

fly fishing club, cambridge.

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

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RESULTS FROM THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Well, much of the situation from the AGM held on 7th February is carry on as before. Mike Smith did stand down from the committee after many years valued service and will be missed. There being no nominations put forward, the vacancy on the committee remains open, hopefully to be filled next year. Meantime all the officers had agreed to stand for re-election and were unanimously re-voted in en bloc. In case you do not know who they are, they are shown above in the newsletter letterhead.

The Chairman paid tribute not only to Mike Smith and his long service to the club but to our Bookings Officer, John Caldwell for his organisation of our summer events, including the Quay Country Fair, Chris McLeod for his co-ordination of the Pilgrimage' events, Colin Brett for our website, our treasurer, Alan Prevost for his 'fiscal prudence,' our club captain, Graham Williams for his sterling but largely unrewarded efforts in AMFC events this year and some kind words of encouragement for the Newsletter editor. He also thanked Peter Hartley for his efforts towards making some members more capable and safer casters at his casting clinics.

He further pointed out that the fly tying group was making inexorable progress towards making accomplished tyers, largely from beginners but this is open to all. The winner of the first fly tying competition was announced as being Duncan Tait. Congratulations Duncan, this event will continue for 2008/9 when it is trusted that with an element of quiet encouragement and background bullying, you will see rather more competition. It was pointed out also that 2 groups of Invictas were heading out to fish the River San in south east Poland with Pioneer Flyfishing later.

The chairman concluded by declaring that " In all the club has provided a full and varied programme for the benefit of its members, have advanced Invicta's reputation in the sport and the community and continued to offer excellent value from the base of a modest annual subscription that has remained unchanged for many years."

All good stuff and, from what Norman Shippey had to tell us at the AGM about his experience of and investigation into recent 'alleged incidents,' more than may be expected from the RSPB.

AGM EXTRA - ROB MUNGOVAN

At the AGM we try to offer the attending members something extra and interesting. Well we know that the sustained excitement of the AGM itself may prove to be too much for some, especially for those fitted with pacemakers and other devices.

In this context, we were especially fortunate to have been introduced by our president to Rob Mungovan whom he had met whilst labouring with a group dedicated to restoring the River Mel back to a decent chalk stream. Rob is an Ecologist with the South Cambridgeshire District Council, is himself a trout fly fisherman, and clearly completely happy in his work. Rob gave us as short but very lucid course in the joys of habitat restoration with some truly excellent photographic examples. We have been fortunate

enough to have had some superb speakers during our winter programme this season and Rob was certainly up with them. A totally respectful silence from Invicta audiences are not always the norm but Rob's enthusiastic account of local restorations and of wildlife - not only brown trout, dace, bullheads etc. but of kingfishers, water voles, otters etc. had his audience totally enthralled. You really should have been there!

BEFORE YOU TURN THE PAGE.....

Our treasurer would wish to respectfully point out that subs for 2008 (a meagre £17 for most) were due on 1st January 2008. Completion of the renewal form sent and cheque put into the post will restore that renowned smile to his face. Go on, do it!

Invicta calendar of forthcoming events 2008

Feb.21st	NIGEL SAVAGE 'Predators on the Fly' Harston Village Hall.	7.45 for 8.00 pm
Feb.23rd	ANNUAL DINNER 'The George' at Babraham.	8.00 pm
Mar. 6th	MICK HUFFER of 'Fly Fishing & Fly Tying' fame Harston Village Hall.	7.45 for 8.00 pm
Mar.20th	Inter Club QUIZ 'n Fun night. Harston Village Hall.	7.45 for 8.00 pm
Apr. 27th	GWFFA/Invicta/East Mids /English Disabled FF Event Grafham Water.	tba
May 19/23rd	'International' Pilgrimage event Chew Valley	tba
July 6th	GWFFA Inter-club FLOATING LINE COMPETITION Grafham Water.	tba

Please note that the Invicta summer programme will be established once the competition events and venues are arranged to avoid clashes wherever possible. Information on these will be circulated as soon as possible.

