

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 Angling Trust, and the Federation of Midlands Fly Fishers (Anglia)
Website: www.invictaffc.org.uk



THE ANGLING TRUST, THE FUTURE OF OUR SPORT, NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT NOW!

You may recall this newsletter brought you news of a F.A.C.T. fuelled initiative to achieve unity amongst representatives of all UK angling disciplines under one banner. Well with effect from 5th January 2009, the Angling Trust was formed replacing F.A.C.T. the ACA and representative bodies of coarse and sea anglers. What about game anglers I hear you ask? Well, the Salmon & Trout Association was to have taken part "representing as it does the interests of all game anglers!?" Yes that is what I wrote, you learn something new every day. Unfortunately, the S. & T.A. didn't seem to realise that they were (or chose to become) a registered charity and as such ineligible to be incorporated so had to withdraw late in the proceedings. The suggestion was that the Confederation of English Fly Fishers, a body closely aligned to the S. & T.A., therefore take over this rôle instead. Fine, but CEFF's main mission has been to organise national and international competitions, seemingly on behalf of the S. & T.A. - now the responsibility of the Angling Trust. It would appear that whereas the sea anglers and the coarse fisherman had national bodies co-ordinating their interests, game anglers lacked this foresight or were more independent minded or maybe just naive.

So does this make a difference? Well, whilst it may have been more comforting to have had strong leadership defending the ordinary fly fishers' interests within the new Trust, it probably does not make too much difference in the end. The Angling Trust, soon to incorporate the Angling Development Board looks to be a body with serious muscle in government wonderland and already has some significant government funding achieved to deploy in education, training and structures to encourage more to participate. Any angler wishing to take part in national or international events will be obliged to be a member of a club which is in itself a member of the Angling Trust, so it is inevitable this Trust will be the biggest thing in angling since the fish hook and very capable of securing the ear of governments.... a lot of voters own rods as they

well know! Not only this but the new Trust has an ambitious and proactive rôle and looks to introduce 'best practice' and solid support to its member clubs and encouragement to become more efficient, whatever their particular discipline. All good news and progressive to my mind. As an infant organisation it benefits from sound knowledge, capable professional pre-planning and as it would have to have done, hit the ground running strongly but like all infants needs support.

Whilst the ACA has now been absorbed the function of their legal team, prosecuting polluters etc. when the E.A. is disinclined to show an interest, is not to be undertaken by the Angling Trust but this same team, now with activity also in Scotland, continues their good work in an organisation named 'Fish Legal' working alongside the Angling Trust and answerable to the same Executive. The services of Fish legal will only be available to individuals and to clubs and fisheries which are members of the Angling Trust and pay an additional subscription for its services. for example a club with 50-200 members like Invicta is offered membership for £100 with an option of Fish Legal services for an additional £110. Individual membership of the Trust is £20 and £5 for juniors. The Trust is offering a package of incentives to members,

- * Eligibility to fish in competitions
- * Free £5 million public liability insurance
- * Fish For Free loyalty programme
- * Annual magazine and angling handbook
- * Regular newsletters and e-updates
- * Interactive website
- * **Greater peace of mind**

By joining the Angling Trust, you will automatically be registered with the 'Fish For Free cardless loyalty programme.'

Have a look at www.anglingtrust.net for full details of the organisation and what it offers. To be fair, this site is very much under construction so far as final details are concerned but you will

readily see just how useful this site will be when fully 'fleshed in' - and you can sign up for individual membership there right now! If you value your sport and wish to see it progress in a responsible and secure manner, why not help the Trust to help you? It is not going to cost a fortune and could be the best investment you make this year. Membership information will also accompany your new rod licence from the EA when you renew in March.

So it is now a matter of watching further interesting developments. Personally, I am curious as to how long it takes the Trust to lock horns with dysfunctional government organisations, like the matter of the iniquitous tax without return raised by the E.A. 'rod licence' perhaps..... or is this the source of the

government funding - paying some of our money back?

Oh! We should add that Invicta is now an Angling Trust Member but this does not preclude your individual membership should you feel strongly enough about putting into your sport to keep it alive and feed what your sport gives you.

If the Angling Trust is to work it needs muscle (i.e. your involvement and, especially now to get up and running quickly immediate funding.)

