

fly fishing club, cambridge.

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INVICTA'S EXPERIENCE 'TEST'ING TIME IN SNOW BEFORE CHRISTMAS



The sun shone over the snow on the fields while Chris McLeod gets his feet wet.

Faced with a foul weather forecast and a blizzard the night before, a week before Christmas a party of intrepid Invicta's crawled out of bed at five in the morning into a dark and frozen world encased in snow... to go fishing!

Yes, many have said that fishermen are mad, this time the fisherman concerned would have readily agreed themselves. This time we were not trouting in reservoirs but aiming to contact some grayling in the River Test and to be honest I doubt that any one of us gave much for our chances under the prevailing tundra conditions. A cross country route had been recommended but reasoning that the motorways would be better trodden than side roads with greater freedom from snow, I elected to take the main route and to my surprise made good time, in fact Peter Oldham, who travelled with me, and I decided to stop off at Fleet service station for a reviving coffee, where by chance we met up with another member of the group, a very well wrapped up Peter Hartley.

Finally we reached our destination only 30 minutes after our intended arrival time and met up with a few other group members and climbed into jumpers, coats and waders in the fishing hut. After receiving directions and advice from the organising 'regulars', Ray Jenkins and Ray Storer

we set off for our beat, not imbued with the greatest of confidence I have to add.

Peter & I had no previous knowledge of the Wherwell stretch and as it proved, commenced fishing from an incorrect starting point although not impinging on anyones allocated beat. The water did not look exactly inviting for wading but as we cautiously inched into the water, found that it was not that bad. The same could not be said however for the bitterly cold and unhelpful downstream gusting wind which made life difficult for me in controlling my weight forward #4 weight line. We both were fishing upstream nymphs and pink shrimp patterns were recommended. During the morning I did not come across any fish desperate for my nymphs but did find some overhanging trees which were! Eventually after a fish free morning it was the appointed time for our lunch and we all made our way back for our sandwiches, flasks and bottles of red wine. Well, most of us did as one member clearly misunderstood the arrangements and dined solo out in the snow and sunshine.

This innocent 'gaffe' did not amuse Ray 'n Ray as apart from the sociable aspect and opportunity of exchanging experiences, the break was to 'rest' the beats prior to re-allocating them for the

afternoon session - points which were stressed to the unfortunate individual involved later. Once I got some feeling back into my numbed fingers and some food and wine into my stomach I became surprised to learn that some members had contacted both trout and grayling - even into double figures.. numbers that is not weight!

The afternoon saw us allocated a carrier very adjacent to the hut, which was more sheltered from the wind in fact it was much more comfortable wading in the water but I was getting some strange looks from the sheep nuzzling into the snow on the bank above me. The carrier itself had riffles, glides and pools and in breaking the ice to get in from a livestock drinking point leading to a smooth pool was encouraged to see a grayling dart away to safety. Continuing with my upstream nymphs, well those which had eluded the voracious trees, I enjoyed the variety in the water types but despite my best efforts no actual contact with fish. I did find that on my previous pursuit of grayling on the River San in south east Poland that this style of fishing was unproductive for me, much preferring the upstream dry fly which seemed then to be acting as a fish magnet. On the other hand Norman Shippey who was fishing with me then found exactly the opposite at the same place and same time. Strange that, must be a lesson to be learned I suppose. With this in mind I did consider a dry fly but quickly quashed the impulse as ludicrous under the conditions having seen only one crippled olive being haplessly carried downstream completely unviolated and no fish disturb the surface at all.