SHOW SOME RESPECT - Colin Brett makes a case for Predators and considering others.

When I first started fishing at Grafham the water rules required that all fish caught be killed. Indeed I remember the dam and banks littered with decomposing perch and bream, including some large specimens. I found it rather nauseating and along with many others quietly disregarded this requirement. Fortunately we are in a more enlightened era now or most of us are. That rule seems to be sensibly dropped with catch and release growing in popularity and fish are handled carefully although occasionally one does see fish handled in an irresponsible manner but such actions are widely deprecated. Wisely so since there are people out there that seek to interfere with our sport and would wish to portray anglers in a poor light. If you value your sport please do not give them any valid reason to promote their cause and encourage others to act in an appropriate way and ensure fish taken are dispatched quickly and cleanly or released in a manner which you would prefer if the position was reversed.

In this area of respect, most of us are principally trout anglers but remember that there is a developing tendency for fly fishermen to widen their horizons and pursue other quarry with 'flies.' It is also appropriate that we show some consideration for their sport and for the fish they target. In Newsletter 138 under "Other Species to the Fly" I mentioned the fishing resource for Zander and other coarse species that Grafham



A fine Graham Water Zander

offers. Clearly this is a sensitive issue for Colin Brett. Colin as most of us are aware is an enthusiastic angler for several species and writes "Yes there are Zander in Grafham as well as pike and other coarse fish. The vast shoals of Roach, Rudd and other fish apart from Bream do indeed seem to have disappeared. Most have probably suffered at the hands or beaks of the black plague, that's Cormorants just in case you didn't know.

Zander and Pike are both protected under Anglian Water rules by size limits, Zander: only fish up to 3lbs can be taken and only one can be taken up to that weight, for pike it's 12lbs. Strange, I would love to catch a 12lb pike, so if somebody has killed a 12-pound fish, that's one I won't be catching! The same applies to Zander; a 10-pound fish is a valuable sporting resource in the water! Fenland Zander anglers would kill to catch one of that size!!

This year my boat partner Alan Ward and I have caught and returned quite number of large Zander, so that others may also enjoy catching them. It would be nice to think that others would also recognise their sport value and return any

fish they catch. I have had several requests from various people for info on catching Zander in Grafham but now refuse. There's a good chance Grafham could produce a record Zander in the near future, but not if today's fish are not returned alive and in good condition. (If not confident at handling large predators, try to fish with someone who is and/or try to carry long handled artery forceps or fine nosed pliers.)

Anglian Water have fantastic resource on their hands at present, I for one hope they protect and nurture it by making sure the Zander and Pike stocks are fully protected from anglers with other agendas which include: fish for sale to the Taxidermist trade or to the restaurant trade. Apart from anything else it has handed them significant revenue at hardly any expense i.e. no stocking required and the cost of fishing is virtually the same as trout fishing. Next season will bring them even more money for nothing but only if the Zander are put back. Remember this Zander revenue helps make your trout fishing viable.

Other notable catches made by us include some really nice Perch up to 3lb 6ozs some double figure Bream plus the odd 13lb Brownie!! In previous years I personally have caught a 3lb Roach and some fantastic Roach/Rudd hybrids. I still can't get a 20lb Pike although I understand 37lb is the club record. I know some trout anglers kill Perch to feed to their cats!

In conclusion can I ask that you don't kill "OUR" Zander [or Pike] and wreck my fishing just because someone said they taste better than Cod! They don't! Haddock do!! "

Fair points Colin, I tend to agree that it is satisfying enough to take only memories away and not leave that "fish shaped hole in the water" although for trout some have to be taken otherwise stocking for that particular purpose would cease and then the quality of fishing definitely suffer. Controlled management presumably is only implemented when a problem starts to emerge.

