



## fly fishing club. cambridge.

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

Website: [www.invictaffc.org.uk](http://www.invictaffc.org.uk)

## ANNUAL DINNER AND TROPHY PRESENTATIONS



Left some of the silverware.

Above Andy Newman is presented with a 'stand-in' Tuesday Evening League shield and right, the annual Philips cup (for the second time in 6 months.)

The social event of the year again took place at that gourmet's temple, 'The George' at Babraham. 35 Invictas and guests, in varying stages of health, met to break bread together, followed by many other edible delights and enjoy a thoroughly convivial evening in true Invicta style i.e. ribald and defamatory comments were continuously exchanged. After the meal Lawson, our chairman, entertained us with his somewhat wry and sensitive observations on aspects of Invicta activities and the inherent perils of domestic fly tying arrangements. This was followed by the presentation by Norman, our president, ably prompted and misled by the secretary, of the various trophies (well those that people had remembered to bring!) The stage was then surrendered to the renowned Rafflemeisters, Steve Middleton and Bob Ayres for a massive raffle prize distribution and dissemination of politically incorrect stories. (Contrary to some newcomers' understandings, this was not actually a Moreambe & Wise tribute act but it did come rather close.)

At this point a departure from the norm as the secretary, never previously noted for his generosity, had donated a first edition volume of what some may consider to be one of the major literary works of the late 20th century to be auctioned for club funds. Many gasped in sheer disbelief as the fierce bidding rapidly reached double figures and eventually Carl Hunter became the bemused owner of this treasured work, which was then promptly signed by the author. (More pictures on the Invicta website.)



Above, Graham Williams receives the Carr Memorial Cup for a remarkable fourth year in succession. Left, the notorious local Raffle Mafia Godfathers in action.

## invicta calendar of forthcoming events 2008

Apr.25th	AMFC BEWL WATER Spring Association match (John Caldwell)	tba
Apr.27th	GWFFA/Invicta/East Mids /English Disabled FF Event Grafham Water.	tba
May.4th	AMFC Round 2 HANNINGFIELD Organised by Crawley	tba
May.11th	RUTLAND WATER Choice of partners. Carr cup points apply	8.30 for 9.00 am
May.13th	TUESDAY EVENING LEAGUE GRAFHAM WATER Draw for partners.	5.30 for 6.00 pm
May 19/23rd	'International' Pilgrimage event Chew Valley	see Chris McLeod
June13th	EYEBROOK Choice of partners. Carr cup points apply	8.30 for 9.00 am
June 29th	AMFC round 3 RUTLAND WATER Organised by Soldier Palmers 'B'	tba
July 9th	AMFC round 4 GRAFHAM WATER Organised by Invicta FFC	tba
July 6th	GWFFA Inter-club FLOATING LINE COMPETITION Grafham Water.	tba
July 13th	GRAFHAM WATER/PRESIDENT'S CUP Draw for partners. Carr cup points	9.00 - 6.00 pm
July 6th	GWFFA Inter-club FLOATING LINE COMPETITION Grafham Water.	tba
Aug.16th	DRAYCOTE/CARL HUNTER BOWL Draw for partners. Carr cup points	8.30 for 9 am
July 6th	GWFFA Inter-club FLOATING LINE COMPETITION Grafham Water.	tba
Sep.6th	RAVENSTHORPE Choice of partners. Carr cup points apply	8.30 for 9 am.
Sep.14th	AMFC round 5 CHEW VALLEY Organised by Royal Navy/Royal Marines	tba
Sep.17th	BEWL BRIDGE FC 'GRAND MAX' FLOATING LINE COMPETITION	tba
Oct. 4th	AMFC RUTLAND WATER. Autumn Association Match (John Caldwell.)	tba
Oct, 7th	HANNINGFIELD. Choice of partners. Carr cup points apply	8.30 for 9 am
Oct. 12th	AMFC FUN DAY at EYEBROOK.	tba