In what seemed an amazingly short time, the light started to fail and encroaching darkness urgently indicated that we all tackle down and head off to our accommodation, The White Hart in Whitchurch. There we checked in and rapidly repaired to the bar area where we established a compact semi-circle of chairs around an open fire and absorbed several pints of aperitif and the experiences of others. For those of us fishless after day one, the phrase so beloved of my teachers when writing my school reports in far off days, 'Could do better!' rang in our ears. Since we had made an early start, we opted for an early dinner and in the spirit of companionship that echoed the ethos of the occasion, shared one table, thus enabling the rapid and continuous exchange of flattering compliments to each other. Well, something like that. When our selected dishes arrived the portions were gargantuan and although doing my best wondered whether the kitchen would be aware that I had even made a start. I noted that not all had my difficulty and

that one member, who it would be inappropriate to name - so I will, Andy Linwood, enjoyed a prodigious appetite that in the past would have inspired epic poems and songs in praise. I watched in utter disbelief as Andy, having consumed his monumental meal, helped his neighbour out with 'spare' chips then having been jokingly offered a mountain of them on my plate, obliged with total aplomb. Credit where it is due, Andy must have a tummy like a Tardis and burn up prodigious amounts of energy.



The following day saw several problems. Most of us had left wet waders and wading boots in our cars overnight. The neoprene stocking feet and wet boots were frozen solid when we came to put them on. Until you try this you will have no idea just how difficult it is but holding them up to the huts heater until smoking point eventually does work! Then I could not find my reel anywhere despite emptying my car several times - it later transpired that I had left it in the hotel. Peter Oldham lent me a spare and away we went in calmer wind conditions. It was great and on the stroke of lunch I was into a grayling... I lost it of course but it was going back anyway. In the afternoon with calmer conditions I rose a couple of fish on the carrier with dry flies and was totally elated at this in the improbable conditions.

These two days, despite the conditions, were truly magical, a great experience and privilege which absolutely rejuvenated me. Setting off in the snow I felt I was mad - if I am fortunate enough to be offered it again I would be mad not to. I am intensely grateful to Ray & Ray for providing the opportunity and for their concern and help to achieve. Should you see the future opportunity my only advice would be "**Grab it!**"

Invicta calendar of forthcoming events 2010

| | | |
|-----------|--|-------------------|
| Feb. 4th | ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING + Tackle Auction. Harston Village Hall | 7.45 for 8 pm |
| Feb. 18th | JOHN SEATON of Anglian Water - 2010 prospects Harston Village Hall | 7.45 for 8 pm |
| Feb 27th | ANNUAL DINNER & TROPHY PRESENTATIONS. Lion Hotel, Buckden | tba |
| Mar. 4th | JONATHAN WILSON (Angling Trust.) What do they do? Harston Village Hall | 7.45 for 8 pm |
| Mar. 18th | INTER-CLUB QUIZ NIGHT...The <u>BIG</u> one! Harston Village Hall | 7.45 for 8 pm |
| Apr. 12th | PITSFORD Carr cup points apply. Choice of partners. | 8.30 for 9 am |
| Apr. 23rd | GRAFHAM WATER. AMFC Spring Match | tba |
| May 9th | RUTLAND WATER Carr cup points apply. Choice of partners. | 8.30 for 9 am |
| May 11th | TUESDAY EVENING LEAGUE STARTS Draw for partners. | 5.30 for 6 pm |
| Jun. 11th | EYEBROOK Carr cup points apply. Choice of partners. | 8.30 for 9 am |
| Jul. 10th | GRAFHAM (PRESIDENT'S CUP) Carr cup points apply. Draw for partners | 8.30 for 9 am |
| Aug. 1st | INTER-CLUB FLOATING LINE COMPETITION Grafham Water | 9.30 am to 5 pm ? |
| Aug. 14th | PITSFORD (CARL HUNTER BOWL) Carr cup points apply. Draw for partners | 8.30 for 9 am |
| 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 |
| Nov. 13th | ELINOR 'Fur & Feather' Bank fishing event. | 8.30 for 9 am |

Please note that some dates are provisional and subject to confirmation

THE INVICTA 150 CHALLENGE.... UPDATE AND REASONS WHY.

Perhaps some members are unsure as to why the 'Invicta 150 Challenge' was issued and why you have had so many repeated reminders.