Anyone else with views on this?

BALANCED TACKLE OR MYTHS & MYSTERIES - Peter Reeves takes a quick, incautious look.

Balanced tackle... now what on earth does that phrase beloved of tackle manufacturers, mail order catalogues and some ill advised authors actually mean? They suggest from their point of perceived superior knowledge that if your tackle in the hand feels balanced i.e. pivots with equilibrium from a point on your handle, then all casting will be an effortless and totally successful experience. What a total con and disregard for the laws of mechanics. Starting the casting process with stationary tackle and then checking it takes energy to overcome and then restore inertia. The more weight (mass) involved the more inertia to overcome both ways. Adding an 8 oz reel to a 4 oz rod may make it feel balanced in the hand but it does not reduce mass - it increases it by 200% Every fly rod ever made casts better without a reel on, if you do not believe me then go out and try it (mind you, effective line management is another matter!)

Now, matching a suitable line to the rod to create optimum performance (for specific angling requirements) is rather complicated. The rod will inevitably handle an optimum casting weight better than an unsuitable one, so what is suitable and what is not? The answer here would seem simple, rods are rated with an AFTM (Association of Fishing Tackle manufacturers') rating so a rod rated AFTM 7 will always perform better with a line rated AFTM 7,

right? Wrong! To assess the rating an assumption is made that the angler will aerialise 30' of fly line less the level tip section (6" - 24") and the scale is made on this weight basis. Fine so far but if you stalk fish in the margins or small streams you will likely aerialise less and if striving for distance will want more. In addition manufacturing processes to very fine limits are not welcomed by manufacturers and the weights for various AFTM ratings are not specific weights but a band of upper and lower weights and aerialising approx. 5 feet more or less with a double taper line will effectively change that rating up or down by one unit. Are you with me so far? Oh well never mind, look at it this way -

Line rated AFTM 5 minimum 134 grains maximum 146 grains
Line rated AFTM 6 minimum 152 grains maximum 168 grains
Line rated AFTM 7 minimum 177 grains maximum 193 grains

The eagle eyed amongst you will notice that there are gaps between these ranges where technically a line would be unclassifiable! In addition some line manufacturers claim, in the interest of 'fast loading' to increase their line weight by half a unit. This is all very well but increase it by what and from what base weight? The mean unit increase between AFTM 5 &

6 is 20 grains (25 grains from 6 to 7.) So, if your brain is not hurting too much at this stage we can see that by increasing half a unit from the minimum for an AFTM 6 band would achieve 162 grains (well within the normal range for a standard AFTM 6 (i.e.no perceivable difference) but from the upper range weight would make it 178 grains i.e, not an AFTM 6.5 but within the AFTM 7 band weight range although still being sold as an AFTM 6 line. So, how do we address this issue? Well if you find a line which works

for you try to preserve it and buy the same as replacement for that rod when forced to. If you feel the line is light/heavy go up/down one unit for the same line from the same manufacturer and hope for the best or, using the AFTM as a guide, switch manufacturers in the hope you can find the optimum line for you for your rod. Good luck! I am off now to lay down in a darkened room before the vexing issue of relative wind resistances for changing line profiles gets mentioned!!!

PRESS RELEASES

ANGLIAN WATER FULLING MILL INTERNATIONAL 2008

We are pleased to launch the 2008 series of our international fly-fishing championship. There are heats at 11 top fisheries throughout the British Isles with a date and venue to suit most teams. The event is for teams of six anglers and will be restricted to the first 166 teams to enter (approx 1000 anglers). It will follow the same popular format as 2007 with teams entering qualifying rounds and national finals. The prestigious two day International Final will be fished at Rutland Water on 30 September and 1 October culminating in the presentation evening on the final day.