\*\*\*PLEASE NOTE THE REVISED DATE FOR THE EVENT AT DRAYCOTE \*\*\*

## BONE FISHING FOR BEGINNERS

As though humiliation from Rainbow stockies were not enough, many fly fishermen are actively pursuing alternative and wilder fish. These do tend to be our native predators, pike, perch, zander etc. but chub, rudd bream, carp and the like also take a fancy to a well presented fly on occasions. Off our coast mackerel, pollack and bass are just some fish that will take a feathered lure when the mood takes them. However, most fly anglers who like to paddle off the beach, generally head for warmer water and bonefish. Recently two members Chris McLeod and John Mees packed their rods and sun tan lotion and flew off to Venezuela to try their skills and luck. It is hoped to bring you more details of this excursion later in a newsletter or at a winter meeting as clearly they have much to tell us but below they demonstrate their favoured technique in this specialised branch of the sport. Well, they certainly won't be trying that method at Pitsford will they?





**MEMBER'S PROFILE NO.10 - Andy Newman interviewed by Peter Reeves on his earlier fishing.**

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

AN – I started fishing when I was at junior school. I lived in Old Chesterton Cambridge and could walk to the river. You could catch lovely roach on a bit of Cheddar in those days.

PR -When did you first target trout and was it with fly or bait?

AN – I used to match fish most Sundays right through the season and then one year in the mid 70's at the end of the season a friend offered to take me trout fishing during the Coarse close season. I caught my first trout by dangling a fly in front of a trout that I could see in the water. (it still works) That was it, I was hooked and I have fly fished ever since.

PR - In your early years (supposing you can still remember) was fishing readily available to you?

AN- I used to fish a small lake near Gt Chesterford where you could get a 2 or 4 fish ticket, Roach and Perch fry patterns were the best. My in-laws lived near Kings Lynn so I used to get dropped off at Narborough where you could catch on anything.

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

AN – I think it is that you are fishing without bait and that there are so many variables that you have to overcome to catch a trout.

PR - What is your preferred method of fly fishing?

AN – Nymph fish from a drifting boat is to me the most rewarding method.

PR - Do any other species than trout interest you?

AN – I still do a little coarse fishing normally when I am away caravanning. Catching carp with a pole is such fun. I recently hooked a carp just before the end of a match and it took another 8 minutes before I landed it.

PR -Where would be your dream fishing venue?

AN – I would love to go fly fishing in New Zealand. I intend to do a tour there sometime so I will have to fit some fishing in while I'm there.

PR - Do you have any unfulfilled fishing ambitions?

AN – To catch a double figure trout from a large water such as Grafham. I would have it

set up and then I could bore all my visitors with the tale of how I caught it. Of course all my friends hope I never catch one.

PR - Has the attraction of fishing been constant?

AN – Yes I have fished all the time, initially coarse fishing and then I went through a Sea fishing period off the beach and out on the boats, but I gave this up in favour of fly fishing.

PR - What was your most memorable fishing experience?

AN – I had recently joined Invicta and one of the members (I've no idea who) offered to take me bank fishing at Grafham. I had not fished there much so it was great to shown around. It was blowing a gale and most of the water was unfishable. After trying several places we ended up in Gaynes Cove wading out between 2 fishermen that my guide knew. I cast out a hopper and within minutes a fish took it off the top. I could not believe that a fish could be so strong and I had no idea how I was going to land it as I had left my net on the bank. Eventually I backed out of the water to get my net and then back in to land the trout. It was a 7lb 10oz Brown Trout, something I had never seen before. I remember just sitting on my box looking at this great fish quite unable to fish anymore.

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

AN – None at all although I know my friends often wish I did not fish when I get chatting about it.

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

AN – My time at the moment is quite limited so I am happy with the amount of fishing I am doing. Later on when I have more time available I'm sure I will fish more often. I used to fish Rutland quite a lot so it would be good to get back there.

