

fly fishing club, cambridge.

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ITS TIME TO GET GOING! ALL WATERS ARE NOW FULL OF FISH AND READY TO GO!



GOING IN Nigel Savage (Anglian Water) and Jamie Weston (Gwash Trout Farm) stocking part of the 20,000 fish prior to opening day at Rutland Water



COMING OUT.... Martin Howell happily brandishing a 9 lb 15 oz very early season Rainbow - a late but somewhat temporary resident of Ravensthorpe

How time flies! It is already that time of the year again. The dark days of winter already forgotten, the garden can look after itself now for the 2009 trout season is well and truly under way.

All of the main waters have now flung open their gates and tills at the lodges and welcome the army of hopeful rod bearers. Above is pictured stocking at Rutland, last of the Anglian Water ponds to open and also a comely rainbow which booked into Ravensthorpe (Anglian Water's first water to open) for a short stay, maybe a bargain break weekend.

Anyway it is all go and to be honest, I cannot recall a season opening with such a flurry of superb fish and the quality of the fish seem to increase year on year. Much of my own activity has been at Whittle Lake and I have been delighted at both the demanding nature of the fish and the fact that even before Rutland opened I was taking fish on dry flies. Like other waters

they are no push overs even at the start of the season also the fighting quality is superb. Invicta had its first outing at Pitsford on 5th April with very mixed fortunes as the fish were very much concentrated in small areas, not dissimilar to my own experience elsewhere, very hard fighting and with a very high 'drop-off' rate. This again seems to be a character of this years early season fishing... and it makes it all the more enjoyable. A hard fighting 4+ lb fish leaves a lasting impression on you and is priceless. It is also an experience waiting out there for you so what are you waiting for?

Mind you, as one half of the 'Little & Large' partnership may have pointed out size is not everything. If you have not experienced the delight of catching fin perfect living jewelry such as totally wild brown trout or grayling then your life is not yet complete. Read on dear member as this organ will offer you the means yet to a full and rewarding life!

invicta calendar of forthcoming events 2009

Apr. 26th	GWFFA/INVICTA/EDFF INTER-CLUB COMPETITION	Grafham Water	tba
May. 10th	RUTLAND WATER Carr cup points apply	Choice of partners	8.30 for 9 am
May 12th	INVICTA TUESDAY EVENING LEAGUE STARTS	Grafham Water	5.30 for 6 pm
Jun. 12th	EYEBROOK. Carr cup points apply	Choice of partners	8.30 for 9 am
Jul. 11th	GRAFHAM (PRESIDENT'S CUP) Carr cup points apply	Draw for partners	8.30 for 9 am
Aug. 15th	DRAYCOTE Carl Hunter Bowl & Carr cup points.	Draw for partners	8.30 for 9 am
Aug. 18th	INVICTA TUESDAY EVENING LEAGUE FINISHES	Grafham Water	5.30 for 6 pm
Sep. 15th	RAVENSTHORPE. Carr cup points apply.	Choice of partners	8.30 for 9 am
Oct. 7th	HANNINGFIELD. Carr cup points apply.	Choice of partners	8.30 for 9 am
Aug. 18th	INVICTA TUESDAY EVENING LEAGUE FINISHES	Grafham Water	5.30 for 6 pm
Nov. 14th	ELINOR Invicta Fur & Feather Bank event		tba

*** Please note that the date for the President's cup has been changed in order that you can fish it and still volunteer to Bobbie Worker to act as Boatmen for the English Youth Teams qualifiers on July 12th.

OUR 'ARCTIC' CASTING CLINIC WITH PETER HARTLEY ... by Dave Jones

The preferred date for this event was in the middle of the snowy weather in February. There was a prediction of -7°C for the night before the event. I was a little concerned that the roads might be impassable or the rivers frozen over. I 'ummed' and 'arred' for the whole week but in the end I went over to Manor Farm and jolly glad I was that I did so.