Jon Marshall, Fisheries Manager for Anglian Water said "With our sponsors Fulling Mill we will ensure that the prize and hospitality fund throughout the competition will reach £30,000. The silver salver first presented in 1982, the Water Aid trophy (for the biggest fish) and the Overseas Trophy (best placed overseas team) will be presented at our presentation dinner, the best in UK fly-fishing." The entry fee this year will be £99 per team of 6 and, new for this year, we are offering a 25% discount on the entry fee for a second team (£74.25) As before, we will be donating £1 to WaterAid for every competitor who enters. So far, in the five years we have been running the Anglian Water Fulling Mill International, nearly £4,000 has been raised for the WaterAid charity.

You can read all about last year's winners in our Hooked! 2008 magazine, when it is published in February – just ask us for a copy if you are not already on our mailing list.

Team captains are encouraged to get their entries in quickly to avoid disappointment. The calendar of events, application form and rules for the competition are printed in Hooked 2008! Or go to our website HYPERLINK "<http://www.anglianwaterleisure.co.uk>" www.anglianwaterleisure.co.uk email HYPERLINK "<mailto:fishing@anglianwater.co.uk>" fishing@anglianwater.co.uk

NATIONAL FISHING WEEK DATES ANNOUNCED

'All encompassing' is the theme behind this year's National Fishing Week. That's the clear message from the organisers as the dates for the festival of fishing were confirmed as 19th - 27th July 2008.

"We want to embrace all disciplines of the sport, and to this end it was crucial that we secured the help of the Angling Development Board to achieve this. I am pleased to confirm that the Environment Agency has also shown its willingness to get heavily involved once again, and following on from the great work by Neill Sellers over the past four years I am delighted to welcome the Get Hooked on Fishing team to project manage this years event", said Sean O'Driscoll, Chairman of the Angling Trades Association, one of the main sponsors of the event. Now in its 15th year, National Fishing Week has introduced tens of thousands of newcomers to the sport, and is recognised as critical to the sport's development and future.

Further details: Sean O'Driscoll 0778 8922976



PAUL SISSONS - River fishing techniques for trout and grayling.

Dave Jones continues his winter meetings reports

Paul and Sue first visited the club back in January 2007 I think? I have to apologise in advance for perhaps a disjointed report because my pen ran out after the first few lines in my notebook! Paul and Sue have 11 years experience as guides and instructors and run SPS Flyfishing. They have currently both attained Level 2 with the GAIAAA. Sue has, of course, captained the England's ladies team but she chose to take a back seat this evening. Paul talked about the various species of game fish, which might be found in our rivers.



Paul Sissons

Grayling are at their best in the autumn. They are indigenous to North America, the UK and most of mainland Europe. Notable habitats in the UK are the Welsh Dee, Calder, and the Dove. At one time they were netted and killed in their thousands. However, they are no longer viewed as a nuisance fish. Young grayling are silvery but develop black spots as they mature and also take on a beige hue. The prominent dorsal fin takes on a variety of colours during the breeding season, often with a bright streak of red. The dorsal fin is less prominent in the hen fish. Grayling have a life span of 5-10 years which is regarded as quite short in the piscatorial world. A good fish would be of the order of 40 – 50 cms in length. Anything over 50cm would be considered a specimen although I recently read that a couple of fish in the 6-7kg range were authenticated in Finland. The fish features an underslung mouth and oval eyes, both features favouring bottom feeding. The mouth is very small and grayling are incapable of taking fry as a food item.

Brown trout are indigenous to the UK. As reservoir regulars will realise the brown trout spawns from October to December. They feed on anything from minute pupae to relatively large semi mature fish. Although they show up in an angler's daily bag, brown trout are nocturnal feeders. They feature a large mouth which, in the male, features a prominent hook jaw in the breeding season. The colour varies considerably according to the habitat. Brown trout may run to the sea and return in a bright silvery much sought after form – the sea trout. Fish are typically in the size range 30-45cms although ferox, a type found in the depths of the large Scottish Lochs may attain a weight of 15kg and an age in excess of 20 years. Although some anglers target these large fish, increasing numbers seek out wild brown trout, which rarely exceed 12" in length but nevertheless give an excellent feeling of

satisfaction when caught and released on light tackle.