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

AN- I joined Invicta back in the days when Dave Jones was secretary and the meetings



were held in Cottenham. The idea was to join a club so that I could go to the large reservoirs such as Grafham and Rutland with people that knew what they were doing and increase my chances of catching. It did a lot more than that. First it taught me how to handle the boats and I learned how to tie my own flies. I used to fish all the club matches and I have represented the club several times in matches such as the now sadly finished B & H. I then took up caravanning which seemed to take over my life and make fishing at weekends impossible. I

fished very little for several years but maintained my membership and attended an occasional winter meeting. Quite by chance I found out about the Tuesday evening fishing on Grafham. It is a great evening out with the draw for partners encouraging you to fish with people you have never met before and all the chat up at the Pub afterwards. A big thanks must go to John Mees and the other wardens that make it possible. Of course the biggest plus with club is the great people you met, many of whom I count as good friends.



### FURTHERING HIS IDEALLY SUITED ROLE AS A GRUMPY OLD MAN, PETER REEVES TURNS HIS THOUGHTS TO THE ENVIRONMENT AGENCY

I hope that all of you remembered to renew your Environment Agency rod licences again this year. Strange that they don't send reminders especially as they produce very expensive adverts for TV threatening to clobber us with huge fines and criminal records if we forget. I have renewed mine but then I only pay somewhat less than most of you pay but still way, way too much! There again maybe you should not begrudge this government body your hard earned cash. After all just look at all of the benefits you receive as a stillwater fly fisherman. I mean there is..... well, just count all of the benefits in services, ..... well, ok, so one finger is too many to count them on. But you have to admit that you do get.... well, er....., its on the tip of my tongue.... umm! how can I put it....ah, yes! You get a receipt for your money. How useful is that....? Ah, no.... with this receipt you are guaranteed immunity from prosecution for fishing without it even though you have paid the fishery separately for the privilege of fishing. Come now, how could you possibly get better value for money?? Does anybody really know just what they do with our money for us other than get over-ridden by (the same) government on objections to building projects on flood plains? Oh, yes a magazine called 'Reel Life' comes through my letterbox occasionally listing mile after mile of rivers one can go to in order to drown maggots of any colour you like, regrettably though not a single yard where one may cast a fly to a game fish.

government body there to uphold the law and to punish you if you transgress so of course they will know and advise instantly, particularly as we are all willing shareholders. Well, that's the theory, in practice it seems rather different. I e-mailed on the 1st February asking what the situation was with regard to brown trout season locally. Strangely enough I did not receive the anticipated reply immediately or even on that same day. What more simple enquiry could there be? Anyway I did however receive an e-mail two weeks later advising me that my enquiry had been passed to another department. Why? Being responsible for enforcing the law can it be they do not know what it is? Or, perhaps they do know but prefer to keep it a secret. Well the 'other department' seems just as secretive as the first point of contact as, to date, I have still heard nothing from them on what must be one of the most simplest questions imaginable... well, maybe not. Perhaps I should have tried for starters "Is there anybody there? Possibly that would only be a three week question, who knows? I ask again, not of EA, I do not expect to live long enough for that but of anybody "What do they do with our money?" Well, other than take it that is. Now, the EA cannot tell me, can anyone advise me the requested information on the legal brown trout season dates locally?

However, be fair! The EA is a helpful, co-operative quango for us to turn to for help and advice. **Have you tried?** I have. Being unsure of the local brown trout season I enquired of the EA by e-mail (I really must book myself in for a sanity check soon.) Now remember, this is a



## Favourite Flies McLEOD'S OLIVE



Looking through the pdf (on the Invicta website reference section) of recommendations for fishing round Eyebrook I was surprised to come across the suggestion for fishing, when olives are hatching, a McLeod's Olive wet pattern instead of the more usual Greenwell's Glory. Now I had forgotten about this fly which dates back very many years and was a favourite I used to tie up, already as an ancient pattern, over 40 years ago, along with the very similar pattern the 'Burleigh' for use on Highland lochs. It is an excellent representation of the Pond Olive which is very widespread and can hatch on nearly any day in the season (in our area.) It is also an extremely popular pattern in New Zealand where flies really have to deliver the goods to be acknowledged. It is certainly not a difficult fly to dress.