For starters I sorted out some gear which might be considered suited to river fishing. I discovered that I had a $10\frac{1}{2}$ Beulah rod which was so unused that the handle was still wrapped with plastic film. The rod was rated at #5/6 and was claimed to be suited for Spey casting, aided by a short false butt below the reel fitting. I can recommend this rod, as can Peter H, but Peter Reeves thought it was too soft

The fishing complex is located on the southbound carriageway of the A1 below the Sandy junction. It was quite difficult to travel on the A1 slowly: consequently I missed the entrance and had to repeat the circuit between Sandy and Biggleswade. Despite the snow I was pleasantly surprised to find a purpose built fishery complete with a well-equipped shop, lakes and a stretch of the River Ivel. The river contains the usual range of coarse fish including barbel. The lakes are also stocked individually with coarse fish as well as trout. The trout fishery is open for 12 months of the year and is by all accounts quite popular in the winter months, ice permitting.

We started off with some conventional upstream casting, making mends and changing direction. We

then got down to the nitty- gritty – a bit of Spey casting. The Spey style was developed to allow casting where there was limited room for a back cast. Although there were no trees, the steep banks of the Ivel and dead vegetation provided a good test of proficiency in the technique. We started off by learning to roll cast. I thought I could do that but Peter suggested aiming more into the sky which resulted in an immediate improvement. We were shown how to produce a D in the line prior to the forward cast. I discovered that slowing down the casting action was essential in order to achieve a good cast. Very shortly we were performing single and double Spey casts and even a snake roll. The problem is that you need to practice in order to retain the muscle memory. I understand that a leader made up of (many) blood knots every 6 inches or so with the ends of the knot sticking out several inches, provides sufficient purchase with a grass surface to allow the formation of D loops; thus practice of a sort is possible without the need for water.

Finally we had Harley Smith assisting. He is an established Grafham bank fishing expert who divulged that he had just had one of his best seasons ever. He attributed this to concentrating around the G buoy bank, casting out a long way, the use of a sink tip line, and making sure that the point fly was fished near the bottom.

Now that's what I call a good morning out!

THE INVICTA TACKLE AUCTION FOLLOWING THE AGM from Dr. Peter Thomas

After the business of the AGM this year, we held a tackle auction enabling redundant tackle to be recycled with a commission to club funds which actually raised £58.80 for club funds but with £37 of this from sale of a wicker basket of goodies donated by the Gaastra family following the death of Donald Gaastra. Now, the contents of this basket had already been opened at an earlier meeting and interested members had already taken their pick of contents with proceeds to Invicta (I have many small sized dry fly hooks as a result.) However the extent of the basket was difficult to assess and the residue placed in the auction with total proceeds to Invicta. Even on the night it was still impossible to understand exactly what was on offer but the eventual successful bidder was Peter Thomas who advises us that he received:-

1 wicker basket – acquired by ‘her in doors’ for storage

Previous owner possibly Donald Gaastra of Kynance Clifford’s Mesne Glostershire and a member of the Crickhowell and District Angling Society and his last licence was for 2004.

Reels

Ogden Smith 3.5 inch with unknown double taper line

Intrepid Super 3.25 inch with unknown double taper line

Scorpio 3.5 inch with DT-9-S line

Garcia Mitchell 756 3.375 inch empty

‘Cheap and Nasty’ 70 mm with dapping floss

Intrepid Rim Fly spare spool with unknown peach double taper line

Intrepid Rim Fly spare spool with unknown green double taper line

Intrepid Rim Fly spare spool with unknown aquamarine double taper line

Spare spool for a 3 inch reel possibly a small

Intrepid or a Hardy Flyweight. If anyone has these can we compare it please as I would like the reel to go with a small split cane rod I have

Fly lines

Ivory DT-9-F?

White DT-8-S labelled

Pale Olive DT-8-F/S?

Pale Olive DT-7-F/S?

Grey DT/WF-7/8-S?

Chestnut level line medium sinker?

(I have beer money available for anyone good at identifying lines probably late 1970-2004.)

Sink Tips /Leaders/Casts/Tippetts

Sink Tips one black, one blue anyone know what they are?