Rainbow trout needed little introduction to the audience. Although originating from the USA, they are not self-sustaining and only breed in the Derbyshire Wye. Hence there is a requirement to continually stock waters, usually with fish heavier than lbs. to reduce the predation by cormorants. Rainbows can be grown on to weigh in excess of 20 lbs but a typical reservoir fish weighs in at 2-3 lbs.

Paul looks upon a river as a conveyor belt bringing food to the fish. The fish positions itself in a favourably lie where it can capture food with the minimum of effort. The angler can sometimes see the fish or at other times, the fish gives its location away by rising to the surface. If no fish can be seen then the angler has to consider where preferred lies might be, for example a faster flowing region where the oxygen levels might be higher, under cover where it might be safer, or close to an inflow which might be a source of extra food. Grayling favour a gravel bottom and smooth glides whereas brownies look for boulders and turbulent water

Line control might be important on still waters but it is vital on rivers if the fly is to be presented in the most natural way. Dyed in the wool reservoir anglers are surprised at how short casts are on rivers and streams. Fish are frequently under than angler's feet. Consequently it is advisable to explore the bankside water before starting to wade. The effect of moving water on the fly might be best minimised by reaching out over faster moving stretches and hence keeping as much line as possible off of the water. Where it is necessary to cast say upstream, at least try and keep most of the line within water moving at a similar speed. Normally this involves casting within a 10° arc of the centre of the flow. Mending the line is often required.

There are similarities between still water and river fishing. Paul is a fan of the Klinkhåmer patterns tied on hook sizes 10-12 and 14. The post on top is tied in a variety of fluo colours according to the conditions – not to entice the fish but to enable the angler to see the fly. Just like Ian Barr, Paul pointed out the differences in the manner in which dry flies float in the surface. The body of the Shuttlecock hangs vertically, the hatching midge ~45°, the F-fly floats in the film whereas the body of the traditional dry is often held off of the surface if the front hackle is not clipped. Fly patterns are often on the small size and benefit from the use of a

tapered leader to ensure a good turn over. A variation of the Bung is widely used on rivers. Here a bulky imitative dry fly (a balloon caddis perhaps) is employed to support, New Zealand style, a leaded fly on a size 17 hook just above the bed of the swim. A third fly, say a spider, can be added if there is sufficient depth of water. The rod tip follows the flies downstream. It might be necessary to mend the line occasionally to avoid drag. Changes in the speed of the fly, a deflection or simply being pulled under are all signs of fishy interest down below.

Czech nymphing normally involved wading up to the waist and using a short line maintaining close contact with the flies. There are a number of configurations evolving, some anglers preferring to use a braided leader of such a length that the fly line barely leaves the tip ring. The terminal fly is often so heavy (3 gm. was mentioned – 1p piece weighs in at 4gm.) that casting in the conventional sense of the word is superfluous – it's more like paternostering. This weight was achieved using a 4mm tungsten bead at the head and a body wrapped with lead foil, all on a size 6 long shank hook. A small weighted nymph might feature as the middle fly whereas a spider was a good choice for the top fly. It all depends on the weather, which if cold, dictates that the flies are bunched closer to the point. The fly is trundled under the rod tip, and along the bed of the river slightly slower than the surface speed and held at the end of the run so that the flies rise up in the flow. Striking at the end of a run can sometimes result in a fish. Paul has fished the San in Poland, which he claimed was stuffed full with grayling. However, the river is fed through a hydroelectric complex and some care is needed to monitor sudden changes in water level which might be as much as 18" in 10 minutes.