Hook: size 14 or 15

Setae (Tails) a few olive hackle fibres (barbs)

Body: 2 turns flat gold followed by dubbed olive fur or wool.. Rib: None in the original - but I like very fine gold oval.

Wing: Starling wing quills. Hackle: Medium olive either as a beard prior to the wing or, as illustrated, as a collar after the wing (my preference.)

Here you are Chris, an effective olive pattern with your name on it! The Burleigh differs in that the setae (tails) are Golden Pheasant tippet fibres (3 - 5) and that the body rib is fine silver wire. I don't think the fish will notice the difference though, or care. The fly illustrated is tied on a Fulling Mill 31530 Scorpion Competition heavyweight short shank size 14 hook (rather nice hooks I think) and is in my preferred style of very sparse dressing, strongly influenced by the 'Clyde' style. As fish are reputed to possibly prefer the pre-emergent nymph to the dun, a 'spider' version without the wings and even maybe without the hackle but with slight thickening at the thorax could be tried which would make tying even more simple

## INVICTA QUIZ NIGHT- Grafham Water Wardens Triumph (yet) again!



Trying (most unsuccessfully) not to look smug, the winning Wardens team pictured after victory round a table of 'brain food.' Below left is the Whittle Lake team competing for the first time in this event and right the close runners up, the 'GWFFA - All Stars' apparently suffering a temporary eclipse. Five teams took part in this inter-club event which incorporated an fly tying material bargain sale. The organising Question master managed a get away evading all of the five lynch mobs.





ENGLAND YOUTH FLYFISHING ASSOCIATION  
Founder: Tom Bilson



Chris McLeod  
Chapel Farmhouse  
Ashton  
Peterborough  
PE8 5LD

27<sup>th</sup> June 2007

Dear Chris

Please would you convey the warmest thanks to you and your colleagues within the Invicta Fly Fishing Club for their much needed and more than generous donation for the Youth of our sport.

We recently learned that our annual grant via the Salmon and trout Association from H M Government will cease forthwith, which has left a large hole we are trying to permanently fill, and your donation has eased the pain and a little of the fight we have to make to stay afloat.

Donations were made to the Funeral Directors in memory of our founder Tom, and we are seeking a list from them as we only had a total amount in order to respond properly.

I have had discussions with Tom's family, and we are in the very early stages of putting on a one-off mega competition at Rutland next year in his memory, I will keep you posted.

We are very grateful, thank you.

Yours sincerely

Alastair Smith  
E Y F A Chairman  
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## ALL AT SEA ... (or Confessional Corner from Bob Ayres)

Recently Steve Middleton, Mark Searle and I were fishing from a boat off Southwold catching odd small cod, dabs & whiting. My rod tip 'shuddered' a bit - indicating a likely whiting bite. The bite persisted & I started to reel what really did feel like a whiting. All of a sudden there was a mighty pull on my rod, I got excited but it was soon off. I thought I'd perhaps lost a really good fish perhaps.

When I reeled the catch aboard it was a whiting but it's body was rather displaced with more insides on the outside than in the proper place. The skipper speculated that it might have been a tope, when out of the sea popped the head of a seal with a look that said " Hey where's my flipping lunch gone?"

*That sealed it for me!*

## WHAT MOVES YOU?

Flies are moved in many, sometimes mysterious ways - pulled, stripped, figure of eight, sink and draw, roly poly - you name it, someone is doing it. There is another situation though where anglers will tell you they are fishing the flies static and probably believe that they are. I recall some time ago a prolonged disagreement in the angling press between Richard Walker and Geoffrey Bucknall on the subject of whether a fish will pick up a 'static' fly from the bottom.

