not what they used to be due to a myriad of expressed reasons. The key reason for concern has been the sparsity of Mayfly generally.

Now Mayfly probably never were abundant in the sluggish rivers of flat East Anglia and those focussing exclusively on the Midland reservoirs probably never see one. I have seen rarely and to my surprise the odd mayfly in a small private water and this year on the River Granta but in several years fishing at my local water, Whittle Lake, many olives but never Mayfly until May 20th this year when I was staggered to note a handful hatching from the lake and this occasional incidence lasted until I set forth for Scotland in early June - good news for the future.

My fishing destination there this year was again that Mecca for anglers and hill walkers, the Inchnadamph Hotel on the shores of Loch Assynt in west Sutherland. Over the years, and I tend to go always in the first half of June, I have encountered with some surprise the odd Mayfly on the lochs but nothing significant. Fishing from a boat on Loch Awe there I was delighted

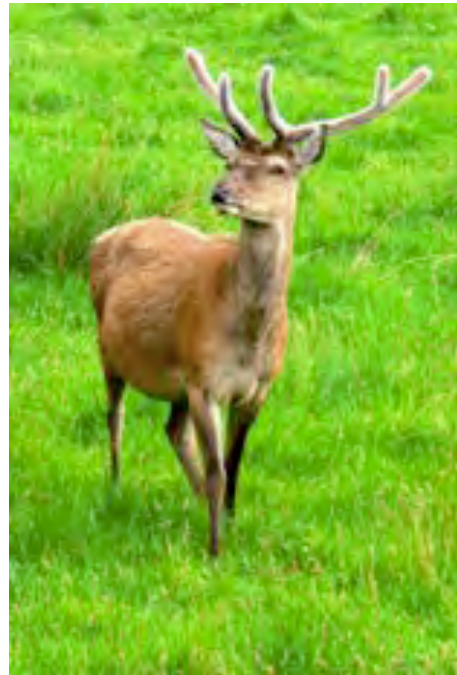
to see clear evidence of these big, beautiful flies carried past me in the brisk breeze and further was amazed at the number of empty Mayfly shucks in the water - clearly they had been hatching in profusion recently on a scale I have never previously encountered. Being slow on the uptake and having to leave at mid-day to catch the last ferry to the Isle of Handa, I returned to the car to find a small cloud of Mayflies in a mating dance around my vehicle. This was unexpected and really good news. That evening I related this observation and the fact that Loch Awe contained some very decent wild brownies to Chris McLeod who was also enjoying the area. No surprise then to find he had booked the boat on Awe for himself the following day whilst I opted for bank fishing the smaller lochs in a chain behind Awe getting progressively higher in the hills towards Ben Canisp. Wonderfully scenic but not quite the same quality as Awe where on the lower loch I saw only 2 mayflies obviously carried on the wind from Awe. The fishing was noticeably quieter. Subsequently I discovered from Chris (a quarter of a mile away) that he was amongst hatching Mayflies and rising fish all day and having a great day - in fact he remarked later "It does not get any better than this."

My course was clear, to get back on Awe as soon as a boat became available whilst this bonanza continued - bank fishing being not allowed on that particular loch. Soon this was achieved and I had a full and wonderful day with Mayfly and rising fish all around me in wind conditions which were constantly shifting. When packing for Scotland I wondered whether to bother to take my box of Mayfly patterns tied especially for an aborted trip to Corrib due to volcanic ash clouds and finally decided to include them. I was so glad I did as I had great sport all day on wet and dry Mayfly patterns according to the prevailing wind situations and like Chris I was truly and completely content at the close of day. Fish taken - all absolutely wild browns - went up to 14 - 15" beautifully coloured and marked. The best probably went a minimum of 1 lb but due to the late spring this year had not fed up and were rather thin and probably would have been in the 1½ lb + range later in the season. Mind you this did not detract from their fighting qualities in any way. Days like this are an exceptional privilege and certainly red letter days in an area which offers fantastic access to wild browns which always punch well over their weight. The later spring

possibly accounted for so many Mayflies being evident in that area, they may be a feature of slightly earlier weeks in a normal year - but that does not apply to the incidence of Mayfly appearing this year in the Cambridge area where they were not evident previously. Maybe things are looking up for the Mayfly?