Well, it depends on how an individual approaches their sport. If one looks to proceed and get the optimum out of it with minimal input, fine. No problem with that and quite understandable. However, at some stage the philosophy of fly fishing, which does give great scope for contemplation, tends to take on a less self centered or selfish tone and in return a concern for the welfare and continuation of the sport itself enters the awareness, with a wish to repay the pleasures it has afforded us. With luck this extended view comes early in one's career enabling this concern to be applied practically and more extensively.

There are of course many aspects of our sport which need addressing to maintain and improve the facilities which we value. Water quality, pollution and legal issues are addressed by Fish Legal (formerly part of the A.C.A.) which should be funded by clubs and riparian owners controlling waters. Our political combined muscle is now flexed on our behalf by the Angling Trust to whom all clubs and all individuals should seriously consider subscribing to out of self interest if not for any other - and higher - motivation.

The water facilities and access to quality fishing depends entirely upon us. If we support the fisheries then they can be maintained on a self-sustaining basis, otherwise we risk losing them. Similarly the tackle trade which supplies us with innovation and essential consumables can only exist if we continue to offer them our support. But fly fishing is a little like jazz... full of grey heads. Without the young coming in at one end to offset the inevitable loss at the other, our beloved sport is doomed to extinction. However it is not easy for the impecunious young with demands from schools, homework, other sports, electronic gaming etc. to become involved in fly fishing which can be costly, time consuming and demanding on parents etc. for transport and gear.

It is clearly in our own interests to see youngsters coming in to replenish our losses to anglers now fishing celestial streams or lakes - and we also owe a debt of gratitude to our source of pleasure and solace but we need youngsters to take over but it is not easy for them. Fortunately we are supported in this by the English Youth Flyfishing Association (EYFA) who in turn support the youngsters, offering education, training and encouragement whilst helping them with access etc.

Now you may well ask why do they or their parents not underwrite the costs. The truth is that the youngsters do strive and have a structured

process for individual fundraising initiatives. Clearly they have many other pressures at that age also and some are more committed than others but they are encouraged to be as self supporting as possible nevertheless. Parents? Well they do offer a lot of support but think back at the demands of young offspring at a time of life where disposable income too often falls short of desired levels. They of course do what they can but time and resources are limited when other commitments are not.

So, we are fortunate indeed to have EYFA prepared to undertake a smooth entry of often very talented young people into our sport as we really do need them. I believe it safe to say that the current structure of EYFA is as sound as it has ever been in the past and that recently experienced problems have been consigned to history. Indeed, our own Chris McLeod has recently been voted Chairman, Bobbie Worker has been Secretary for a year or so and another Invicta member, Kieran Caulfield, has joined the Committee. The team is in place and are implementing ideas for fund-raising but too much attention to this aspect leaves less for their primary objective. They are prepared for a job but need resources, a primary aspect of which being adequate funding. This is the reason for the enthusiastic push of the Invicta 150 Challenge which is as much about self-interest as altruism. Although only a relatively small club we have raised a total (to date) of £947 which will no doubt be very well applied by EYFA in their good work and congratulations and thanks go to all of the Invicta contributors. Bobbie Worker, secretary of EYFA, upon hearing of this interim total replied "I am gobsmacked, Thank you everyone." Well, it is a good result from a small club. If you were a

contributor, you will no doubt be greatly heartened to learn the result - these thanks were addressed to you.

It is hoped that other organisations that rely upon a continuous entry of new participants into fly fishing, not only clubs but Fisheries, Publishers and the Tackle trade will take note and sow the seed of support by donating to EYFA or offer such assistance as they are able. The Invicta 150 Challenge was a one-off event but EYFA are happy to accept all individual donations at any time but a more structured basis, giving annual support is indicated and Invicta have led the field in this by encouraging their members to add a voluntary donation to their subscriptions to be passed on to EYFA funding whilst pointing out the reason for so doing. If all other fly fishing clubs were to follow this example and become involved themselves then EYFA could get on with their main function without distraction and achieve more. Filtered down government grants are all very well and naturally welcome when on offer but are unreliable and in any event it is preferable that financial support be raised within the sport itself by those directly involved in it. If you have not donated yet, you can still send a cheque made out to 'EYFA' and post to Bobbie Worker, 112 Station Road, Oakley, Bedford. MK43 7RE. However, if you have not yet paid your subs, **THEY ARE OVERDUE**, and you can still round up your Invicta renewal of £17 to £20 or maybe £25 or so with the additional amount being passed on by our treasurer quite anonymously to Bobbie avoiding any embarrassment to your good self at being seen to be acting out of character, i.e. charitably.