5 Braided leaders with loops and sleeves

3 taper nylon casts

Several braided loops of assorted size and sleeves to fit

Tippet line

Stren 17lb 100M

Stren 10lb 20M

Stren 6lb 20M

Stren 2lb 20M

Sylcast 4lb 25M

French Green 3.5lb 25M

Drennan special matt sub surface green 10lb 50M

Drennan special matt sub surface green 8lb 50M

Drennan special matt sub surface green 6lb 50M

Drennan special matt sub surface green 4lb 50M x 2

Drennan Double Strength 50M

Drennan Double Strength 50M

Drennan Double Strength 50M

Flies

Red leather wallet of 20 old flies to cat gut possibly American 1920-1930’s and an assembled cast of two flies and a spare cast

80 Flies including 4 Salmon, 17 lures, 8 spiders and 40 assorted dry/nymph/wet

Sundries

Barbour International fly vest, green canvas tackle bag, Pinnacle cap, Bass bag, a strong strap, a roll of strong elastic and several repair kits for waders
2 Spare landing net nets, 2kg spring balance, white button thread and needle, sacking needle, lasso tape, 2 disgorgers, surgical forceps, 2 pair’s of scissors, 2 leader wallets and 30 assorted hooks
Tub of braid float, tub of braid sink, Airflo turbo shoot lubricant, Perma grease, Perma float, Perma Plas re-plasticizer, fly line cleaner and fuller’s earth cream

Literature

The bamboo Rod and how to build it

Video Catch and Release

The Hardy Book of Flies

Trout and Salmon 60 popular Trout Flies (1989) an interesting read!

Trout and Salmon Trout Fly Selector for River Fishing (discoid)

A pocket guide to identifying the commoner insects eaten by Trout and Grayling

Fly Tying Tools and Sundries

Dubbing twisters 4, other minor tools, non toxic shot, 20 assorted 1.5mm beads, Copper wire, Lead sheet, 20 assorted hooks, Bees wax, plastic winging material and Hi D flesh foam

Fly Tying Materials

Silver oval tinsel, gold flat tinsel fine/medium/ large, mirror flash 3 colours, black and brown silks, 2 ultra fine silks
American Poly Dub in olive, orange, burgundy, grey and black
Chenille extra fine in green and orange, fine light green, medium olive and dark olive, insect green long fibre, medium dark brown and burgundy, light grey, taupe and fawn and dark blue

Superbug yarn in 8 colours, Antron body wool mixed and assorted body wool and thread oddments

Fur - cream and Muskrat natural,

Hair - Reindeer fur for hackles, Cow Elk natural gold and 2 others of darker shades, orange/red/ yellow dyed squirrel tails and 3 natural with varied markings

Feathers – Black with greenish cast large full cape with wings Gamecock? Gamecock hen wings, Mallard wings, English Partridge wings, Starling wings 3 pairs, half a Jay wing, Greenwell small cape and a Furnace small cape

Mixed hen Pheasant wing/ tail feathers mixed goose quills and white goose biots

Marabou 3 packets of mixed also olive and golden olive

Vulturine Guinea Fowl cobalt hackles, Elver Vulturine hackles, Ibis substitute, Blue Dun, orange hackles, natural hen hackles Teal 2g pack and 5 assorted packets, mallard breast 2 packets and dark Mallard breast 1 packet, plain English Partridge tail feathers, speckled English Partridge tail feathers, speckled hen wing

Now... was that good value for £37 or not?

It is suggested that we continue the tackle auction at our next AGM as most attending quite enjoyed this even though I was acting as auctioneer. So, start sorting out good quality items of kit you no longer have a use for as others might and you, and Invicta, may benefit as a result.

CAVIAR COMES FROM THE VIRGIN STURGEON... WHICH NEEDS NO URGING!

FYI: This Sturgeon is Still alive, Lizzy is just worn out from the fight. They turned her loose after the photo.



At TWO CREEKS CONSERVATION AREA, Wheatley , ON (at Lake Erie) 11/19/2007

She weighed out at over 1,000 lbs and measured out at 11'1". It was 56" around the girth and took over

6 and a half hours, and 4 dozen beers, for the 4 guys taking turns at the reeling her in.

Any Sturgeon? OVER? five feet has to be released unharmed and cannot be removed from the water.

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

CHARLES JARDINE

No visit from Charles Jardine would be complete if the video display did not malfunction. This was no exception but thanks to a rapid assimilation of the instruction manual by Rob Mungovan, the problem with an errant filter cap was soon solved.

The objective of the talk was to persuade more reservoir anglers to fish rivers. Charles has noted an upsurge in interest over the past 5 years and this is reflected in the Invicta membership by their regular pursuit of grayling. Worried about kit? Have no fear, trout have the same reflexes all over the world and are just as likely to succumb to a buzzer imitation in Patagonia as Big G. You might have to scale the tackle down a bit though.