I have never tried fishing with a fly laying inert and uninteresting on the bottom but feel this may be an ideal cure for insomnia. 'Static' implies no movement in relation to the surroundings. I question whether this is in fact possible. Imparting no deliberate movement to a fly does not mean it is static. Casting out and doing nothing with a dry fly means that it will roll on its hackle tips, ride up and down with the waves and get carried around by the wind and currents - not exactly still in relation to its surroundings.

With a sinking fly it will gradually sink through the water whilst the line either floating or sinking will be affected by waves, wind and sub-surface current movements. Even a fly on the bottom will be thus affected and probably 'hop' about a bit, suggesting life through movement to trout attuned to such. My favoured nymphing technique is rather at odds with John Wadham's into the wind policy. I like a cross wind/current, casting out and then trying to stay in contact with the flies, not moving them initially but allowing natural movements. Initially they sink, helped by 'mending' the line and, as they are carried round the line develops a belly. Now I know that some anglers are concerned about this fearing poor hooking ability with a bow in the line. Not so with small sharp hooks, I actively encourage it and am given confidence both on the way down but more so as the forming belly starts to lift the flies which is when most takes are noticed and with very high percentage of fish 'sticking.' I do very little to move the flies until they are pushed round square to the boat or the shore but realise they are never static but moving vertically & horizontally all the time.

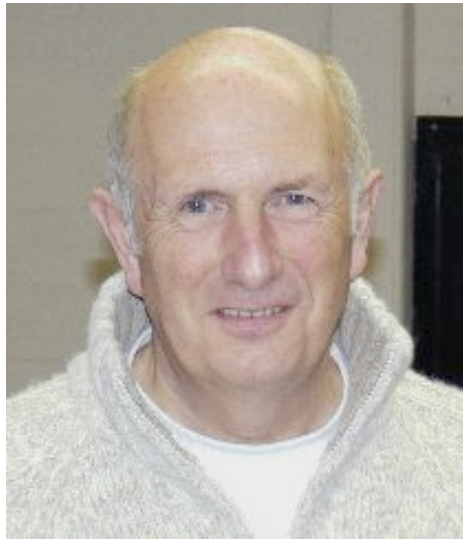
I would not know how to achieve a truly static fly either in or on the water but am sure that I could not bring myself to attempt it even if I did know.



## EVENING MEETING REPORT 'LIFE BETWEEN THE COVERS' BY CLIFF WATERS

Reported by Dave Jones

We welcomed Cliff Waters to a club evening in February. Cliff was Art Editor/Designer for 14 years with Trout Fisherman. More recently he was the editor, photographer and designer of the AWA publication "Hooked" which was released back in March. Cliff started life in Hastings and although not a scholar, loved art. Hastings was renowned for sea fishing but not too far away was Darwell (now a coarse fishery) and Powder Mill, the latter boasting the best mayfly hatch in the country. He caught his first trout with a worm, poaching on the River Brede which runs out of Darwell.



was known as "Captain Chaos", and Cliff had a number of amusing tales to relate about their excursions.

All photographs these days are taken with a digital camera. The photographs used in a single feature article might well have been selected from 400 taken on the day. A general rule of thumb is that each picture is allocated 100 words. All images are processed to remove blemishes such as blood. Some anglers prefer the background to be removed in order to hide the identity of the venue. His preferred kit

In the early 60's he headed for The Hammersmith School of Art and emerged with a taste for playing in a jazz group and a Diploma in Art. A 3-year training course at Cosford with the RAF set him up for a career in design and photography, not to mention touring the world at the expense of Her Majesty. One such trip landed him in the Emerald Isle where, inevitably he came into contact with trout fishing both in rivers and loughs. Discharge from the service led him into the world of publishing.