I know what a parsimonious bunch you can be but this issue is very serious. If you want fishing to continue in a healthy manner you literally have to put your money where your mouth is - your children and grandchildren will blame you otherwise and rightly so!

invicta calendar of forthcoming events 2009

Feb. 19th	CHARLES JARDINE Reservoir Fishers' Guide to Rivers. Harston V.Hall	7.45 for 8 pm
Feb. 21st	INVICTA ANNUAL DINNER & TROPHY PRESENTATION Lion Hotel, Buckden.	7.30 for 8 pm
Mar. 5th	FLY FISHING FORUM. Come & get your questions answered. Harston V.Hall	7.45 for 8 pm
Mar. 19th	INTER-CLUB QUIZ NIGHT. Can AW wardens win again?? Harston Village Hall	7.45 for 8 pm
Apr. 6th	PITSFORD. Carr cup points apply. Choice of partners	8.30 for 9 am
Apr. 26th	GWFFA/INVICTA/EDFF INTER-CLUB COMPETITION Grafham Water	tba
May.10th	RUTLAND WATER Carr cup points apply Choice of partners	8.30 for 9 am
May 12th	INVICTA TUESDAY EVENING LEAGUE STARTS Grafham Water	5.30 for 6 pm
Jun. 12th	EYEBROOK. Carr cup points apply Choice of partners	8.30 for 9 am
Jul. 12th	GRAFHAM (PRESIDENT'S CUP) Carr cup points apply Draw for partners	8.30 for 9 am
Aug. 15th	DRAYCOTE Carl Hunter Bowl & Carr cup points. Draw for partners	8.30 for 9 am
Aug. 18th	INVICTA TUESDAY EVENING LEAGUE FINISHES Grafham Water	5.30 for 6 pm
Sep. 15th	RAVENSTHORPE. Carr cup points apply. Choice of partners	8.30 for 9 am
Oct. 7th	HANNINGFIELD. Carr cup points apply. Choice of partners	8.30 for 9 am
Aug. 18th	INVICTA TUESDAY EVENING LEAGUE FINISHES Grafham Water	5.30 for 6 pm
Nov. 14th	ELINOR Invicta Fur & Feather Bank event	tba

*** Please note that the dates for Carr cup events are intended dates, probably correct but subject to final confirmation

THE INVICTA TUESDAY EVENING LEAGUE 2009

This year the Invicta Tuesday Evening league at Grafham Water (THE venue for notable quality fish), an event which grows in popularity year by year, is expanded from 14 to 15 evenings. In 2008 nearly 70 different anglers took part in this very popular format of an evening boat event with a draw for partners, except that beginners are responsibly and carefully paired with an experienced angler.

This allows for generating new friendships as well as renewing old ones and allowing participants to study (for better or worse) different styles and techniques. At the end of the fishing period, i.e.

when it gets dark, the anglers repair to the adjacent Wheatsheaf to swap excuses and experiences and to enjoy hand crafted beverages and sandwiches of superlative quality.

All very jolly and deeply satisfying. If you have not yet tried this regular Invicta summer feature it is recommended that you rectify this at the earliest opportunity. This year the league commences on 12th May and finishes on 18th August. Every Tuesday evening 5.30 for 6.00 pm until displayed dusk finish times.



THE INVICTA AGM, FLY TYING COMPETITION AND TACKLE AUCTION.

Well, given that we had snow, ice, fog and generally dreadful weather, also apologies for absence that looked more like the membership list due to many members heading off to the sunshine or seeking impromptu medical attention, an attendance of 17 was a good result. The 'business part' was dealt with in customary brisk fashion, volunteers resolutely refusing to come out of the woodwork and by and large the 'usual suspects' are still to be found in the same office. There were a couple of changes though, Dave Hardick regretfully decided to step down from the committee. He will of course be missed and his input was acknowledged. We also had a new nomination to the committee, Kieran Caulfield, who was voted in unanimously, that's 17 for and none against Kieran - and welcome to the Invicta committee and all the heady power that comes with it. We understand that Kieran's particular expertise is working with and encouraging the more youthful members. Well Kieran, I do not think you need to work hard at firing up enthusiasm in our current juniors who are not only as keen as mustard but acquitting themselves extremely well in competitions at National level as our chairman drew attention to in the combined report. Whilst young people generally tend to bring me out in a rash, I cannot but feel a warm glow of pride in our juniors. Well done lads and to the parents that support you in your endeavours.

On the competition front, under our club captain, Graham Williams, Invicta A failed by the narrowest of margins to claim promotion back to group 2 of the AMFC whilst Invicta B were never in real contention... but had their moments and a lot of fun anyway in the true spirit of Invicta!

The chairman also gave thanks to the many people who worked to make the club successful and smooth running and whilst many clubs struggle to maintain membership levels, Invicta has made a gain during the year, now 91 - once all subs are renewed!!! He also pointed out and confirmed by the booking officer, that our sociable summer fishing days at 7 top class venues had been well

supported with 33 individual anglers taking part and was happy to announce that the Invicta Tuesday evening league event at Grafham Water continued to go from strength to strength with almost 70 anglers participating during the series.