Dry fly fishing for trout developed on the Derbyshire Wye. Wet fly fishing is forever associated with the Yorkshire Dales. A combination of the two evolved in the Dumfries area (Stewart). Around the start of the 20C, the southern chalk streams set the stage for the great debates between Halford and Skues on the merits of dry fly and nymph fishing. More recently Sawyer MBE opted out of exact imitation and went for an impressionist copy, assisted by the technique known as the induced take. The weighted pheasant tail nymph was one of his legacies.

Charles has recently moved back to his home area in Dorset and was delighted to discover that the rivers were as good as they ever were. Thank a wet summer my friend and the likes of Brian Marshall (Invicta NL No.146). Thus despite his numerous trips to exotic locations we have read about over the years, he was always pleased to be back on home waters even though he has to accept that the quarry may be significantly smaller.

Fishing the southern chalk streams really requires tackle a bit lighter than used on the reservoirs. Leaders which taper to 2lb bs carrying flies as small as 24's are not unusual. The rod has to be accordingly softer in action. Charles liked a 10ft #5 such as the Hardy Streamflex. His casting prowess, well known to readers of FT&TF,



A 'SOFT' FOCUSED CHARLES SEEKING DOMINATION OVER SMART HARDWARE.

enables him to flick a fly around obstacles which he considered to be an important factor in achieving success. I was surprised that he used such a long rod given the bank side vegetation. The water is crystal clear and in order to avoid detection, anglers must dress sombrely and at least kneel or even lie down when stalking fish. I well recall my one and only experience on the Test when the first sign I had of a grayling was a cloud of mud as it sped away! Cautious wading can be advantageous as it lowers the profile of the angler in the water.

Czech nyphing was given an airing. According to Charles it was devised by Isaac Walton but it was hijacked by the Continentals, notably the Poles, and first introduced into the UK in the 1990 World Championships on the Dee. I think the Czechs preferred rods of the order of 8½ft whereas others prefer a rod of 11ft. Steve Parton used to market a 12ft beast based on a Shakespeare match blank which was not as bad as it sounds as the technique

involves lobbing of the flies rather than conventional casting. In fact Charles recommended body armour for protection but was he kidding – I think not!

The basic Czech nymphing technique involves short lining a team of flies along a straight path, seeking out fish on the bottom. Obviously this is a simplistic description (personally I would recommend obtaining a DVD on the subject such as made by Oliver Edwards). Search the water thoroughly by imagining a grid on the water and making sure that every square is fully explored. Heavy flies are the order of the day. For fast water put the fly in the middle of the team; for slower flows put the heaviest fly on the end of the leader. One variation used a really heavy nymph on the top dropper and a pair of flies towards the point. This set up is deployed in a manner similar to touch ledgering. Rumour has it that some anglers hook up on one fish and carry on fishing until the third fly is taken thus catching two fish at once. Some anglers have replaced most of the nylon leader with Fireline super braid, which often extends back to the reel. The heaviest fly is placed on the tip. Thanks to the negligible elasticity of the Fireline, it is apparently possible to feel every single stone as the rig is trundled down the swim. Incidentally, expect to lose plenty of flies when using these bottom hugging methods!

The weight in these flies is built up with layers of lead – some look like an Arlsey bomb. I noticed that precast heavy nymph backs are now available. Alternatively one or more tungsten beads may be glued to the hook shank. In modest flow conditions the weight can be reduced perhaps to the level of a conventional gold head or even to the extent of using a glass or plastic head. Gold was not recommended for bright weather conditions: copper or black may be a better choice. Red tails attract grayling.

Some rivers are best searched using a technique akin to loch style fishing on the lakes and reservoirs. Typically this set up would involve 2 or 3 flies, a gold head type nymph on the tip, a swimming nymph pattern in the middle and a hatching pattern near the surface. The latter could at a pinch be a booby or perhaps a Shipmans style dry fly which might be perceived as an indicator. The water would be explored across and down the flow and at all times keeping contact with the flies. Again I would recommend viewing one of the Oliver DVD's for precise details. The point was that the method was not worlds apart from traditional still water angling.