I would add that fishing on lochs away from Awe I did not see the same profusion of these most welcome and attractive creatures but that did not mean the fishing was any less magnificent on several other lochs I was able to sample, a number for the first time, under varying weather conditions. Cam Loch for instance yielded bucket loads of smaller fish but it is noted for larger fish on its day. Another new loch to me this year was Loch Ailsh where it is possible to catch brownies, sea trout and salmon on the same day - but not often in early June! A most picturesque water which allows one to drive over a track right up to the boat moorings. No Mayfly evident on my visit but many Olives and when I started fishing, slashing rises all around my boat. Fishing barbless as is my preference now, many super-fit brownies shook the hook loose but switching between wet and dry flies according to changeable wind conditions I had another truly magical and memorable day there. It is a weird experience to have a  $\frac{3}{4}$  lb brownie tow and spin the boat with 14 stone occupant. I really cannot wait to get back again next year.

For those who have hankered to try wild, remote loch fishing I would say stop thinking and start acting. There is so much water in the area over-fishing is no problem and most days you will not see another angler. Sutherland is great for fly rods, Assynt/Elphin/Scourie areas



**An interested resident questions my presence**

offering so much. Accommodation is not unduly plentiful and that which is may not be accustomed to the funny ways of anglers. The Inchnadamph Hotel is most highly recommended for a relaxed and friendly attitude towards those with strange requests and the team there, Richard, Jaimie and Sybil are masters of multi-tasking. I will always remain impressed with how Richard quietly but efficiently susses out the requirements of his eclectic and often eccentric guests and effortlessly guides them to where they all find continual days of satisfaction.

The Mayfly season in Ireland is widely heralded (if infrequently encountered) that in the north west of Scotland must be one of angling's best kept secrets.

***Oh b\*gger ..... I have just blown it!***



**It always rains in Scotland? The Heather Loch (home to midges) on a typically nice day.**

## THE PILGRIMAGE 2010 - BOB AYRES ( RECENT FRIEND OF STEVE) REPORTS.

The 'Pilgrimage' is an assorted bunch of Invicta members who have been fishing against a group of Welsh anglers ( Llanilar FFC) and a group of Scots fishers ( Leslie FFC) for many years now. The event takes place in late May each year and was held at Chew Valley Lake for many years but with the demise of that fishery has more recently been held several times at Grafham or Rutland. This year Rutland was the choice. Thursday is routinely the practice day for the competition day on the Friday (though the Welsh & Scots fish from the Monday!).

On the Thursday we turned up at Rutland to meet our competition only to find that they'd discovered the wonderful fishing to be had at Grafham & had gone there again for the day!! ( Bit like turning up at someone's house to find a note on the door saying 'Key under the mat, cheese sandwich in the fridge').

With Rutland fishing 'hard', we endured a difficult day though Mick Facey & Chris McCleod did show most of us the way to go - even though they were mainly 'stockie-bashing'. That evening we were entertained/bored by the stories of monster catches by the Welsh & Scots at Grafham.

So dawned Friday with initially windy, mainly sunny conditions - a daunting prospect. Safe to say that boats disappeared to all corners with a wide variety of lines, flies, lures on show. Many anglers struggled on the day but there's always someone who finds the fish and that angler was Paul Cushnie, a Scot. He anchored at the bottom of the North arm and nymphed his way to 8 terrific fish for 25lb and won the day and the George James Memorial Trophy. Mick Facey also managed 8 fish ( well done Mick) but they only weighed 13lb !!

Mike Smith (6 and 2nd best boat), David Moore ( 4 and 3rd best boat), Chris McLeod (4 and 4th best boat) and yours truly (4) also did well. Steve Middleton won a special prize for the smallest bag this year (1 tiddler) and for being consistently the crappiest angler over the past 25 years!