The chairman advised the meeting of the 2008 season trophy winners as:

Presidents Cup - Mark Searle
Tuesday Evening League - Mark Searle
Beecroft Shield - John Caldwell
Carr Cup - Graham Williams
Carl Hunter Bowl - Ian Wilson
Invicta Trophy - Jointly: Kieran Bonas, Ryan Worker, Adam Worker
Brown Trout Trophy - No claimant

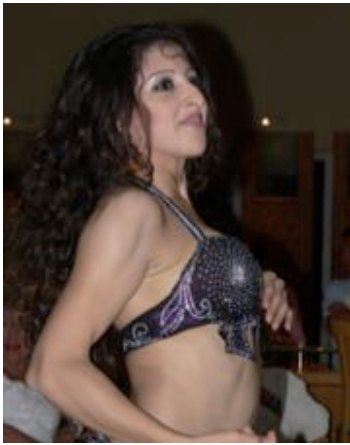
This year the number of entries into the fly tying competition (4) was again rather disappointing against a membership of 91 and all entries are judged 'blind.' It is not that serious and greater participation in this club event would be more satisfying especially as in entering one becomes more self critical over techniques and proportions and thus becomes more thoughtful and more accomplished. Be that as it may the standard of the entries we had was high and our president in judging had much deliberation through a giant magnifying glass before arriving at a conclusion that Rob Mungovan's entry was to take top slot. Congratulations Rob (and the other entrants), a fine effort... now put them to good use on the water!

Following the AGM and after allowing due time for life giving fluids to be absorbed, there followed a tackle auction with a good selection of quality items with a commission to club funds on the proceeds. Bidding was brisk on many of these and club funds benefitted by £58.80 as a result. Not a bad result at all and quite entertaining I found.

Minutes of the AGM will be circulated to all members prior to our next AGM but if any member would like a copy beforehand please e-mail me.



Its Show Time folks, not only do we have the Spring Flyfishing show as above but Stuart Illsley of the Eyebrook Tackle Shop has a special event on February 15th at Eyebrook from 10 am to 3 pm with chance to catch up on latest tackle developments, see fly tying demo's by Charles Jardine. Ian McKenzie (Fulling Mill) and Phil Holding (North Country Spiders) plus casting tuition & displays and a raffle for the English Disabled Fly Fishers Association. Light refreshments available. A good day out it would appear.



ARE YOU COVERED?

Just one of the plethora of advantages you gain when parting with your annual subscription, still a meagre £17 per year - you have paid yours of course... or have you? is third party insurance which currently covers you for up to £2 million whilst fishing inland, club event or not, for all members. Now of course you do not ever wish to activate this but it is well worth having. It is probable that our insurance arrangements will be changed in the near future for even greater third party liability but please remember that if you are involved in an incident which may require this facility, even if no such claim is imminent at the time, it is important that any potential risk be notified to the underwriters at the earliest stage. So, if you do get involved with a third party problem, be sure to let the secretary have full details as soon as possible in order the incident be registered with our Insurers.

FISHING QUOTES - Not had these for a while, these from the US may ring a bell or two !

"I'll look over at Josh any time we drive near a body of water and I'll notice his eyes drift away from the road. He's trying to figure out: A) what the possibility is that there are fish in that water, and B) the severity of the fit I'll throw if he stops to find out," writes Alysse E. Hollis, an attorney from Cincinnati.

"There have been times I've come really, really close to piling all the fly rods, chicken necks and fishing books in the front yard and torching them," writes Jennifer Axtell, a school librarian from Bevard, North Carolina. On their second date, Nathaniel, a fishing guide, took her on a backpacking trip for brook trout in the Shenandoah Mountains. To save weight he left the tent's rain fly at home. She woke sloshing around in a soaked sleeping bag while he snoozed away comfortably in dry waders: "I should have run for the car and never looked back; instead, we got engaged."

"However you slice it, it's an uneasy truce. Fishing is a greedy mistress. Fishing takes time. And money," writes Seattle's Thomas R. Pero, the award-winning editor of Trout Magazine during the 1980s and '90s and founding editor of Fish & Fly Magazine. "Either the bathroom gets a new designer sink or you are in seat 8A on a LAN Chile flight to Argentina for some dry-fly fishing in February. Survival tip: Don't plan your trip for Valentine's week."

Essence of delicacy.



Many 'flies' tied, both professionally and by amateurs, tend to forget that aquatic flies are fine and delicate translucent creatures not obese caricatures. This interesting study taken at Bulgarian national team member Stanislav Mankov's demonstration last autumn encapsulates perfectly the maxim that "less is more!" Strive to use less materials and achieve balance in your tying. Try to create ephemeral, convincing fairies not sumo wrestlers in the vice. Think 'Clyde style.' No, he didn't demonstrate any Blob patterns but did do some fairly meaty caddis examples!

WINTER MEETINGS REPORTS. Dave Jones gives us his unique perception of our winter meetings and guest speakers.

ALLAN SEFTON ON LENNOX RODS

Alan Brown lived through a period which embraced the wizardry of Dick Walker with bamboo, Don Neish's pioneering work with ultra-thin walled glass rods and the development of carbon fibre as a rod making material. He was no mean angler either so it was of little surprise that he put his unique knowledge into his company Alan Brown Rod Developments. His partner in the enterprise was John Hutchinson, now resident in Biggleswade, and still the first port of call should you need a rod renovating.

