

fly fishing club, cambridge.

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Affiliated to the **Angling Trust**, and the Federation of Midlands Fly Fishers (Anglia)
Website: www.invictaffc.blogspot.com/



2011 SEASON IS ABOUT TO START! SO WHERE DO WE FISH?



Well, for a chance at super-sized rainbows such as those illustrated above the obvious answer has to be the Anglian Water Reservoirs (Grafham Water, Rutland Water, Pitsford and Ravensthorpe.)

Opening dates for these waters are staggered -

RAVENSTHORPE	Saturday 26th February
PITSFORD	Friday 11th March
GRAFHAM WATER	Friday 18th March
RUTLAND WATER	Friday 1st April

A wide range of Season tickets, "all offering excellent value" have been on sale at lodges such as Grafham since the 18th January. Also at Grafham improvements have been made

over the winter period and new boats will be introduced during the season including more wheelyboats for the disabled. Day tickets and boat options are available but the AW press release and their website chose not to disclose any prices at the time of writing this...odd!

Remember Grafham got off to a flying start last season and, with the feeding impetus of the so called 'killer shrimp' plus the usual abundant diet of daphnia and chironomids, we can expect possibly even better things this season from over-wintered and early stocked fish piling on the pounds to amaze early bird anglers.

For those seeking something more intimate.....

Ken McLean (bailiff at the water) advises me that for the first time in its history, the fly only Whittle Lake Trout Fishery, situated a few miles south of Cambridge city centre, does not have a waiting list so that there could be immediate entry for a very fortunate few.
The lake is 14 acres in area and pre-season coarse fishing started on 13th February when some large pike were expected to be caught and removed prior to the first trout stocking of the season.

Fishing is from bank or boats (included) 6 days per week (not Wednesdays) during most hours of daylight. Six fish per week limit with no catch and release and the water is closed Wednesday until Sundays on the 5 weeks re-stocking takes place. Trout fishing is 6th March to 5th November. Annual subscription is currently £445. For more information contact Ken McLean on 01763 261243 or as member for several years, chat to me about it on 01223 511992.

THE INVICTA INTER CLUB FLOATNG LINE MATCH 6th AUGUST 2011 - UPDATE

The Invicta InterClub Floating Line Competition at Grafham Water has proved successful in 2010, and we are now in the final planning stages for the 2011 event. Invicta Fly Fishing Club (FFC) with the support of our event sponsors will further enrich our new proven format creating a more interesting experience for the competitors. The competition will be based upon four-man teams and participation will be extended by invitation to local Clubs, and some farther afield too. There will be a maximum of 25 club teams competing.

This year we are incorporating a luncheon break ashore and an evening meal integrating the awards presentation.

At this time the Competition Committee has had a strong response to our initial communiqué

formally inviting some Clubs to pre-register their interest in participating in this exciting event. Invicta FFC members have enjoyed a close relationship with many Clubs through a variety of competitions over many years and we have extended invitations to many of those Clubs to enter a team in the event. Based upon early indications we are expecting a great deal of interest in this event, and hence we will be operating on a first-come-first-served basis.

We look forward to welcoming many Club teams on the day, and look forward to providing you with additional information concerning the details of the event in the next Invicta Newsletter.

- *The Invicta FFC Competition Committee*

invicta calendar of forthcoming events 2011

Feb 24th	INVICTA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING. Harston Village Hall	7.45 for 8 pm
Feb 26th	INVICTA ANNUAL DINNER. The Lion Hotel, Buckden.	7.30 for 8 pm
Mar 10th	PAST & FUTURE - John Mees of Anglian Water. Harston Village Hall	7.45 for 8 pm
Mar 24th	INTER-CLUB QUIZ NIGHT. Mayhem again. Harston Village Hall	7.45 for 8 pm
Mar 26th	'PILGRIMAGE' PRACTICE DAY . Grafham Water	TBA
Apr. 24th	ENGLISH DISABLED FF MATCH . Grafham Water	TBA
May 27th	'PILGRIMAGE' INTERNATIONAL FINAL. Grafham Water	TBA
Aug 6th	INTER-CLUB FLOATING LINE COMPETITION. Grafham Water	TBA

Due to circumstances beyond our control speakers on occasion cancel at short notice. Members traveling some distance to attend should check their e-mails prior to setting off to establish latest information.