Total club weights were: Llanilar 56lb, Leslie 53lb, Invicta 44lb - so Llanilar win the bloody coveted Rose Bowl again!! We must try harder next year. If anyone else is interested in joining the Pilgrimage please let Bob Ayres know ( bobjen.ayres@virginmedia.com or 01223 526480) and your name can be put before the selection panel. A sense of humour is essential/advisable...



**Stephen Middleton Esq. delivering his acceptance speech for his award (an empty rod tube) representing the content of his bags over the years and for not troubling the officials at the weigh-ins. Don't worry Steve those same whimsical 'gentlemen' once presented me a bagel at a similar ceremony on the grounds that its shape accurately portrayed the number of fish I landed - Ed.**



## FLY TYING - MAKE IT EASY ON YOURSELF - Peter Reeves

For a few years now I have been running regular fly tying groups for Invicta members. These have been largely unstructured, very informal, mutually educating events and I seem to have got all participants up and running as the current demand has now dropped right off. Lately it has been one to one sessions resolving issues of specific experienced difficulty. I have to confess I have totally enjoyed the experience in tying flies as one would wish them to be, i.e. applying an over-riding personal style to a dressing to suit one's self (and confidence), is deeply satisfying and the process is extremely therapeutic. Apart from actual fishing I cannot think of any activity that is so absorbing and soothing....and in confident anticipation of the inevitable muttered comment there, would add "not at my age anyway!" If any member has a problem in the fly tying area, please feel free to contact me. if I can, I would be delighted to assist but these days am very rusty in the salmon fly department and have grown up and out of lures - I can still lash them up but am not up to date with more modern concoctions/latest materials.

On the many benefits of fly tying, and I am sure economy is not one of them, it is wholly satisfying in itself. It is a creative and practical art form open to most of our population - virtually anybody can do it as I feel I have proved again and again in the past. Basically it is largely winding fine thread and materials onto a hook shank. However, like most things in life, the most appropriate tools and materials do such a lot towards making a process a pleasure instead of a trial. Inevitably, anyone starting up will look for the cheapest options until they are assured this is for them. Quite understandable but this 'value' equipment (mostly from India) - works but not to optimum standards and must be viewed as sacrificial. Many will want to experience luxury items. These used to come from UK but now mainly from the USA and Japan with much more extensive home markets. Are they worth it? Yes! Yes! Yes! So I will offer a few thoughts on experiences gained over approaching five decades of the pleasures at the vice.

Yes, the Vice itself. Naturally most will start with vices from Indian production. Those side action spring vices available now are excellent and if all you tie for is reservoirs you may never need to consider anything else. For those who look to fish

more delicately with flies on hooks down to size 22 or so will need to look to at more refined equipment. Germany does offer such an item but many more options come from the USA. In fact a wide array is available and it is a matter of personal choice. My own choice was a Griffin Patriot, quite traditional vice imported by Steve Parton with both table clamp and heavy pedestal base. It cost me about £115 a few years ago... and I am never going to regret it. It is uncomplicated but exudes sheer quality every time I use it. I adore this tool and after thousands of flies the jaws show no sign of wear whatsoever.

Hooks, these are important so do need some consideration. The options are vast but consider your actual fishing environment. Larger sizes, say 12 to 8 hook sizes are generally meaty enough to withstand reservoir trout attacks but with larger fish being stocked to combat

cormorants, fine wire or smaller hook sizes do have a tendency to straighten so select hooks up to the job. I have found that normal or heavyweight Hayabusa hooks (Eyebrook tackle shop) virtually bombproof, as are another favourite of mine, Fulling Mill Scorpion Competition heavyweight 31530 short shank (in size 14 particularly) totally superb. Another hook range, much cheaper is the Piranha range from e-bay company Dogtoothtuna Company, which have greatly exceeded expectations despite being under £3 per 100... delivered!! For more delicate hooks for river fishing etc. try the exquisite South African 'Grip' hooks from Phil Holding of [www.flytyingboutique](http://www.flytyingboutique) website an interesting alternative to Tiemco or Gamakatsu, some are as elegant as I have ever seen and exquisitely made and well tempered. Phil also has many other interesting and exclusive materials on offer - take a look.