UPDATE YOUR COACHING QUALIFICATIONS.

Many anglers have achieved an instructors or coaching qualification such as STANIC and C25 dating back five or more years and which are no longer adequate to become a licensed coach. A scheme launched by the Angling Development Board (ADB) gives these anglers the chance to upgrade to the modern coaching qualification compatible with other sports and the UK Coaching Certificate.

Jackie Sheldon, Senior Development Manager for the ADB explains; 'Through the UKC Source Group and our Coach Steering Group, the ADB has developed 'bridging packs' which will enable these instructors to meet requirements for becoming ADB licensed coaches and be accepted by Local Authorities, County Sports Partnerships and schools throughout England and eventually the UK.' We are expecting at least 80 applications for this opportunity and hope it will encourage many lapsed coaches into being more active and get involved in all the new angling initiatives starting around the country.'

Anyone with an angling qualification who is not an ADB licensed coach can apply using the 'Recognised Prior Learning' (RPL) forms on the Angling Trust - ADB website where the process is explained, it usually includes one day of additional training and an assessment. The cost of the upgrade has been reduced to £80 by funding secured by the ADB and many applicants will also be eligible for grants, sponsorship and bursaries to offset this cost and help is available on this from the ADB office or its Regional staff.

THE DEATH OF A LEGEND. Arthur Cove 1930 - 2009.



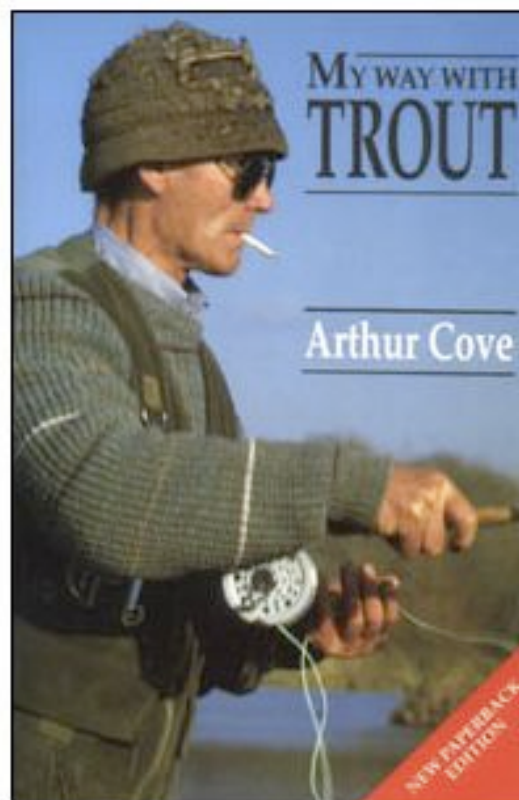
Most of the fishing comics reported the death of Arthur Cove who died on 18th December at Kettering General Hospital following a long illness. Arthur of course revolutionised bank fly fishing for all of us, based on his phenomenal success at Grafham Water in its early days in the wake of his development of the Cove Pheasant Tail nymph. Ironic for someone whose occupation was in the breeding and sale of maggots for coarse fishing. My personal feeling is that, good as the pattern and its derivatives are, Arthur's success was due to acute powers of observation and above all exceptional eyesight.