There may be waters where any sign of an indicator would be frowned upon. A less obvious technique, apart from using an early Airflo line (!), is to create a nylon spring which is set between the fly line and the leader and expands rather like a Slinky in the event of a take. Although nylon springs are now commercially available, it is easy to make them using fluorescent nylon (Stren is popular) with a bs of 8-12lbs, wrapped in closed turns around a 6" nail and immersed in boiling water, followed by a quench in cold water and storage in the fridge. Although the indicator technique applied to fly fishing appeared fairly recently in France, the method was once widely used on the Thames by anglers fishing for bleak.

Time was getting on. We had a quick fire look at the remainder of his photos which were truly inspirational. Thus some of us set off home thinking how we might delve into the running water scene at the earliest opportunity.

JOHN WADHAM



THE GOOD 'PROFESSOR' JOHN WADHAM - SURELY ONE OF THE MOST DELIGHTFUL SPEAKERS, WARMLY WELCOMED BACK TO INVICTA WITH A 'CAPACITY' AUDIENCE

A bit of ankle reconstruction has kept John from both the water side and the lecture circuit. However, all is now well and he managed to

attract a record turn out. Any more and we will have to erect screens in the car park!

I was interested to see that his bible in his youth was “Mr Crabtree goes fishing” which was a comic strip type introduction to fishing written and drawn by Bernard Venables. I well recall buying my copy for 5 bob on Taunton railway station – it had sold out everywhere else. I also indulged in a bit of fly tying by collecting feathers from pillows but I was less successful than John in this endeavour. He also had a battered copy of “Angling Ways” by Marshall Hardy which must be worth a re-read in the light of recent developments.

He almost always uses dry flies although his definition of dry extended to any floating pattern including fry imitations. In 2006 he used nothing else and did not feel at a disadvantage. I thought that he had brought his ironing with him but it turned out to be a high rise folding bar stool. His recent maladies necessitated a means of sitting down yet still getting a good view of his flies. He claims to have used it out in the water. Gosh, I bet that looked a bit strange!

In his opinion, the advantages of dry fly fishing on the reservoirs were as follows:

Casting is infrequent but maintain concentration as takes can often take the form of a fish bolting. The fly is kept at maximum range for as long as possible – aim for the edge of the ripple.

Fish can only see upwards and dry flies seem to draw fish to the surface, especially if the flies are moved.

It is possible to fish over weed beds.

Dry flies do not seem to attract stockies.

It is possible to see fish taking an interest in a dry fly even if it is not taken – thus giving confidence that fish are in the area.

I don't think John actually used the word “indicator” but it is a fact that a dry can be used in that mode when supporting a wet fly at a fixed depth.

John uses a 10 foot Greys Streamflex (AFTM #5) balanced with a yellow WF 6 line. Well, most Hardy/Greys rods are under rated line-wise by at least 1 AFTM No. For close range work he gets out an 8½ft Sage loaded with a No.5. Pulling large (floating) flies might need something like a Greys Platinum 10 foot 6/7 weight. A large arbour reel with a low inertia reduces the chances of a breakage from a smash take although he sometimes uses a few inches of

powergum as well as a shock absorber. He has a preference for heavy gauge hooks to avoid failure and compensates for a loss in floatation by adding extra turns of hackle. Barbless hooks are to be preferred as they are more readily removed should some unfortunate be impaled. John claimed never to have lost a fish attributable to the absence of a barb. John used a copolymer leader Teklon Gold which seems to be only found at sea fishing outlets (www.Veals.co.uk) which might explain why it is only £9.78 for 300 metres. The line has a diameter of only 0.2mm for a b.s. of 11.2



JOHN'S 'PERCHING STOOL'

pounds. John demonstrated how easy it was to straighten line containing a slight curl. The bad news is that it was out of stock on the Veals web site when I looked on 17th February. Could it be that news has got around the fly fishing community? Even copolymer lines need degreasing before and during use although I wouldn't recommend paint stripper as I recently read somewhere! As a further aid, John adds about 15” of fluorocarbon on the end of the leader in order to minimise the signature of the front end. His leaders BTW tend to be short

especially for short-range work where 5-6ft would be considered adequate.