In tying one must be particularly fussy over threads used and bobbin holders. Apart from the vice these are the most critical tying tool decisions. I am pleased to offer some advice gained from experience on these. Frayed and breaking threads due to poor quality or undue handling, drives you mad - do not put up with it. In my 45+ years of fly dressing I have never come across a more ideal thread than Steve Parton's Sparton Micro thread (on the red spool.) It is utterly superb and flattens down on the hook with minimal bulk like no other, this is rated 8/0 in his

*"I have to admit Blobs do uphold the best tradition in fly tying"*

catalogue but I am sure this is an uncorrected mis-print and should read 18/0. I use this superb thread by choice for everything - even when tying muddlers! The spools last for many hundreds of flies but realising Steve is no spring chicken (sorry Steve... we are in the same boat there), I felt that I should secure supplies whilst these are still available and his 10 mixed spools deal (you get to choose the colours) offer is remarkable.. may even last you for life - mine will for me I expect! Far superior to any other thread on the market I have tried but it needs, like all threads, a sympathetic bobbin holder. Again quality does not come cheap but a good one is such a relief. Best I feel has to be the Rite Ceramic Bobbin holder with an adjustable clutch arrangement. However this is fiddly so once set up you are reluctant to change threads which is limiting. However, only a few months ago I purchased a Dr. Slick Titanium 3" short Bobbin holder with ceramic inserts from Lakeland Flytying for quite a reasonable sum - about £12 I think but well worth it and am delighted with it... changing spools is no problem whatsoever.

Hackle pliers. No single answer here, the traditional (British?) type is normally just not up to the job. Some have valve rubber on one jaw to help prevent slipping which degrades extremely quickly to become useless. Typically the Americans have addressed this imperfection very well, the J Dorin 'J' pliers work extremely well on cock hackles but present a problem on broader tipped hen hackles for more general wet fly use. The solution - Dr. Slick non-skid hackle pliers. At about £3 each you can get both without breaking the bank - from Lakeland Flytying again. Nigel there does stock some great products. Look at the website and the 'to die for' genetic capes but buy quickly they do sell out so fast, Scissors, do not struggle with your wives embroidery scissors...they are almost certainly inadequate. Get surgical quality fine pointed scissors from an appropriate medical/laboratory supplier or US Anvil, Dr. Slick's or similar. Steve Parton's "Mitey Fine" offer particular value for the more budget

conscious. If you do not have a separate pair for cutting ribbing wires and quills, make sure you cut them right at the base of the blades not anywhere near the tips but better to get another pair and know which is which.

Fly tying is not difficult but can be frustrating. This frustration can be best avoided by using tools that not only work and work well but also give pleasure in their use at the same time by being super efficient, good technique can also help. This often means that they do not always come cheap but they do represent excellent value giving much pleasure and satisfaction over many, many years and are cheaper in the long run. Which of the several mentioned items would I least want to lose? It has to be the Sparton Micro (red spooled) thread, it really is that good but this is only evident when teamed with a good quality bobbin holder.

I would add that for our opening Winter meeting at Harston Village Hall on October 14th, I will be demonstrating "FLY TYING FOR THOSE WHO DON'T" with discussion on tool and material selection and handling and showing how easy it is to produce effective and killing flies even for absolute beginners so if you are wondering how to start or are a lapsed tyer come along then. Who knows, I may even demonstrate tying Blobs? I know that I have not been entirely supportive of Blob pulling but have to admit - and here many will choke over their pot noodles - that Blobs do uphold the best tradition in fly tying. Not necessarily in technique I grant you but in seeking to utilise newly available material to best effect. Look at all those wildly exotic feathers the Victorians used in salmon & trout flies as a result of their mission to de-populate the Globe of all wildlife forms. They did not have the benefit of synthetic materials many of which have been introduced prematurely into fly tyers' cupboards in unusable forms but are now refined in many cases to become really useful additional resources for us to appreciate and use. Come along on October 14th to look, listen, learn and to find out how.