IT WAS HOPED TO GIVE A FULL SUMMER CALENDAR OF CLUB EVENTS IN THIS ISSUE BUT OUR BOOKINGS OFFICER HAS BEEN WAITING COMPETITION DATES AND DISTRACTED BY OTHER PRESSING MATTERS AND THESE WILL NOW FOLLOW AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.....HONESTLY!



WINTER MEETING REPORTS - BY DAVE JONES

Oh dear, these seem to have been building up. Anyway, no pressure for space in this issue so a chance to do some catching up for those unable to attend or to refresh the memories of those who could. Many thanks are due to Dave Jones for his tireless and meticulous notes and research.... probably he is an an insomniac.

ROB WADDINGTON



Rob hails from the Ellesmere Port region of the NW and spent his early years fishing the Dee at Chester mainly live baiting for Pike. Fred Wagstaffe was one of his heroes. His love of drumming got the better of him and he was lured to the smoke in the early 1980's as the percussionist for The New Model Army described in Wikkipedia as "*crusty punk*"! His role there ceased after a couple of years and he moved to Yorkshire and acquired a taste for seeking trout using traditional spider techniques on the Aire and Warfe. He also had the itch to catch a salmon. He reckoned that his basic error was to fish lots of waters rather than concentrate on one or two. Thus it took sometime to fulfil his dreams eventually on the Erriff in the west of Ireland. Lesson learned, he then focussed on the Nith and got to know when and where to go according to the weather conditions. Reminded me of Les Beecroft who awaited a telephone call before making what was a colossal journey by car particularly if the fishing proved fruitless. Rob's general experience was that salmon fishing in the UK was a chuck-it-and-chance-it exercise. Hence he was at our meeting not in an instructional capacity but to entice us out to more productive foreign parts through a series of slide/video shows.

First off was the Kola Peninsular. I learnt something straight away is that the venue is roughly on top of Scandinavia whereas I thought it was somewhere near Siberia. There is a similarity in that both venues can be very cold and one of the images showed 20-foot ice walls, which regularly collapsed into river. I don't think a life jacket would have been much use in those circumstances. The area, after all, is inside the Arctic Circle, the land of the midnight sun and all that. I liked the photo of the Russian helicopter, which looked as though it had been washed down the river with flood debris. Deck chairs sufficed for seating! Rob assumed the pilots had confidence in this beast otherwise they would not take it into the air. Talking of beasts, it may be a good venue to stock up with natural fur as the wildlife includes bears, reindeer, wolves, wolverine and various small mammals. Rob fished the Litza, Kharlovka and Ryanda rivers, running into the Barents Sea, and was based at The Atlantic Salmon Reserve (<http://www.kharlovka.com/>). I cannot adequately describe this venue so I suggest that you look at the following Youtube sites for a quick introduction to this wilderness area (<http://www.youtube.com/user/WhereWiseMenFish#p/a/u/0/yEEBaHD1d4E>) (HYPERLINK "<http://www.youtube.com/user/WhereWiseMenFish#p/a/u/1/td7rfKbFGZo>" <http://www.youtube.com/user/WhereWiseMenFish#p/a/u/1/td7rfKbFGZo>) This is a seriously rugged environment and may not be for the faint hearted!

Rob runs the award winning Rutland FlyFishing Adventures courses (<http://www.rutlandwaterflyfishing.co.uk/>) from his home more or less on the bank at Barnsdale. Breakfasts are, by all accounts, legendary. His beginner's course has attracted a number of personalities (I don't think Cheryl's been there yet!) who in a single day managed to learn to cast and catch their first trout. I began to get addicted to the presentations particularly the manner in which the slides fused into one another along with clips from movies. Apparently it could be done with PowerPoint but Rob used a product from My Movies (<http://www.mymovies.dk>). The music for this particular presentation was supplied by Lady Gaga who I had not consciously listened to previously. I must stop being an old fart!

Thanks to Colin, we know about British Columbia fishing the Frazer River for salmon

and sturgeon and lo, who should feature in the show but Mr Brett himself. I didn't realise that the sturgeon came up the river to gorge on the millions of dead salmon carcasses. No wonder the record rod caught specimen was about 1500 pounds! The captured fish usually are up to 250 pounds, which took three anglers to lift. All sturgeon must be returned alive. I can now recognize fellow angler "shock rocker" Alice Cooper. Coincidentally he appeared on the Andrew Marr Show the following Sunday and gave a good account of himself. I had prejudged him by the strange name!