Alan shut up shop in 1992 and embarked on a period of touring the world searching out the finest fishing. It soon occurred to him that rods available were not ideally suited to these situations and set about designing improved versions. The Walker principle was to use as few joints as possible in order to avoid interrupting the action of the blank. There was some sense in this when at the time sections were joined with relatively heavy, unforgiving brass ferrules. Nowadays the adventurous angler, travelling by air, is hit by the need to pack the rod into a suit case. This generally means sections no longer than a metre. Fortunately the advent of carbon fibre and integrated ferrules means that rods can now be made using as many as 6 or even 7 sections and yet retain reasonable fishability.

Alan passed away in 2007 but left a legacy of a range of 20 or more rods which he had pioneered in conjunction with a UK blank maker. His widow and his long term friend, Allan Sefton, decided to continue making and even extending the range of rods under the Lennox brand. Allan Sefton, by the way, is chairman of the East Midland fly Fishers Association, member of Invicta and is also qualified as a level 2 coach. The details of the range of rods may be found on [HYPERLINK "http://www.lennoxrods.com"](http://www.lennoxrods.com) www.lennoxrods.com. Allan had a good range of rods on display but Harston Hall was hardly a venue to explore their potential. This may be done by contacting Allan who lives locally, direct on 01438 313137. The cost of the rods starts at around £500 and a certain amount of customising

is possible. Ownership entitles the angler to membership of the Lennox Club, discounts on the purchase of further rods and 2 hours of casting instruction.



Allan Sefton explains the finer points of the Lennox range of rods to Peter Thomas at our Christmas Social meeting.

BOB MALLANDINE ON SMOKING FISH

Smoking was originally devised as a means of preserving the glut of salmon which occurred during the seasonal runs of fish long before the development of refrigeration. Salt killed any bacterium and smoke, originally from bramble bushes, ensured that the flesh did not go mouldy. Taste was not the premier consideration in the Middle Ages!



Bob was pleased to get a galvanised dustbin for Christmas for it turned out to be a fish smoker! This consisted of a box shaped burner, the contents of which is ignited with a candle of the sort found on birthday cakes. Very fine wood (oak) dust is used as fuel. The burn-time is of the order of 8 hours. The smoke passes through a cooling vessel and enters the smoking chamber. It could not be simpler. The overall height was about 4 feet.

The ploy is to first catch some fish. These are then frozen and kept until the onset of winter or at least to such times as there are no bluebottles around. The fish were removed from the freezer and soaked in saturated brine for 24 hours by which time they should be fully thawed and suitable for filleting. The fillets were then stacked up, each separated by a 1cm thick, pre-prepared paste of equal parts of sugar and salt doped with an optional dash of whisky. The objective was to draw the fluids from the flesh which might take a couple of hours for a run of the mill rainbow or as much as 8 hours for a salmon. The fillets were then washed to remove the surface layer of salt and hung up for another 6-8 hours in order to complete the drying process. They were then hung up in the chamber and subjected to the smoking process which again is an overnight task. The smoked fillets were then allowed to stand for a few hours and the bones removed. The product may be kept in a freezer for up to a year.

Bob produced a couple of trays of smoked fish, one from rainbow trout and the other from a salmon. The idea was to challenge the audience to decide which was which. Personally I found both delicious to the degree that I failed to notice the results of the vote!! I think it was a fairly even split.

CAUTION! This note is a brief description of what I thought Bob said. If you intend to try smoking fish for the first time then I would check out the process with Bob. Also have a look on the web and you will find many different designs of smokers, a range of recommended woods for generating the smoke and various other tricks.

BRIAN MARSHALL ON CONSERVATION



Brian is chairman of the Wessex Rivers and Salmon Trust. His introduction to fishing was on the River Lea back in 1958. In those days the river was gin clear and featured a whole variety of weeds. After all, it did rise on the chalk rich Chilterns. I recall being aggrieved at being disturbed when a horse drawn barge passed by! This was soon to change with the growth of Luton, Dunstable and WGC (source abstraction and inadequate sewage treatment) and the main river now is little more than a muddy canal with concrete banks, at least in the Rye house area. He moved on to Hampshire and must have been one of the first anglers to recognise the potentially harmful effect of trout farms. The idea that the effluent from fish, normally associated with living in only clean water, could possibly contribute to the decline of the chalk streams was quite novel at

the time. Note that the Test hosts some of the largest trout farms in Europe.

The chalk streams of England are almost unique in Europe and are traditionally associated with the southern counties. Anglers think of the Avon and its tributaries, notably the Bourne, Ebbles (a wild brown trout sanctuary), Nadder and the Wylde. A little further to the east are the Test and the Itchen. In fact, the layer of chalk responsible for the unique qualities of these rivers, runs from southern England up to the east coast of Yorkshire. The water is crystal clear, slightly alkaline, nutrient rich, of a constant temperature and flows at a relatively constant rate. Hence a wide range of plants flourish such as crowfoot, starworts, water cress and water parsnip, which in turn generates an amazing abundance of invertebrates. The characteristics of the chalk streams particularly favour fly-fishing for trout and grayling but in the lower reaches there is also a wide range of other species notably the cyprinids barbel, chub and roach.