consisted of 10Mp Canon 350D's or 400D's which were very light but I suspect they are now superseded by improved models. In order to get a decent picture of a companion in a boat it is necessary to use a 10mm lens – in his case a 10-22mm. I note that a top notch Sigma lens in this category will set you back the best part of £500. Since Cliff pointed out that this lens exaggerated the size of the anglers hands, I have taken to looking at this feature first rather than the fish! Hence it is a good idea to hold the fish pointing slightly forwards in order to conceal the hands as much as possible. Given the foul weather conditions it is possible to meet out on the reservoirs, I noticed at a recent Grafham meeting that some anglers prefer a simple waterproof jobbie and have even taken pictures of trout under water. Pentax and Olympus make suitable models. Since I bought a camera to capture the results of my fishing exploits I have not caught any worthy specimens. Methinks I am using the wrong shutter speed or perhaps the aperture is incorrect? Tight lines!

Magazines in those days were assembled by the "lick and stick" technique whereby individual articles were physically pasted onto a large sheet before being converted into a real page. Computers were on the horizon and the introduction of Apple Computers in 1989 totally transformed the production method to a wholly electronic enterprise. His first efforts were for an EMAP mag "Fleet Car" but he soon transferred to "Trout Fisherman" where a number of assignments soon honed his trout fishing skills. A frequent companion was the late Chris Dawn, who

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### THE LEGACY OF A KINDRED SPIRIT

We, that is the Invicta Club, have been fortunate enough to have been the recipients of a large range of fishing items, mainly fly tying materials etc as a result of donation by Mr. Steve Gaastra of Swaffham Bulbeck following the death of his father, Donald, made via our Chairman, Lawson Wight.

Donald Gaastra was a very keen fly angler, fishing principally the River Ure. The extensive collection is being sold at club meetings and was on sale for the first time at our final winter meeting for this season - the notorious Quiz evening. Already the return on sales which augments the Club's funds, exceeds £40.

There are many items left to be offered and we thank the Gaastra family for their kind generosity in making the collection available to us and trust that they will derive some comfort in their loss to know that Donald's items are being employed by like minded enthusiasts in the manner that he would have approved.

It is of course some time to our next winter meeting when the remaining materials can be displayed for sale but should you meantime have an interest or need for items, you could contact Lawson who holds this stock until full disposal.



## JOHN REYNOLDS ACHIEVES FURTHER COACHING QUALIFICATION SUCCESS



We are most pleased to announce that long time Invicta member and GAIA instructor, John Reynolds, has recently been awarded by GAIA (Game Angling Instructors Association, the Advanced Game Angling Professional Instructor

(AGPAI) qualification for the 'Trout' category (i.e. single handed rod.) This is an expert category qualification, not easily achieved and it reflects well on Invicta that we can now claim two members who enjoy this advanced level qualification. Congratulations John on this achievement. Refer to John's contact details on the Invicta Membership list if you care to benefit from his coaching expertise.

### THIRTY YEARS AGO

FROM NEWSLETTER NO. 7 DATED JUNE 1978 - BY DAVE JONES

"In 12 years still water fly fishing I have never encountered any personal animosity. My sheltered existence was shattered at a Salmon & Trout Association meeting when no less a personality than Dermot Wilson finished off an otherwise amusing and witty series of anecdotes with a scathing attack on coarse-turned fly fishermen. They killed too many fish by insisting on limits at all costs. Jack Thorndike chimed in - attacking the types who decimate the trout population by using lures. Just cast them out and retrieve... its as easy as that. I, for one, would be interested to see this demonstrated. I am pleased to report that amongst the room full of "Hear, Hears!" two voices of reason, Les Beecroft and David Fleming-Jones, strove to put the record straight."



**Oscar Boatfield who was not at the Dinner being presented the Invicta Trophy at the Quiz evening by our Chairman, Lawson Wight**

### LAST CAST - Sushi anybody?



**A demonstration of Japanese 'scientific research' being conducted on Minky Whales.**