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## INVICTA FFC & TROPHIES ON DISPLAY AT GRAFHAM WATER CAFE

It was I believe Martin Luther King who announced "I have a dream." Well some members of Invicta also have fantasies (... whoops, sorry, dreams!) One such has been, for some of us, to match GWFFA's display cabinet of trophies and other clutter open to public gaze in that shrine for gastronomes, the Harbour View Cafe in the lodge complex at Grafham Water. Well, this ardent band of 'wannahaves' have finally achieved their objective. The Invicta display cabinet has been delivered to Grafham (ready for self assembly it must be added) but watch out next time you are there. Trophies are to be reclaimed from holders and displayed therein with notices urging the faithful to subscribe to the Invicta doctrine.



## THE ANGLIAN WATER/AIRFLO NATIONAL COMPETITION. From page 1.

Well, No - I did not get the promised round one report. Strange, I wonder if it is just myself that attracts these empty promises. Some members wonder why so few match reports are shown in this newsletter. Well I can answer that quite simply - it is because I cannot get them. Promises aplenty but reports rarely. I publish every one I receive but cannot do much about those I don't. Three matches are covered in this issue. The Arthur Cove Memorial Match, courtesy of Dave

Oates (not even an Invicta member), the Pilgrimage thanks to Bob Ayres (who is) and round one of the Carr Cup series (by me as I happened to be there.) If this makes some non-corresponding correspondents feel guilty, please don't.... please feel motivated instead!!!

Anyway, I can advise you the results of the match as under - courtesy of our club captain Graham Williams. Thanks Graham!

### TEAM RESULTS



	No. of fish.	Total weight lbs.	oz.
1st Team Rio-Draycote Flyers	48	120	15 ½
2nd Pitsford Pirates	47	101	4 1/8
3rd <b>Invicta FFC</b>	44	92	4
4th Loop UK	41	90	0 ½
5th Airflo Team Cormorants	37	85	13 3/8
6th Hanningfield	38	75	7 3/8
7th GWFFA	30	73	4 3/8
8th Fly Dressers' Guild London	35	70	3 3/8
9th RAF Defenders	36	68	4 ¼
10th Troutfishers	26	67	2 5/8
11th GWFFA Grinners	26	51	13 3/8
12th English Youth South	29	51	11
13th Greylags	20	45	9 1/8

Number of fish caught	457
Rod average	5.86
Total weight of fish caught	777 lbs 9 ¼ oz
Average fish weight	1 lb 11 oz
Average bag weight	9 lbs 15 ½ oz
Best Fish Andy Taylor Team Rio DF	4 lbs 13 5/8 oz
Best Bag Andy Taylor Team Rio DF	27 lbs 1 ¾ oz.

The next round will be fished at Grafham Water on 12th July and we wish our team every success in this event. Good luck 'lads.'

### *Fishing Quotes*

*'The charm of fishing is that it is the pursuit of what is elusive, but attainable, a perpetual series of occasions for hope' - John Buchan*



## MEMBER'S PROFILE No. 16 - The editor interviews Mark Searle (Pt.2)

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

MS – I like the friendship that goes with fly fishing, club days and A.M.F.C match days, all are fished in a good and friendly spirit. You get to meet a lot of new people and make new friends and fishing partners. The other misconception I had when taken up fly fishing, was I would not need so much gear as coarse and sea fishing (a little bag, rod, landing net, so simple) how wrong.

PR - What is your preferred method of fly fishing?

MS – Those that know me know that I enjoy nymph and buzzer fishing, I also enjoy dry fly. But I will pull blobs and lures if that is the best way to catch on the day.

I enjoy match fishing, I find that it keeps me more focussed and keeps me working and thinking (mostly what am I doing wrong). But I love the buzz I get, when it all goes right and I do well.

PR - Do any other species than trout interest you?

MS – If it has gills, scales, fins, swims and puts up a good account of itself I am quite happy to try and catch it.

PR -Where would be your dream fishing venue?

MS – There are so many venues I dream about fishing, I don't think I can name one. I think my dream would not be a venue but being a nomad drifting from one country to the next, and venue to venue. That's how I would find my dream fishing.

PR - Do you have any unfulfilled fishing ambitions?