Where to fish? Not too far out especially early in the season and I think the same can be said in the winter. Avoid wading where possible. It was helpful to have inside information. Look at the map of the water and decide where might be fishable without an unhelpful wind or a mud slick. Generally in April he would fish with the wind behind on the basis that the warmer (relative to the air) water from deep down is welling up in front of you. Similarly in high summer (not '08 I think?), fishing down wind might also be helpful if cooler water is being driven up from the depths. It may be necessary to cast across the wind in which case John would walk the fly along the bank/dam to avoid forming a large bow in the line which causes the fly to skate. Another technique is to float the line out with the wind. Here he would use a shooting head and a 13ft rod. The fly could be 50 yards offshore in no time, but watch out for boats and predatory birds. Takes are registered by a change in the lie of the line rather than a tug. Occasionally a static fly will not be taken in

which case stripping a floating muddler or daddy over the surface may be effective.

John admitted that the flies he ties are well on the ragged side of perfection. They tend to be small compared with most patterns to be found on a still water leader. He doesn't believe in carrying many patterns and only one fly would be used at a time. A favourite is the TGF (tiny green fly) which would be tied on a 14/16. This had a green body, a white fibre wing and a single badger hackle. Hoppers were used as were CDC's. Preoccupation with algae would be tackled with a white or orange muddler.

A voice from the audience questioned when he would NOT use a dry fly. "In a flat calm" was the response. I was taken aback by that as it was the first method I would chose in such circumstances and it has proved successful in the past. (*I fully agree with you Dave, The logical approach and time to my mind. - Ed.*) Not to worry, the talk was most informative and should inspire many in the audience to give dry fly fishing a trial. I look forward to seeing many more bar stools around the banks with or without the accompaniments!

WHERE WILL YOUR FISHING TAKE YOU THIS YEAR?



Pictured above is Invicta member Anthony Williams (he of the Flyfishing Academy remember?) who was fishing at the beginning of the year in New Zealand.

Also earlier this year a group of Invicta members joined with like minded villains to return to Los Roques in Venezuela in pursuit of Bonefish, Barracuda and something called Tarpon I believe.

Me, well I am answering the call of the wild and returning to the north west corner of Scotland again chasing wild brownies in the acid and limestone lochs of Sutherland.

Where will you be headed? In any case take a camera to record the trip for the benefit of this newsletter and other members.

If you have nothing arranged, then take a look at the guided trip fishing virgin waters in Bulgaria offered by Stan Mankov. At £500 plus cheap air fare for nearly a weeks fishing this seems to offer extremely good value for a fishing trip with a big difference.

Those with e-mail will have had details sent. For those without that may be interested in this opportunity, contact me and I will mail you a print out, or of course contact Stan direct. If interested in going where no Invicta has been before Stan's phone number is 07951 900935 and his e-mail address for those with modern communications is fisherman@gbg.bg.

MEMBER'S PROFILE No. 15 - Peter Reeves gets to interview John (Mr. Grafham Water) Mees.

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

JM – **Yes Thanks!** It was some 34 years ago, I wanted a fishing rod for my 4th birthday. My gran brought me a Woolworths 6ft starter kit (probably worth more now than back then) and I was taken down to the local canal on the outskirts of Birmingham, it was a place called Catherine de-Barnes at the back of the old small pox isolation hospital.

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

JM – I think I was 9 on the family holiday in Wales; I had been bought a fly box for my birthday but didn't know what it was and was told all would be revealed, and was taken to Trawsfynydd where the self cooking trout come from. I thrashed the water to a foam trying to get my Webby and Scott 8½ foot #7 out, to no avail then dad took me on a boat where he rowed me round for hours and I eventually managed to hook and land a small dark

rainbow of about a pound on a grenadier nymph (black and red). Must sound strange to hear of me catching a fish on a nymph!

PR -Yes, very much so John. In your early years (supposing you can still remember) was fishing readily available to you?

JM- Fishing was always available to me as a youngster, I had a push bike and off I went with my mates to a local canal(did you know that we have more miles of canals in Birmingham than Venice). If it was too far to bike one of parents would take us and leave us for hours just fishing away. Getting to my local trout fishery at Packington was a different matter, dad had to take me when his work shifts allowed, either we fished together or he dropped me off went to work and then picked me up later. Quite often when I was in my teens I was let off home work for a night or two to go fishing after school.