The river corridors are intensively farmed, a practice introduced by the Dutch. Water meadows are fed by graded channels, which ensure a ready source of grazing which then enabled sheep to get to market ahead of competitors. The meadows acted as a reservoir for fly life and of course contributed to flood prevention. In more recent times, arable farming is proving more profitable and is encroaching on the rivers. More bad news lies in the extinction of the native White Clawed Crayfish by the voracious Signal Crayfish introduced from the USA some 35 years ago.

My first experience of the Avon was on the Royalty probably back in '65 when I saw 3 huge (to me) salmon hung up on a rack, presumably recently caught from the nearby Bridge Pool. Well over 1000 salmon were caught each season but in the 1980's the catch crashed along with the average size. This season has yielded 67 to rods and 65 to the nets. In 1992, the Environment Agency called a meeting to discuss the problem and at least attempt to protect existing stocks. The EA supply core funding but I was surprised to learn that the "evil" Tesco Stores Ltd (with an interest in fish farms) donated £3000 per year for 3 years and devised a "Swap a Salmon" scheme whereby they donated a £25 voucher for every rod caught salmon returned. The netmen who fish Mudeford harbour where migratory fish accumulate in conditions of high water temperature and low flow rates, were paid to return salmon thanks to contributions from

Christchurch/Ringwood and Salisbury angling clubs.

Orri Vigfusson and the North Atlantic Atlantic Salmon Fund have addressed fishing on the high seas. I hope that this Icelandic based organisation will not be affected by the credit crunch. The nets on the West coast of Ireland have been bought out for a mere €25 million. This often involved hundreds of nets each with a length of 7km. 200,000 salmon were "declared" each season. It was believed that these nets accounted for up to 28% of the fish destined for the Test. The problems caused by the salmon farms on the west coast of Scotland are regularly discussed in the pages of FF&FT. Predator control mainly dealing with seals, otters, egrets, goosanders and cormorants is not appreciated by the general public. Disease in salmon is a serious problem particularly the gyrodactylus salaris. Whole river systems have been poisoned in Norway in order to remove this parasite. So far it has not reached our shores but considering the devastating consequences it was surprising that anglers returning from a foreign trip are not obliged to disinfect their tackle.

I previously mentioned the generosity of Tesco Stores Ltd in funding the "Swap a Salmon" scheme for the past 13 years. Tesco also sponsor environmental schemes for schools. Creating a school pond, restoring a local stream, developing a wetland or wildlife sanctuary, preservation or restoration of aquatic creatures are just a few of the projects which have been supported. More recently "Trout in Schools" was launched whereby a suitable tank is installed along with eggs or brown trout fry so that pupils can follow their development into adult fish and raise their general awareness of environmental matters – but don't mention fishing! The attraction of the topic has been enhanced by the ease with which the results can be incorporated into many aspects of the GCSE framework. So, the next time you hear Tesco being slagged off on the Today programme, think of some of the good work they do behind the scenes.

Finally, although apparently reluctant to mention it himself at the meeting, Brian was awarded in 2008, the CLA Game Fair lifetime achievement award for his tireless work culminating in the closure of the Irish drift net fishery. We were in the presence of an unsung hero, at least on the club scene!

Further info may be found on [HYPERLINK "http://www.wsrt.org.uk"](http://www.wsrt.org.uk)

FLY TYING – THE GUMMY MINNOW

The first meeting of 2009 featured Peter Reeves demonstrating the fly tying competition patterns, a John Storey variant dry fly and the Ivens Brown and Green nymph with junior member Oscar Boatfield knocking up a grayling pattern. However, I hope these guys will not mind me concentrating on the efforts of John Mees who produced a really wondrously realistic pattern that had everyone at the meeting enthused.

Clearly wanting something more (*or possibly less?*) challenging than the San, JM, and several other members are off to in February for a couple of weeks to Venezuela. John disclosed their secret weapon – the Gummy Minnow. This fly has been around for at least 5 years but is only recently becoming more widely known.

The fly features a new material called Sili skin which was claimed to be developed for use in mobile phones. This is a self adhesive, translucent sheet material with an incredibly soft feel. It tends to stick to anything with great ease and John recommended wetting ones hands before attempting to handle it (see [HYPERLINK "http://myweb.cableone.net/stairway/Sili%20skin%20tips.html"](http://myweb.cableone.net/stairway/Sili%20skin%20tips.html) <http://myweb.cableone.net/stairway/Sili%20skin%20tips.html>.) Be prepared to waste a few bits before you master handling the stuff. It is available from the shop at Grafham (or at least it was until Mr Mees got his hands on the stock!) although it may be found at a slightly reduced price on the web. www.uksaltwaterflies.com is an excellent site just to browse through and has the largest range of sea hooks that I have ever encountered.