John Wilshaw's tribute to Arthur, which was published in the 'Total Flyfisher' magazine reads "In the early 70's while searching for writers for the then very new Trout Fisherman magazine, Bob Church advised me to look up a little chap called Arthur Cove, saying he could fish more than a bit and had some interesting ideas. What followed in the next few years was to educate and inspire the new breed of still water fly fishermen. We hung on his every word, using impossibly long leaders, buzzer pupa and depth-seeking Pheasant Tail Nymphs around which the newly emerging nymph fishing was based. Arthur and I had some great times together and a session on the bank was to catch a glimpse into the mind of a thinking angler the like of whom we will never see again. As editor of Trout Fisherman and later Trout and Salmon I can honestly say that I have never met another angler with such an understanding of what makes a trout tick, Arthur will be much missed."

An important part of Arthur Cove's claim to fame is told in the story of how he developed his

famous Pheasant Tail Nymph. His most successful tyings in the early days were slender and lightly dressed nymphs even though they were tied on long-shank size eight's and ten's. He then started to use hooks of a normal shank length but took the dressing right round the bend. "And much nicer they looked too," he was heard to comment on many occasions. Arthur Cove was probably one of the first, if not the first, to use elastic to represent a bloodworm with a pattern he called the Red Diddy. The pattern was little more than a single piece of red elastic band dressed on a hook with red thread. He would cast the Red Diddy out at his favourite Rutland Water, then casually light up a 'Woodbine' whilst waiting for the line to tighten. Arthur maintained the fly was so deadly it fished itself and he refused to use it after a while because it was so effective. Arthur Cove has set an excellent example for us all to follow, and, like all great people in their chosen discipline, had a distinct sense of humility, a quality that all of today's fly fishermen should strive to embrace and emulate.

"Remember that the ticket you buy is to enable you to fish, it doesn't give you a guarantee to catch fish," he said and that's sound advice to remember him by."



INVICTA WINTER EVENING MEETINGS. Reports from your winter scribe, Dave Jones.

AN EVENING WITH THE VICE SQUAD.

Stanislav Mankov, Peter Reeves, John Mees and Keiran Caulfield set themselves up around the Harston room and proceeded to tie various fly patterns. I liked the daylight lamps that some were using. I am not sure if the daylight bulbs which could be slipped into an Anglepoise have fallen foul of eco regulations. I wonder if the latest LED lamps, which are both cool and sturdy, give a realistic daylight spectrum?

Stan was soon in action and attracted a large audience. I was impressed by his kit especially the all singing all dancing C & F fly tying vice but I couldn't afford a 2nd mortgage. On a lesser



level I don't think I have seen so many different brands of hooks although he said he didn't use many of them nowadays. He was soon into tying a variety of CdC type flies using feathers from Veniards which looked to be of high quality. I liked the plastic applicator bottle with the hypodermic needle outlet, which he used to apply varnish to the head - so much so that I bought one at the earliest opportunity. He didn't bother with a whip-finishing tool but rather used his long fingers to the same effect. He put his flies on miniature probe clips which I used to buy from

Maplins until I discovered that Carrilon sold 10 for £3.95. His standards slipped in the end and he was tempted to tie a giant pike lure. It was last seen attempting to remove the ring pull from a can of beer!

Keiran's speciality was the dreaded Sili (Gummi) minnow which supposedly is deadly for bonefish and other tropical species. He had certainly mastered the tricky assembly technique which in most people's hands results in one bit inadvertently sticking to another and ending up a total mess. John Mees refuses to give any indication as to whether the Sili is permitted at Grafham but arch purist David Flemming-Jones, when presented with something similar, suggested adding a wisp of feather fibre!

John knocked off a few blobs in which he had great faith for competition fishing. However, this year's speciality was a Gobfull which was described as deadly at Chew. This required a heavy competition special hook and a wad of Flashabou type material. This is packed on in separate hanks all of the way along the shank and then trimmed to form a wedge shaped back end. JM couldn't recall the name of the material but it sold at the AWA shop; alternatively a giant ball could be purchased from an Indian haberdashery shop for £5 should you know where to find one. Cast it out and strip it back apparently. Should I be surprised? I liked the way that John finished the head off with a couple of half hitches, facilitated by the use of the empty body of a biro. You can buy the proper tool and I understand that in smaller diameters it is very useful for finishing very small flies. A simple tutorial can be found on [HYPERLINK "http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mjZo7WFkS-Q"](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mjZo7WFkS-Q) <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mjZo7WFkS-Q>.