Paul uses a 7ft #3 for fishing the smaller streams but raises this to a 10 footer #5 with a soft tip for the bigger rivers. Suitable rods are made by Sage, Greys and Beulah amongst others. He used several types of leader material including Orvis fluorocarbon and super strong copolymer. He also recommended Stroft which I think has received mixed reviews in the angling press but at £6 per 100m is reasonably cheap. A short length of the leader must be degreased when fishing a dry. Barbless hooks were the order of the day. I must admit to not having heard of most of the makes that he uses – Knapec, Tural, Varivas and Grip. They are stocked by Celtic Flycraft and Lakeland Flytying. Other kit includes a cap, Polaroid glasses, wading staff and kneepads. Nobody should step into the water unless all accessories - especially fly boxes – are secured to the angler. He has found that a lumbar support (Snowbee ~£20) minimised backache during the course of a long day. A landing net was attached to his back using a magnetic quick release system. Netting the fish was that much easier if they were drawn downstream with the flow into the net. A fresh set of clothes is useful in the event of the angler taking an unintended dip! Here was a practical angler.

Anyone interested in pursuing river fishing could do worse than buy the DVD "Three Flies and the River Don" available from Paul, which will give you a much better idea of techniques than the screed above! The Don was 15 feet above normal in the summer, yet the fish still managed to find shelter and by all accounts are still spread through the river. Further details are available on www.floatingbones.co.uk.

Dave J.

DEFT DEFINITIONS. Angling 'jargon busting' by Peter Reeves.

Outboard motor - a noisy and vibrating device to give anglers much needed exercise using a short cord.

Reality - the assurance that your worst case scenario will certainly be fulfilled.

Rollocks - a) a simple device on boats designed to trap lines and all other moveable objects - except oars - or occasionally b) a short cry of anguish.

Drift -a) uncontrollable movement of an unpowered boat or b) obscure innuendo.

Partner - that wittering imbecile at the other end of the boat currently using you for target practice or b) person, often of the other gender, left at home and who cannot understand why you should want to go off and enjoy yourself.

Blob - a synonym for partner (see above.)

Oars - a) two big sticks designed by and for masochists as a means of propulsion and for getting in the way or sometimes b) a corruption of 'whores.'

Landing net - that simple, round device you forgot to put in the car.

Drogue - an underwater parachute designed to open only on the first drift and then become progressively tangled and useless.

Warden - an expert specially trained in the art of mis-information.

Weigh-in - a term used to describe a collection of anglers all simultaneously making excuses.

Board - length of timber used because the boat builder always puts the thwarts too low, the use of which tends to create discomfort in the nether regions. Not to be confused with 'bawd' although the end result can be similar.

BACK TO BASICS - Peter Hartley's Casting Clinic for Invicta members



Peter Hartley demonstrates to a numbed audience at Grafham Water

In our previous issue I mentioned that Henry Lowe had stated that anglers are only too happy to spend money on new tackle in the hope of superior performance but reluctant to invest in training the hand that drives it. A very valid point and as a result a casting clinic under the critical eye of Peter Hartley was suggested at sunny Grafham. Well it was a suggestion that I thought would be ill received but was astonished and highly gratified to receive 14 positive responses meaning three small group sessions. I was included on the first session and was 'elected' to start. I was somewhat taken aback that before 20 seconds Peter stopped me and drew attention to a casting fault I hadn't realised was a fault and had been carefully nurturing for over 40 years. Undoing 40+ years of incorrect technique in a few casts was not easy but with Peter's firm encouragement and patient explanation I could follow the logic, apply it gradually and find that not only was less effort involved but presentation vastly improved. We, that is a group of 5, were a mixed bag of beginners and old hands but we all agreed that the morning session was most helpful, informative and very enjoyable. For my own part I got the impression that having my second casting lesson over 41 years after the first one, was not the most satisfactory time gap.