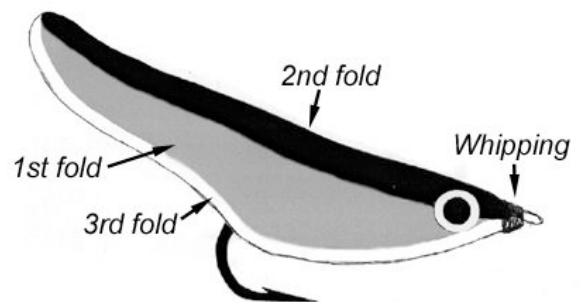
A No.4 O'shaughnessy bend, ring eyed stainless hook was selected. However, the fly can be created on any size from competition (!!!) 10's to tarpon 3/0's. A short length of body was developed with fine lead wire wrapped around the shank. However, other patterns use coloured silk or even foam where floatability was desired. Sili skin comes in a variety of finishes. JH liked prismatic silver or road slick for the base layer. A rectangular strip of the skin is removed from the sheet. Experience will indicate the size required. The stuff isn't cheap: some tyers recommend creating a series of formers to act as a cutting pattern and thus minimising wastage. The hook was laid at a slight angle across the adhesive side of the strip so that when the Sili skin is folded over the shank, the rear end (the tail) projected above the horizontal plane. This was trimmed to

create a fish-like profile. Another, narrower strip, is then prepared, this time of a different colour to represent the back bone of the minnow – in this particular case green. This is carefully folded over the 1st layer and smoothed out. Self-adhesive red plastic eyes were then applied. Finally a strip larger than the original layer was prepared, this time from mother of pearl, and folded over the body. This offered some protection to the component parts. However, a whipped head is necessary to ensure that water does not enter between the layers and destroy the adhesion.

The realism of the finished “fly” was truly amazing such that it could have come straight from a tin of sardines. Note they are a little fragile and each of the anglers will be taking upwards of a hundred for a fortnights fishing!

An excellent pictorial guide can be found on [HYPERLINK "http://mouches.free.fr/pagesus/assembly/m0044.htm"](http://mouches.free.fr/pagesus/assembly/m0044.htm) <http://mouches.free.fr/pagesus/assembly/m0044.htm>. A Google search will also show the wide variety of permutations that the original Gummy has spawned.

The minnow can be retrieved in any of the usual ways. On the flats the technique is to cast to fish and allow the minnow to slowly sink thus mimicking a dead or stunned fish. I recall at one time at Grafham there was some success reported, mainly with brown trout, with imitations such as polystickles allowed to rest on the bottom. In answer to a question as to whether Gummies were allowed at Big G, the response of the Boss was “I could not possibly comment”! I suggest that this probably means OK but it might be prudent to incorporate a few feather fibres.



Our ‘artist’s impression’ of the “Gummy Minnow” as demonstrated by John Mees.

MEMBER'S PROFILE No. 14 - Steve Middleton interviewed - at last - by Peter Reeves.
(Next issue it will be John Mees in the spotlight better renew your subs now to avoid disappointment)

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

SM - Yes - I was fortunate enough to have a grand father who was not only a keen fisherman but also had a car. He took the family out one afternoon when I was about seven year old and the outing just happened to be to the River Swale near Richmond.

From then on we had two or three trips a year and Granddad Harker had me all over places to rivers, lakes and the sea. One of my most memorable days was when Granddad came over to Bridlington where we were on holiday. The next morning he had me out early morning mackerel fishing out of Bridlington, afternoon from North Landing at Flamborough and then out of Filey in the evening.

Only twelve hours of boat fishing for a young boy but I do remember catching a Haddock off Flamborough, you could not do that today

PR - In your early years was fishing readily available to you ?

SM - Living in North Leeds the nearest fishing was on the two lakes at Roundhay Park and in my teens we used to cycle over in the summer for an evening fish with light tackle for roach. When we were fortunate enough to own a car we spent most Sundays at Kirk Hammerton on the River Nidd catching roach, perch and barbel.

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

SM - I think that granddad gave me access to a much bigger world and his wonderful tales of his fishing exploits was inspirational to me. In later years fishing was a welcome contrast to my working life but always on a social basis.

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

SM - I had only done a bit of fly fishing on the River Swale and the Wharfe before moving down to Cambridge and I always wanted to do more. Luckily I finished living round the corner from Alan Taylor and Bob Ayres and quickly joined Greenfield Close angling set. Bob has been another inspirational figure and I am still learning from his unquestionable knowledge and inherent skills. The appeal is fishing with relatively light



tackle for a very game fish, the excitement of a trout taking a dry fly is addictive and exhilarating.

PR - Do any other species than trout interest you ?.

SM - I enjoy bass fishing out of Southwold, waiting for the bass to chomp its way down a sand eel and race off along the bank is very satisfying and you definitely know when the fish are hooked.

PR - What would be your dream fishing venue ?