Peter was asked to demonstrate again the procedures for the Muddler head which in this instance was applied to a short shank wide gape hook with a flowing marabou tail, the head giving great movement to the marabou in its turbulence on retrieve. He then entered the esoteric area of



Sili minnow

demonstrating how to use those large hackles at the end of the cock capes which apparently have no purpose other than for whisks on trout flies or for large lures/salmon flies.

He used them by tying a detached body floating mayfly pattern using only two hackles and the tying thread. Pulling back the barbs on the hackles, reversing their direction to make the body with the unreversed end cut off leaving two v-shaped barbs for the tails and an upright wing from a hackle using the same technique resulting in a fairly large fly of minimal weight.



FISHING PATAGONIA WITH LONGDRIFT AN ADDRESS BY TOM KRAILING AT OUR CHRISTMAS SOCIAL EVENT

The last time a Krailing spoke to the club, dad was showing us his skills at rod making. Son, Tom, has lived in Argentina for a number of years and has set up a company, Longdrift. to introduce English anglers to the potential Argentina has for game fishing.

He was just a bit out on claiming that Argentina was bigger than Europe but he probably forgot that we now have 27 member states. However, when you consider that the density of the population at 13.km² compared with 250.km² in the UK, there are some wide-open spaces and the rivers and lakes are in general in pristine condition. The description "wilderness" springs to mind. Most of the rivers originate in the Andes which form the western border with Chile so expect something a bit bigger than the Ouse. Trips to Argentina generally start in Buenos Aires which is about midway down the Atlantic coast. Temperatures range between the 59 and 86°F range rising towards the north and the rain forest, and falling to 39-57°F down south in Tierra del Fuego. Argentina is of course in the southern hemisphere so the seasons are reversed to those in the UK and according to the latitude, the length of the days will also vary. Fishing trips should be planned between November and April.

It was interesting to learn that trout are not indigenous to Argentina. The lakes and rivers were claimed to be devoid of fish. However, an enterprising soul in 1903 shipped eggs to Argentina utilising the empty refrigerated ships

returning from Europe to collect Argentinean beef. The fish thrived and thanks to a comprehensive stocking policy there is an abundance of game fish in both the rivers and lakes. Apparently many world records for these fish have been captured in Argentina. Of course you could go for the native fish such as the piranha and the Golden Dorado. The latter, despite its good looks, has been described as having the ferocity of a tiger shark and teeth to go with the reputation. The fish will take lures. Long leaping runs can be expected. Fish typically weigh in at 5 lbs plus depending on the location but up north, Dorado of 50 or more pounds have been reported. I think this might present problems on reservoir gear.

At the other end of the country the most sought after quarry in terms of size, is the sea trout, although there are plenty of other species in the pristine lakes and rivers. The snow-covered mountains make a truly spectacular backdrop. Fishing here is often best done from a raft which in the right hands can take anglers to hot spots. Banks are sometimes steep and rocky so that on occasion, no other option exists.

Further information on fishing can be found on the excellent HYPERLINK "http://www.longdrift.com" www.longdrift.com website which illustrates the wide variety of species available, suggested travel itineraries, and the accommodation available. Flights from Heathrow take 12 hours but the time zone is only 3 hours behind the UK.

Krailing senior accompanied by Mike Smith were about to pay a visit. I look forward to a report of their experiences.

LOS ROQUES

Chris McLeod and fellow reprobates have been fishing in the tropical waters about 100 miles off shore from Caracas, Venezuela. It consists of a series of coral reefs making up an archipelago of some 300 islands. Anyone worried that global warming might overtake these islands, the rate of growth of coral exceeds that of sea level rise. However, it is



Chris McLeod 'entertaining' a Tarpon.

getting to be a very popular destination and trips should not be delayed.