On the Atlantic side of Canada in New Brunswick, there lays the Miramichi River described as one of the most prolific salmon waters in North America. Lee Wulff made this area famous (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q6-6A3vCpo>) but the greenies amongst you might recognise it as being alongside the Bay of Fundy with the largest tidal range on Earth. The fishing here was reported as being pretty laid back. Salmon fishing was normally conducted in June/July using a single-handed rod with leaders of only 6lb bs. I was interested in a fly originally devised for this area, namely the Bomber. This had a clipped deer hair body, in this case dyed green, over wound with a natural brown hackle, and featuring horns and a tail of white calf tail (<http://www.faqs.org/fly-tying/Salmon-Steelhead/Bomber.html>.) This, fished as a wake fly, could result in exciting fishing. Looked just the ticket for our reservoirs.

An organised trip to the Frazer River might cost around £2500 for a week. It is of course quite possible to organise a trip by yourself, which may result in considerable savings. No such luck going to the Kola Peninsular although the information in the following site is applicable to all visitors: (http://www.google.co.uk/search?q=kola+salmon+fishing+map&hl=en&rlz=1T4SUNA_enGB227GB228&prmd=v&ei=jwXbTO2yHcXMhAemxMD-Dw&start=40&sa=N). The commercial flight from the UK drops you at Helsinki from whence a charter flight is needed to get to Murmansk followed by a helicopter trip to the fishing lodge. Consequently £4800 for week in which you could have some confidence in catching a couple of dozen salmon in the 20lb range with the chance of a 40 pounder, doesn't seem excessive. Incidentally, I noticed that the angler *applies* to visit Rynata rather than assuming that they will be automatically accepted!

Having knocked this report out, I have just discovered that these presentations can be found

on his website HYPERLINK "<http://www.rutlandwaterflyfishing.co.uk/>" <http://www.rutlandwaterflyfishing.co.uk/> Dooh!



JOHN KRALING – DESTINATION FISHING

John has spent most of his life fishing rivers. He started on the Cam at Audley end and moved on to the Hinxton stretch. He noticed that the fishing declined rapidly, mainly I think due to source abstraction of water which had a significant effect on the flow of the river. Weed and bank side growth was also a significant factor in the summer months. He set his sights further afield and has spent some time tackling sea trout in Wales, and seeking out salmon and grayling in the lochs of Scotland. He must also have been an early pioneer for fly-fishing in the sea, mainly after bass. More recently he has fished at Grafham a lot.

He reckons to have a poor memory and has adopted a system whereby tackle for a certain venue and species was kept in separate bags. He made up his own lines with interchangeable tips: hence a single reel could cater for many fishing situations. Commercial equivalents were, in his opinion, far too expensive. He has always tied his own flies. He probably had a dozen boxes filled with flies for all occasions, from tiny dries, traditional wets to fishy looking bass lures.

He liked fishing for sea trout on the Teifi HYPERLINK "<http://www.fishing-in-wales>" <http://www.fishing-in-wales>. This river flows for 75 miles through mid Wales and enters the sea close to Cardigan. He joined the Landysul Angling Association. You might as well because the cost per annum is less than a months worth of day tickets. The website is particularly

informative ([HYPERLINK "http://www.fishing-in-wales.com/cd1.htm"](http://www.fishing-in-wales.com/cd1.htm) <http://www.fishing-in-wales.com/cd1.htm>) and the natives were also very helpful in identifying good pools to fish, essential when night fishing is anticipated. He also joined the Corwen and District Angling Society (<http://www.cadac.org.uk/fishing.htm>) in order to fish the Dee some 15miles downstream of Bala. He confessed to trotting for grayling. Do we approve of that?

Salmon fishing has taken him to the Carron in Scotland. He said it was north of Aberdeen so I expect it is the one on Sutherland although check this out as there are at least two other rivers of that name north of the border. This is a spate river so some prior knowledge is useful before embarking on the journey. Alternatively Scotland has plenty of other fisheries. Having got so far north, why not take a look at the Cape Wrath area and the famous limestone lochs? John has fished Loch Maree on the western side of Scotland but, by all accounts, the sea trout fishing has been badly affected by fish farming.