MS – Yes to beat Graham in the Carr cup, instead of coming second. No seriously I would like to try as many different methods of fishing, after as many different species as time and money will allow (oh and the wife).

PR - Has the attraction of fishing been constant?

MS – Ever since I started fishing I have always had a love for it, one sort or another. I guess like most boys you grow up and find other things to chase. Then I fell into Rugby quite by accident, and found that I had some ability, and soon found myself selected for the County and then Eastern County Wanderers.

All the training and games take up so much of your free time. So fishing was placed on the back burner for a few years,

and became a past time for a few weeks in the summer only.

Then injury finished my Rugby career which left more time for fishing.

I was spending more and more time fly fishing and then Derek Frost introduced me to Invicta (sorry Derek but it had to be told) and I have never looked back.

PR - What was your most memorable fishing experience?

MS- My best memories fall into two categories the things that I have done personally, and those that I have been present at the time.

I am lucky to have many memorable fishing experiences. First personally, my 12lb brown trout from Rutland water, then the 11lb Rainbow from Ravensthorpe, the days the Invicta team win or do well in matches. Also the large sea bass and 10lb cod that I have taken while fishing out of Southwold.

Some of my best laughs were on the annual pilgrimage. First was at Chew when Bob lost Steve's reel in Blagdon, the way Steve describes Bob's salvage attempt had tears rolling down my face, had Steve had a camcorder he would be a lot richer man than he is now.

The second was at Llyn Brenig, a very hot and flat calm three days. First day I fished with Chris and after spending most of the day with no interest we decided to explore. Off we went round the reservoir and came to an island. Chris said do you think we can make it round the back, I was not so sure as we could see grass growing out of the water, what the heck we went for it, the water was very shallow we hit the bottom a few times, we had to dodge



fallen trees and most of the time we were touching undergrowth and fallen trees at the same time. We got through going very, very slowly and pushing undergrowth out of our way as we went along, just as well there was no way that we could have turned a boat round. (We were wrong). The next day I fished with Steve and Bob fished on his own, we happened to be fishing in front of the island when Bob came over to have a beer with us and a bit of lunch. After lunch Bob said have you been round the island, I said that Chris and I went round it yesterday, Bob said "are you sure" I said "yes but slowly". Off Bob went at full throttle. A few seconds later we heard an almighty crash, snapping of wood, revving of engine and then nothing. At this point I had visions of Bob and boat sitting high and dry on top of one of the falling dead trees, the image was just too much and I nearly fell of my seat with laughter. A few minutes later Bob and boat reappeared calling me all the names under the sun, and proving that you can turn a boat round in a narrow channel. (But Bob has never told me how he managed it and won't) I just could not stop laughing. These are memories that I will keep for ever.

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

MS- Not really, one thing sometimes bugs me is people that knock others for the way they fish, if it is not breaking any rules or affecting any one

else or fishing in a manner or spirit that is unacceptable, why knock it. I will pull blobs and lures if it means catching fish; it's not my first choice. Trolling is not something I do but I don't knock the people who enjoy it. I don't use six lures or tubes (well once or twice), why should I care if someone else does. Most of my flies are not pretty or look like something that god created, but so what, they even catch fish sometimes. Fishing is for fun, a thing we do for enjoyment an escape from the working place and all the pressures that come with it.

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

MS- I am trying to work towards more fishing and less work, but that is not always easy and takes a bit of time to work out, but I'm sure it will happen one day!!

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

MS- Very important. I found Invicta fly fishing club to be a good, well organised and friendly club. I have made a lot of friends at the club and had some very good times.

I look forward to many more years fishing with Invicta and making many more friends.

*Thanks Mark for this interesting response and also for your recent remarkable revelation concerning the Tuesday Evening League trophy.*

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## LAST CAST... Gimme a kiss!



There was some years back a popular Australian TV fly fishing presenter (whose name I have now long forgotten) who was famed for kissing all of the fish he caught prior to their release.

Well, I would have loved to have seen him kiss this ugly Monkfish - still alive but barely - in the fish market at Marseille earlier this year when I was there

“Snog this Aussie!”