Los Roques is close to the equator so expect reasonably constant temperatures around the 30°C mark although the area is experiencing a chilly spell. Still +6 is better than -6! Also the duration of night and day remains constant throughout the year. There is little tide or current and the area is generally outside the hurricane belt. The islands are within a National Park, which requires a permit to enter.

There are a number of options open to the angler:

Shore fishing from the beach or piers is a good start. It is only necessary to wade out to about calf depth. Boots were recommended due to the presence of spiny creatures hidden in the sand. The sea is alive with fry. Watch out for pelicans attacking the shoals: the prey fish wait to collect any wounded fish. Regrettably, pelicans are sometimes caught by the angler but they can be released without harm although it is a two-man job.

A boat taxi system operates which will take the angler to any of the surrounding islands and hopefully picks them up later.

Guided trips were also available which are recommended when searching out tarpon. Guides know 3 words of English: Cast, Wait and Strip. According to Chris, whilst the guides were undoubtedly expert at spotting fish, verbal instructions eventually create the feeling that you are fishing for the guide rather than ones own pleasure.

The initial target was bonefish. The standard flies such as clousers and crab imitations work well along with gummi minnows. Chris and his mates found that the smaller imitations tied on size 10's were more effective than the usual 0/ sizes. Ground baiting was recommended!!!! This is done with the aid of a throw net. Get one before you leave because it is most unlikely that they will be available on the island. A bit of practice will be needed to perfect the throwing technique. Good old you-tube comes to the rescue here - [HYPERLINK "http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IOUkj2h2LjI"](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IOUkj2h2LjI) <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IOUkj2h2LjI>

Grab a handful of the catch, give them a squeeze to render them senseless and hoik 'em out into the fishing area! Is this allowed in the harbour at Grafham I wonder? Chris relayed the familiar tale of the speed with which bonefish take off stripping 100 yards of backing in no time at all. A reel with a good drag is essential if it is not to be charred beyond recognition.

There are hundreds of other species in the sea. I knew that parrot fish bit off and crushed coral as part of their feeding cycle but someone thought that they could also bite through steel hooks. Not surprisingly, wear and tear on flies is high. And indeed rods. Chris's 7-piece frequent flyer rod was converted to a 12 piece when he hooked into a 100 lb tarpon! Chris managed to play it using the top three sections with John Mees operating the reel. I learnt that tarpon have rudimentary lung and frequently rise to the surface to take in air but they are not related to whales and the like.

We all learnt the importance of the Bimini Hitch. This is the only knot which has a breaking strength equal or greater than the line. Kieran did an excellent demonstration. Again you tube provides several examples of how to do it. This is an alternative: [HYPERLINK "http://www.videojug.com/film/how-to-tie-a-bimini-twist"](http://www.videojug.com/film/how-to-tie-a-bimini-twist) <http://www.videojug.com/film/how-to-tie-a-bimini-twist>. None of the methods

I could find on film reproduced the twist within the loop which unwound under tension and provided a shock absorbing effect, as produced by Kieran. We think this is because the demos used cord rather than nylon.

This was a self-organised trip which is not too difficult with the help of prior experience and the internet. Cost was about £2500. Once out on the islands do not expect to be able to replace tackle. This does present a slight problem due to the ever-increasing limits placed on the weight and size of permitted passenger luggage. The limit is 10kgs with a surcharge of £10 per extra kg. Expect to pay

about £100 extra. Chris took the minimum of clothing but it didn't quite match the skimpy outfits some of the other tourists were wearing!

The locals are friendly and the islands safe. The usual hazards are the sun, spiky things (wear stout wading boots), dodgy domestic appliances, and rum at bugger all per bottle! It sounded as though some anti runs tablets might be useful.

In the meantime, with subzero temperatures for the start of the year in the UK, Los Roques looks an attractive proposition. Carry your bags anyone? - Dave Jones.



Left - a selection of flies/ lures used in Los Roques for Bonefish etc.