Readers may recall a talk given by John Krailing's son Tom, who lives in Argentina and runs a fishing enterprise ([HYPERLINK "http://www.longdrift.com"](http://www.longdrift.com) www.longdrift.com). Not surprisingly then John pays frequent visits. All trips to Argentina enter the country via Buenos Aires which is a 12-hour flight from the UK. A must fish venue is Tierra del Fuego which can justifiably claim to have, in the Rio Grande, the best sea trout fishing in the world. Fish respond in the hours of daylight. The Rio Grande and its tributary, the Menendez, drain into the Atlantic and attracts sea trout mainly in the February - March window although the season is December to April (note this is summer in the southern hemisphere). The fishing is owned by seven lodges distributed along the river. Access to hot spots is gained by a 4WD vehicle. Stuck at the bottom of South America, it is pretty windy with a strong westerly prevailing. According to the slides, the river looked quite wide and the surrounding scenery was almost lunar-like with a complete absence of trees. Nevertheless, the sea trout are often in the 12-13 pound range with 20 pounders a possibility and a record fish of 36 pounds has been caught. The fish are really deep in profile. Fishing on the Rio Grange is typically carried out in the traditional Scottish style with double handed rods, the fly travelling down and across the river. The Menendez attracts a lot of North American anglers and the fishing style is modified accordingly.

Should you get fed up with these fish then a drive or coach trip up to Esquel may be the answer located in the Parque Nacional Los Alerces. Try this site for maps which will provide a clue as to the size of the waterways in the area ([HYPERLINK "http://www.exchile.com/downloadcentral.html#maps"](http://www.exchile.com/downloadcentral.html#maps) <http://www.exchile.com/downloadcentral.html#maps>). Esquel is the centre of the Welsh community in Argentina – got any room for a few more? (only kidding). There are masses of lakes, streams and rivers in this area noted for their clarity and fine fishing. The proximity of the Andes enhances already wild and spectacular scenery. The headwaters of the Futaleufu (known as the Rio Grande but not the one in TDF) are close by. This runs into Chile where it feeds Lago Yelcho and eventually the Rio Yelcho (a dry fly water) before reaching the Pacific Ocean. This river system is probably one of the most recognised venues on Earth for extreme white water rafting but there was no indication from John that this presented a problem for anglers. Fishing in this region is best carried out through a series of fishing lodges which control the fishing and provide guides and transport and where necessary, suitable craft. John reckoned that costs were of the order of \$300-500 a day.

No trip to South America should ignore the chances of catching a Dorado, described as the hardest fighting game fish in the world. This fish has a golden hue and a mouth full of teeth. It resides in the Corrientes province in the far north of Argentina bordering on Paraguay* where a vast marsh system exists. Fish can be caught on a fly and might typically weigh in at 5 pounds. However, a 20 pounder is a possibility and the record in over 50 pounds. Fish of 70 pounds have been caught in nets.

(* *The Dorado is considered an endangered species in Paraguay and a law has recently been passed prohibiting fishing for them for the next 5 years*) I shall keep buying the lottery tickets!

MARK HAYCOCK JANUARY 2011

If I admit to never having heard of Mark it just shows how little I know about match fishing and for that matter, that I failed to absorb the contents of the 2008 newsletter No.143 p.4. Interesting article, Mark had just won the Invicta floating line competition! Read on...



Mark started off competitive coarse fishing on the Welland, Nene and the 10 Mile Bank. However, success depended so much on the luck of the draw that he became disillusioned and decided to try his hand at fly fishing. Living in the Abbots Barton area he joined the Mid Northants club and started fishing Pitsford from the bank with a dedicated lure stripper called Ray Line (?). Nowadays he rarely fishes the bank and has become a dedicated match angler. He has persisted with stripping though because, most of the time, it is a successful method.

His breakthrough on the match scene came when he was invited to join Rutland Kingfishers captained at the time by Martin Introna. They went on to win an Anglian final and a Fishtec competition. He went on to join Ian Barr for a season. He won the two day TFE0 based on the Bristol reservoirs on the basis of ignoring the nymphing only reputation of Blagdon and instead stripped damsel imitations. ACA Masterline beckoned which was eventually to become the Guide Rio Masters team. This team featured long term boat partner, Graham Pearson as captain and also Rob Edmunds who is probably one of the fastest retrievers ever – according to Mark.