As a bonus Peter encouraged us to venture into the murky area of *correctly executed* side casting and roll casting before totally spoiling us by presenting great armfuls of differing rods and line weights and actions enabling us to try out those variations that we may have wondered about but not got round to

trying. This was most satisfying for myself as I was able to eventually leave with the certain knowledge that the combinations I had taken and use regularly were the best for me and suited me perfectly but this was not general and I suspect funds may well change hands in the future twixt Invicta members and tackle outlets. I feel this was a very worth while exercise and thank Henry for suggesting it and Peter for conducting the sessions. Henry had mildly reprimanded me for inadvertently mis-describing Peter in the last newsletter as a result of blithe assumption and total confusion following glancing through a coaching leaflet he had left with me but he did admit it was an easy mistake to make. He also sent me the following to make the situation more "understandable."

"Currently in England, there are 2 schemes providing qualifications for Game-angling Instructors (or Coaches). The government, represented by Sport England, offers the Certificate in Coaching Angling (CCA), as part of the complex National Coaching Certificate that includes all sports. Early awards of CCA were made at Level 2 for coaches able to deliver instruction when working alone. In recent years, this L2CCA was awarded with a content of technical skills similar to that required for the old STANIC which, in game angling, the CCA has replaced. Recently, access has been through qualification with level 1 (L1CCA) which certifies only the ability to coach under supervision by a higher level coach. As is the case with many government-backed qualifications, CCA syllabuses are reviewed every 5 (I think it is 5) years.

Working with the Salmon & Trout Association to ensure the smooth and reliable running of coaching/instruction within game angling has been the Game Angling Instructors Association (GAIA). GAIA admits as members at entry level those instructors with STANIC, gained in the late 1990s, and those with GAIC (Game Angling Instructors Certificate). Their top level of technical skills is the APGAI (Advanced Professional Game Angling Instructor) qualification. The technical syllabus set by GAIA for GAIC has had the same content as the L2CCA in recent years, so holders of L2CCA who have shown these abilities also have GAIC. A main aim of GAIA is to maintain the technical abilities of its members at the same level at least, allowing for inclusion of new techniques as these arise. These members are qualified at the two levels: entry level with GAIC, also STANIC and L2CCA; and at the top level APGAI. To find an instructor whose technical

abilities have been assessed expertly, visit GAIA's web site www.gameanglinginstructors.co.uk where there is a listing of its member instructors and their qualifications; APGAI at the top level and GAIC, or equivalent, at entry level."

Now, 14 Invicta members signed up for these sessions and I am sure all agree it was a wise investment. This represents nearly 20% of our membership which of course leaves over 80% missing out on 'corrective training.' Invicta has 3 listed members with appropriate qualifications Henry Lowe, John Reynolds and Anthony Williams. In addition Henry endorsed Peter Hartley and Mark Huntsman. Recognising that these will have differing levels of experience and areas of expertise I would suggest that if in doubt as to whom to approach for further coaching, that one approach Henry, explain your requirement and be guided by his advice.



Graduates from the Anglian Water Modelling School, Ray 'L Buoy' Jenkins and Simon 'Bubbles' Dance, demonstrate using their new machine. All the Anglian Water's life jackets will have to undergo regular and stringent testing and this device will ensure that they are in full working order. They will not legally be able to test anglers' own jackets but it's worth getting yours checked annually as many fail the test. Thanks to Chris McLeod for this info and the stunning photo.

Now that is really great news isn't it? Our lifejackets may not operate efficiently (or at all) when we may most need them to! Thanks a bundle Chris, we can really sleep easy with this assurance can't we?

LAST CAST.... especially for Mark.

OK, ok! So this picture is not an angling one. In fact it is one of my holiday snaps (No, you can't come with me on my next holiday.) A balancing image is required for the image on the left and this one will do perfectly. Its a question of action as the angling catalogues claim. The young lady had more moving parts than she was entitled to but just when I thought her action was middle to tip, then a progressive through action was noted but then suddenly again plainly a fast action. Its as every bit as confusing as catalogue rod descriptions... but more interesting!