THE INVICTA TUESDAY EVENING LEAGUE RESULTS 2009

The Invicta Tuesday Evening League follows a very popular format when Invicta members and others of like mind draw for boat partners then set off in an effort to depopulate Grafham Water of some of its prime inhabitants. This takes place, by a totally remarkable coincidence, on Tuesday evenings through the summer months (May to August) fishing from 6.00 pm or thereabouts until the declared finishing time, generally with reference to dusk or Pub closing times. The enthusiastic support which this event generates is a testament to its structure enabling anglers to share boats and observe varied and contrasting fishing styles. It is also a great way for a beginner to learn the ropes as care is taken to ensure that novices are paired with experienced anglers.

During 2009 no fewer than 56 separate anglers took part (288 rod/evenings) recording the capture of 480 fish overall. The top ten performers being:



- | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Mick Facey 44 fish | 6. Adam Worker 28 fish |
| 2. Kieran Bonas 36 fish | 7. Mark Searle 22 fish |
| 3. Ryan Worker 32 fish | 8. Kieran Caulfield 18 fish |
| 4. Chris McLeod 30 fish | 9. Peter Waterhouse 16 fish |
| 5. Dave Burgess 29 fish | 10. Andy Linwood 15 fish |

If anyone would like a fully detailed set of results please contact the editor who will e-mail the complete table on request.



LOOK SMART WITH AN OBJECT OF DESIRE

Your treasurer would advise you that he holds a new stock of the distinctive Orange "Team Invicta" caps. Sourced by Chris McLeod (who else?) these caps were previously only awarded to those members fishing competitions for the club but now you can actually buy one for a mere £8.00 from treasurer, Alan Prevost, 15 Willingham Road. Over. CB24 5PD. Tel: 01954 230678 or e-mail alan@prevost.net as I am sure you deserve a treat.

Anglian Water Fishery News

Ravensthorpe Reservoir will be the first of our fisheries to open on Saturday 27 February. Followed by

Pitsford Water Friday 12 March

Grafham Water Friday 19 March New Lodge Trophy

Rutland Water Thursday 1 April Independence Day Trophy

Tackle shop opening times Rutland and Grafham

Open Wednesday – Sunday 10am to 3pm until 28 February, then open 7 days a week



Pitsford

Open Friday, Saturday and Sunday, 10am to 3pm from 12 February until 28 February, then open 7 days a week.

Season permits

A wide range of season permits, offering excellent value, will be on sale at our fishing lodges from 20 February.

Open House at Pitsford Water Saturday 20 February, 10am to 3pm.

It's a great chance to catch up with fellow anglers and members of Anglian Water's fisheries team will be on hand to answer your questions. Brush off the winter cobwebs and try your hand at casting or view the latest fly tying techniques. Season permits will be on sale.

2010 AGM REPORT. IF ANY MEMBER WISHES THE FULL MINUTES PLEASE E-MAIL THE SECRETARY.

Despite a mass determined effort by a large proportion of members to go to extreme lengths to avoid the AGM, several thousand miles in most cases, the Annual General Meetings was well enough attended with no fewer than 21 members turning out on a delightful wet, February thursday evening. The extended list of apologies though looked like an exhaustive list from the Who's who list of local celebrity/ miscreant fly fishers though.

The meeting, naturally, did not start on schedule, largely due to the sociable nature of those who did attend and the multi-tasking of

the secretary on the evening selling and folding raffle tickets for a change. Despite this though the meeting finished 4 minutes earlier than last year. The only change to the structure being the election of Gary How to fill the vacant seat on the Committee. Welcome Gary!

The evening then descended into a form of chaos designated as the Tackle Auction, the hapless auctioneer being the secretary who was having a really busy evening. Once again the sceptics were confounded and most of the 20 +lots were auctioned off raising £20.30 in commission for club funds - a good result.

LAST CAST



Not from Hollywood!
The photo on the left is a genuine photo taken off the South African coast during a Royal Naval military exercise. Time for clean underwear I think.

The picture was nominated by National Geographic magazine as the photo of the year. Thankfully it is much safer at Grafham... or so John tells me!