Mark was frustrated by the fact that in 10 years of trying he failed to get into the England National squad – he only managed to catch a total of 17 fish overall. His ambition was fulfilled 3 years ago at Bewl Water. It proved to be a bright sunny day and the reservoir was devoid of any ripple. An initial attempt to catch fish in the deep water off of the dam using a

near vertical retrieve through 40 feet of water proved fruitless. This didn't bother Mark too much as his personal fishing experiences showed that he rarely caught fish until early afternoon. So they took off to the Chingley Wood area, abandoned pulling and set up 3 nymphs under a bung (or as our secretary said – a float!!). He instantly caught a fish but that was it and off they went to the Rosemary Lane dam where fish were showing. They were eating tiny black beetles. Cormorants proved unsuccessful so it was back to pulling and a black booby proved to be the fly of choice. In fact the 1st fish was a 3.12 rainbow followed by another 8 fish in 12 casts. The sport was all over in 45 minutes but it was sufficient to put Mark into 3rd place overall and he was in the team!

His first International was at Chew Valley Lake in May 2009. This event requires 3 practice days, which proved to be completely unproductive so that on the day it was every man for themselves. The match day was dangerously windy but Mark fished in the waves at the bottom of the wind. Persistence with Tequila boobies fished fast on a Di 3 had 8 fish in the boat by mid afternoon. Boobies had to be removed after the 8th fish. This was simply done by cutting off the ethafoam eyes. At the end of the day the England team had 47 fish for 99 lbs only to be pipped by the Welsh team who managed 44 fish for 100.5 lbs. Mark was miffed but was happy that he was in the team for the following year (a rotation system now discontinued).

The Lake of Monteith, a 700 acre loch stocked with rainbows, was new to Mark. The Scottish team won convincingly with 108 fish to Englands 74. The secret weapon was a big red sedge imitation fished static.

Mark failed to qualify for last season but he is back this year and looking forward to fishing the match at Grafham on the 3rd September. His view is that the fish are mainly out in the middle at Grafham. I wonder if this will hold true once the “killer” shrimp become established?

The Rio team has not been so successful in recent seasons. One reason for this is that the general standard of other teams has improved. He reckoned that they had a better squad for the coming season. The team meets in February and decides what events to enter based on the strengths of the individuals – for example, some like Grafham others prefer Rutland. The team members fish most

weekends and keep in touch via the grapevine in order to locate hot spots. They usually put out 3 boats + 1 reserve on practice days for important competitions. Thus at Rutland, individuals may be sent to the main basin and the North and South arms allowing the reserve boat to roam. They meet up after say 4 hours and decide on a strategy and repeat the exercise. They are not above spying on other teams. It is well known that some parts of the reservoirs "switch on" at certain times of the day. The middle of Grafham was claimed to light up after 5pm providing the area has not been disturbed by sailing boats. Another factor is the weather which can change in the course of the day never mind overnight.

Mark uses a 10ft Vision Nite Catapult rod rated at 7/8 which retails at around £200 although packages including a reel and line are available ([HYPERLINK "http://www.eyebrooktackleshop.co.uk/shop/Vision_Fly_Rods.html"](http://www.eyebrooktackleshop.co.uk/shop/Vision_Fly_Rods.html) http://www.eyebrooktackleshop.co.uk/shop/Vision_Fly_Rods.html). Again, although I am a fan of Vision products, this rod was new to me (although it did win a TF best in test award). The range extends into pike and saltwater models. I wonder if anyone in the club owns one?

Although Mark is sponsored by Rio, as far as he is concerned Airflo are the only sinking lines worth using. His favourite is a DI 5 40+ Expert in a 9 weight. Apparently the 7/8 rod has no problems in dealing with this line. He does use a Rio sink tip on occasion but most floating line work is done with a No. 7 Cortland 444. He takes 36 lines on the water, 3 of each type, to deal with hazards such as the prop. I don't think I have bought 36 lines in my life! He uses braided nylon loops on the end of the line and, although he has not had one fail on him, he found that the line tended to crack after a relatively short time. John Mees reckoned that he had solved that problem using a special method employing Zap-a-Gap. Perhaps we can write this up in a future newsletter? Leaders are exclusively 8lb.bs Rio fluorocarbon which retails at about £25 a spool. When he had to pay himself, he found Airflo 3G as good as anything but when I checked it wasn't that much cheaper (according to the latest Fishtec catalogue). 8 lbs. bs was used although he knew of good anglers who use any thickness providing it went through the eye of the hook! 2 or 3 turn water knots were found to be satisfactory for joining lengths of leader.