SM - Having read an article many years ago I would like to go Tarpon fishing off Florida, the writer of the article said that the leaping fish sounded like someone dropping fridges into the

sea. I would also like to go bone fishing at some stage, I have seen bone fish whilst doing a short diving course in Grand Caymen and it does sound an exciting experience. I am not sure if I could go with the ugly collection of club members that are leaving shortly for the Caribbean, I still cannot imagine John Mees in shorts!

PR - Beauty is in the eye of the beholder Steve. What is your most memorable fishing experience?

SM - Having fished most of my time with Bob Ayres that is an impossible question to answer, I could write a book on my experiences with my illustrious partner. From a fishing point of view catching over 1200lbs of cod on my first wreck fishing trip springs to mind but there are also countless days of fun with Alan Taylor and the late Big John Rolph. Bob is still getting over the 13-1 thrashing that I gave him at Pitsford years ago and the fact that on that day I had one cast with his new rod and caught two fish. The most memorable non-fishing experience was when in his enthusiasm to unload the boat in one trip he emptied the top layer of my fishing box into the harbour at Bladgon. It was not until the following day that I discovered that my reel and floating line was missing and Bob raced us back to Bladgon to see if we could find it. Because nothing was visible from the pontoon, Bob stripped off and despite my objections, lowered himself into the lake. The water in Bladgon in late May is not very warm and Bob's receding private parts were a clear indication of this. Walking slowly around the harbour, up to his

shoulders in the lake, a passing angler asked if he had fallen in. I said yes, he always folds up his clothes in a neat pile before falling in. The next angler asked what he was doing and I explained that he was such a purist that before going out onto the water he liked to check on the invertebrates on the bed of the lake so that he can fish appropriate patterns. The final comment came from an angler walking along to pontoon to get to his boat. Bob had finally given up hope of finding the reel and was bending over to pick up his clothes. With his little white backside sticking up in the air the angler just said good morning to it as he walked by. It makes you wonder what type of loonies make up fly fishing clubs, but there again, looking at our membership maybe not.

PR - Do you have any misgivings about fishing at all.

SM - No not really but I do take exception to people taking unnecessary amounts of fish be it river, lake or sea fishing. The world is a finite

place and it is always better to leave something for another day.

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

SM - Much of the same I think with the emphasis on greater enjoyment. Having been retired for almost twelve months I still have a way to go to settle into retirement but I am getting there.

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

SM - Having been a member for probably over 25 years Invicta has played a key part in my social fishing experiences. Norman Shippey was very helpful when I first joined the club, although his fishing skills have not improved over the years, and I have made many friends and acquaintances. I took over as Chairman from John Rolph and John became a very good friend who I sadly miss. I would recommend any local angler with an interest in fly fishing to join Invicta.

Angling Hooks £1.56 million from Sport England

Angling has received a £1.56 million boost this week as Sport England announced its plans to support the Governing Body to deliver angling opportunities for all over the next four years.

Last summer the Angling Development Board (ADB) was invited by Sport England to demonstrate how angling could contribute to government targets of increasing participation in active sport, especially through encouraging young people and retaining them as active participants as they grow older. Sport England also wanted to develop the talent pool of anglers trying to compete at international level and proposals to improve anglers' satisfaction with the management of their sport: a process already underway with the formation of the Angling Trust. David Moore, Chairman of the ADB explained. 'The ADB responded to Sport England's challenge with a package of proposals to grow and sustain the sport of angling. Our Plan is based on a vast amount of market research, much of it from the Environment Agency's data from millions of rod licences and information held by Sport England right back to an NOP survey 40 years ago.

'The first area identified was the problem of young people who are introduced to the sport but are not converted into long-term anglers. Other sports have much better links between schools, coaches, clubs and facilities whereas these are

widely fragmented in angling. The funding package from Sport England will help start a regional development network which can access local and regional funding and bring schools, clubs, coaches and facilities together.

'After six months' hard work by the ADB team, the timing of this announcement coincides perfectly with the transition of the ADB into the newly constituted Angling Trust during 2009. We are already making good progress in achieving Sport England's recognition of The Angling Trust as the Governing Body for angling in England.'

The ADB plans to start recruiting Regional Development Officers and details will be available on their website www.anglingdevelopmentboard.org.uk during February.

Mark Lloyd, Chief Executive of Angling Trust said: "I am delighted that Sport England has recognised angling's important role as a healthy activity for people of all backgrounds, ages and abilities with this increased funding award, which is a vote of confidence in the new unified structure for the way angling is managed at a national level. The new Angling Trust will work hard to make this grant go much further by seeking matching funds at local, regional and national levels. This funding will help our member clubs recruit and retain members and it will secure a positive future for angling and the millions of people who go fishing each year."

THE POLITICAL SCENE

A report from Euro MP Ivor Laimbrayne, our occasional correspondent from Brussels.