Mark ties the lures for the team. He likes the Drennan Wet size 8 hooks but he appears to have cornered the last remaining supplies as this pattern has been discontinued.

Alternatives are the Kamazan B175 or the Anglian Water Short Shank Special (which requires the eye to be slightly bent down in order to fit the 5/8" hook gauge). John Mees reckoned that the Partridge Big Mouth nymph hook was another alternative. I discovered that the International rules permits 4 hook points on a leader so that could be made up of combinations of 4 single point flies, 2 doubles, or 1 double + 2 singles.

Wear a pair of dark glasses before opening one of his fly boxes as they were mostly filled with shimmering fluorescent creations.

Undoubtedly, Marks favourite fly is the Tequila which is a 2-tone booby generally tied with pink or yellow eyes, a red mid body, a green rear body and pearl fibres for the tail (see TF No.403, p8). The fritz was sourced from Celtic Flycraft but I wondered if he had considered using the new Gel Core fritz from Stuart Illesly? Previous to this fly he loved the double sparkler with black ethafoam eyes. Note that unlike conventional recommended construction techniques, he always tied the eyes on first and spent some time trimming them so that they were symmetrical and didn't cause the lure to spin during the retrieve. Nymphs were tied by a team colleague. I noticed that in the box I examined, hackled flies (not dries) outnumbered the slim jims.

As well as lure fishing techniques, Mark explained how he used the bung method which he found useful if fish had been spooked for some reason. A leader of ~10ft was constructed with at least 3 droppers. An imitation on a heavy grub hook was put on the point and 2 nymph patterns on the intermediate droppers. The top dropper (about 1 ft from the fly line) holds the bung (a floating fry) which contains a hook but is made to float with a shaped piece of ethafoam. All standard stuff but I was impressed how he incorporated false droppers near the top end which meant that the depth at which the flies fished could easily be changed. I noticed that there was a crowd of Invicta members surrounding Mark when he demonstrated how he constructed leaders. If anyone would like to provide details, I am sure other readers would be grateful.

The meeting went on past 11 pm and still Mark wanted to show us how to tie flies. I don't think that materialised. Nevertheless I found it a fruitful evening. Frankly these guys could tell me every fine detail of what to do but I would lack the drive to experiment on the water to the degree he described. We wish him well and look forward to hearing about his success in the coming season.



A TYPICAL FLY BOX OF MARK'S. COME ON, GIVE ME CREDIT FOR SHOWING THIS... IT STILL GIVES ME NIGHTMARES - ED.

DISABLED FLY FISHERS DAY

This well established and most popular event is again being co-ordinated by our friends at GWFFA. The date this year is **Sunday 24th April.**

Half boat will be £8.00 per person and an optional post match meal £11.00. Entry form, menu and further details can be downloaded from the GWFFA website or obtained from Peter Reeves (piscator2003@yahoo.co.uk or tel: 01223 511992) and any queries not covered by that should be addressed to Harley Smith (details on form.)

Those who have fished this event previously will know how enjoyable it is, those who have not yet are highly recommended to sample the pleasure. There will be the usual raft of prizes for fishing results and bumper raffle from trade outlets.



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Snowbee UK, (our Floatline line comp. sponsors) are offering a 20% reduction on the price of their rod, reel and line outfits in 2011. This includes their new and very interesting range of *Prestige rods.*

In our next issue we will carry reports on the meetings addressed by Peter Hartley and also that by Simon Kidd, Sales & Marketing Manager of Snowbee (UK) Ltd.

USELESS UNLESS WORN. KIERAN CAULFIELD WITH SOME TIMELY SAFETY ADVICE

We all recall the bitter winter we have lived through. I certainly was one of those marvelling at how beautiful the winter scenes were. It is amazing how some very large bodies of water froze over in the depths of the big chill.

As an angler and sailor I am gagging to get back out on the water again as soon as possible. But as an RNLI Sea Safety Advisor I am only too aware of the risks posed by cold water shock should anybody fall into the water, and it is this message I would like to bring to your attention.