Observers here are watching with intense interest proposal AF7650023197/655DFL dated 1st April 2008 from the European Commission for Health & Safety concerned over the very obvious inherent dangers raised by the manufacture and distribution of fishing hooks with very sharp and hazardous points and barbs. This had led to an unacceptable number of incidents concerning injuries to anglers throughout Europe with consequential added cost burdens to the health services of all Member States. Suggestions are that barbs be declared illegal and if practical the metal replaced with a softer and safer form of plastic, failing which the sharpening of points to comply with a much lower gpsm pressure rating (grammes per square millimetre) to ensure effective lack of damaging penetration and ensuing reduced risk of serious injury. Even though these proposals are introduced in

their best interests, the responsible authorities are dismayed to find that the anglers groups thus far engaged in the consultative process appear to be wholly opposed to the proposal forming a parallel situation to the catering industries resistance to the earlier proposed move to straight corkscrews. Concerns are also rampant in the non angling community over the possibility of these exceedingly dangerous objects falling into the hands of terrorists. At the discussion stage as I write, if passed and ratified these proposals towards safer angling would be implemented with effect from 1st April 2009.

The European Commission for Equality has recently announced that it is 'gravely concerned' at the fact that the UK continues to have only one Monopolies Commission. This is deemed wholly restrictive and undemocratic and is being investigated in order that this important function may be opened to more competition and offer greater freedom of opportunity. My next report will hopefully carry more details of this progress.

HOW DID YOU FARE THIS TIME ?

CARR CUP 2009 Top ten results

1. Graham Williams	43 fish	265 points
=2. Ian Willson	29 fish	205 points
=2 Chris. McLeod	29 fish	205 points
=2. Mark Searle	29 fish	205 points
5. John Caldwell	30 fish	200 points
6. Mike Smith	27 fish	185 points
7. Dave Hardick	20 fish	150 points
8. Mick Facey	20 fish	130 points
8. Peter Oldham	17 fish	125 points
10. Alan Prevost	12 fish	100 points



The Klinkhammer type pattern - is this the "New Diawl Bach" for still waters in 2009 ?



HUCHEN, TAIMEN OR WHATEVER ?

John Mees did not manage a hoped for Huchen on the River San in 2008. I am of the opinion that he was maybe lucky!

The fish on the left is not actually from the San but from Bosnia. But if I ever go there I do not think I will take my waders as I would want my legs etc. kept as far away from something like that as possible.



COMPETITION FISHING

Peter Reeves gathers his thoughts.

In 2009, our Club Captain (Graham Williams) intends, with sufficient support from you, to again run two teams in the AMFC competitions. Invicta A will be our main thrust towards achieving 'premier league' status within the AMFC layered group structure whilst Invicta B team, aided by Alan Prevost will be for those learning the craft of competition fly fishing and for those whose philosophy renders them unsuitable for the committed competition approach.

Now you may ask, why did I make that comment, surely fishing is fishing? Well yes and no and club captains everywhere will (or should) know that to get the best results you need a dedicated approach from all team members. Getting results does not involve much luck, as I used to think, but a systematic approach towards doing well which means investigating all current options to determine the prevailing optimum.....widespread experience helps as well of course.

Well, don't we all do that when we go fishing? Well I do not know how many do - I do not. We are not all the same. The purpose of fishing would seem to be to catch fish. Initially I feel this is correct but some move on or move over and evolve a preferred approach/style/method. Adhering to this preference must limit our chances of contacting maximum fish when conditions change and indicate other and possibly, less attractive means of approach. These days I hardly ever tie a lure on even though I know a lure pulled through is often a great way of finding out if fish are in the area with follows etc. Similarly I very rarely fish with a sinking line even though I know that a lure pulled through on it is a great way of determining the depth at which the fish are feeding.

So why do I ignore these methods which I acknowledge to be useful? Well, basically because I no longer go fishing to catch fish, I go to enjoy myself. For nearly ten years, up until I rejoined Invicta just after retiring, I did not set foot in a boat. For most of that period my fishing was from the bank at Rutland Water and most often for a complete season I would fish with just two flies, a black buzzer and a pheasant tail nymph. I would fish these through the entire season with total confidence and cast with them even to back end fry feeders with the knowledge that usually they would do as well - and

sometimes better- than those fry patterns seemingly used by everyone else.

I was not trying to make any sort of point whatsoever. I had simply become enchanted with using small imitative patterns and they gave me more pleasure than other methods to the point that I was prepared to carry on with them when change was indicated. Sometimes of course my preferred methods of small nymphs and small wet or dry flies near or on the surface is the correct method and then in competition I get results but when they are not what the fish are looking for I am reluctant to change and not at all concerned at not getting so many takes... there are always going to be the odd ones.

Graham knows this personal quirk (a Captain must know these things) and I am viewed as definite Invicta B material, *at best!* Mind you if there should ever be a floating line only league, then my interest in competition fishing will be rekindled in a big way! Meantime Graham hopes that my aberrant attitude is unusual and that yours will be different...but he hopes to hear from you regardless. Competitions can be great fun and a great way to learn is with one or other of the Invicta teams and fishing with/against more people.

LAST CAST



Remember, domestic pets can be an excellent source of dubbing material