Cold water shock is something that is only now beginning to be understood. Essentially, cold water shock causes involuntary responses, which included rapid breathing (even when submerged) and some muscle incapacity. This means some people will drown within three minutes of falling overboard or slipping-off rocks on the shoreline, if they enter the water without a working lifejacket.

The RNLI Sea Safety Team is always happy to speak with Clubs and individuals. We understand that many anglers enjoy multiple disciplines within the sport of angling and therefore we offer free, no obligation advice about safety on inland lakes, waterways and the sea.

If you or your Club would like to learn more, or take advantage of a friendly, no obligation, free-of-charge Lifejacket Clinic, Sea Check Service for your boat, or a Club presentation please feel free to contact me for more information and a chat about how we can help.

http://www.rnli.org.uk/what_we_do/sea_and_beach_safety/sea_safety/sea_safety_home

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INVICTA AGM REPORT for 2011

There were some changes when Peter Reeves stood down from the Secretaryship and the committee - perhaps just as well since during the course of the meeting it became apparent that he could not be relied upon to count accurately up to five. During the course of the meeting long standing committee member, Mark Searle also decided to relinquish his position and without doubt his sound judgement and experience will be missed.

Taking up the reins for the future after some discussions Matt Willatt went into popularity overload when he agreed to accept the now vacant secretaryship and, to some wild applause from the rear of the hall, Paul Stevens was voted onto the new committee. The new line up will now be:

President: Norman Shippey
Chairman: Lawson Wight

Secretary: Matt Willatt
Treasurer: Alan Prevost
Bookings Officer: John Caldwell
Committee
Graham Williams (Club captain)
Chris McLeod
Gary How
Kieran Caulfield
Paul Stevens

The Treasurer presented the audited accounts and invited questions on these (none forthcoming) and assured us that finances were in good shape despite outlays for a new trophy cabinet and car window stickers for members etc.

The Chairman in his report gave an account of the main club activities over the previous 12 months and thanked the many members who had contributed to another successful and enjoyable year.

FLY TYING

It would seem that instead of putting the winter lay-off from fishing to good use with some fly tying to build up stocks in readiness for the new season, many members seemed to prefer going into hibernation. Possibly leaving some flies in trees, buoy ropes, wind-surfers etc. in the next few weeks may leave some gaps in your boxes which will need to be replaced. In this respect established members are reminded and new members advised, that Peter Reeves is prepared to continue the fly tying groups or individual tuition to solve problems or get you up and running.

Peter can be contacted to arrange suitable times etc. on piscator2003@yahoo.co.uk or Tel: 01223 511992. These sessions are not only entirely free but thanks to the generosity of Derek Frost hooks and materials are available for use and distribution at these so even equipment is not necessary and you could leave with free goodies.



The editor muses on random aspects of fly fishing.

It seems to me that we can be an odd bunch. What does your fishing mean to you? At our AGM last night I was astonished to learn that a previously prominent member had relinquished a long standing membership on the basis that "I prefer to fly fish smaller waters now."

Being of similar advanced years myself and recognising diminishing capabilities so do I but have never considered not subscribing to Invicta. OK having no water of our own we use the season or day ticket facilities available locally. We are fortunate to have some of the best reservoir fishing available in the AW Waters, Eyebrook etc. There are some excellent small waters available also but I have to admit not much viable river fly fishing in East Anglia. Invicta members though are not all the same and diversity in fly fishing can be valued by all. At present two members are fishing in the Argentine, a group also were fishing in Venezuela recently, one of those is currently now river fishing in New Zealand. Each year we have the opportunity to fish for

grayling on hallowed stretches of the River Test. Club visits have been arranged in the past to fish Poland's River San for cracking grayling and trout. Groups have also been arranged to fish the Irish waters like Lough Corrib and also to meet up in the remote north west highlands of Scotland for fishing truly memorable small and large lochs.

We even have members that virtually eschew fly fishing for trout and grayling in favour of predators like perch, pike and zander (our treasurer in fact has just brought back a fitting trophy for predator catches so remember to let our Bookings Officer know any catches for consideration as well as for brownies.) If all else fails there are chub in our rivers amenable to the fly and they are fished for.

No, Invicta is not just about stocked rainbows on big reservoirs, it is about being out there and enjoying fishing with a fly rod for any species, be it in fresh or salt water, big or small. Size or species being not that important but enjoyment and fellowship is. Tight lines!