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

JM – I really don't know the answer to this one. I think it must be that you can get into a boat with another angler and at the end of the day you are life long friends sharing one passion.



PR - What is your preferred method of fly fishing?

JM – I think everyone would expect me to put pulling lures here and that is what most of you see me doing most of the time, but I love fishing the washing line on one of the new non stretch fly lines, you can feel every tiny pull and pluck. I enjoy all methods of the fly fishing

from deep boobies to dries, and have been known to switch from boobies on a Di7 to dries, just ask Alan Taylor about a day we shared at Eyebrook practicing for a major clubs match, I spent all day going from boobies to dries, like the proverbially lady of the nights' knickers.....

PR - Do any other species than trout interest you?

JM – Plenty, I just like catching fish especially on the fly. One of my great passions at the moment is Bass fishing in the Isle of Mann

PR -Where would be your dream fishing venue?

JM – Any where I can get, especially if it's not Grafham. My travel rods are the first thing packed when I go off on holiday, followed by a guide to the local fishing hot spot's.

PR - Do you have any unfulfilled fishing ambitions?

JM – Yes to win a bloody Invicta Trophy! Just once. The problem is my darn job gets in the way. But seriously I have been lucky enough to fish all over the world for many species and always look forward to my next trip where ever it be.

PR - Has the attraction of fishing been constant?

JM- Yes fishing as a sport has always been with me, whether it be coarse, fly, or sea fishing

PR - What was your most memorable fishing experience?

JM – There are loads, catching my first marlin of the coast of St Lucia, sharing boats with my father and trying to beat him. My first double Bass, the first double figure Brown out of Rutland in 11 years at the time from right in between the yachts, rod in on hand and an oar

in the other fending off the moored yachts as we ruddered our way through them! There are loads more so I shan't bore you any more.

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

JM- Now that depends on which side of the fence I'm sitting on at the time, as an angler no I don't. But as a Fishery Manager I do sometimes. I worry a lot about all the challenges we have to face to stay as the leading fisheries in the country and all the politics we as anglers have to face.

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

JM - To win an Invicta Trophy for one! I think I shall just take things as they come, but would like to try some of this African fishing (tiger and off the coast for what ever) and a prolonged fishing trip to Australia.

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

JM- Very, I find all club members very willing and interesting! Even from my very first meeting I attended I found the whole club very friendly indeed.

THE INTER-CLUB QUIZ NIGHT.... or the night of the long knives!



OSCAR'S ODDITIES - The winning team.

Well, the traditional final event of the winter season calendar is designed as a sociable inter-club evening with a little light exercise for the grey cells prior to getting to grips with the new trout season.

Indeed the participants admit to enjoying the evening and chatting with old and new friends and there is no doubt that, at a level, it is taken in a light hearted vein as intended. However, I think that all contestants will admit to a darker undercurrent in their attitude. I do not refer to the universal challenges to the Questionmaster or ubiquitous and constant complaints over the questions but again this year a common bond between all teams but one, to hope to prevent yet another consecutive win by the Anglian Water Wardens. Well, this year this unholy alliance was successful, albeit facing a numerically weakened

AWW team... and the relief in the hall as the results were announced was almost tangible.

This year again we were delighted to welcome representatives from Anglian Water, GWFFA, Whittle Lake and East Midlands but the winners, who led from round one were Oscar's Oddities, fronted by Invicta junior member Oscar Boatfield with, it has to be said, some very strong and experienced support.

The final team results were:-

1) Oscars Oddities	91 pts
2) Anglian Water Wardens	82 pts
3) GWFFA	71 pts
4) Team Al Moran	67 pts
=5) Highly Spiced (Whittle)	65 pts
=5) T.W.A.T.S.	65 pts
7) How do we know?	54 pts

Judging by later comments and e-mails, everyone again enjoyed the evening, which is odd as during the evening I gained the impression I could do nothing right! Anyway it would seem that all who took part are looking

forward to next year and allowing their lighter and darker sides show through again... but beware, no doubt Anglian Water Wardens will come back stronger and seeking to redress the situation with a vengeance.



STUDIES IN CONCENTRATION AT THE QUIZ NIGHT.

THE FLY FISHING FORUM reported by Dave Jones

Three wise men, in the persons of John Mees, Peter Hartley and Alan Sefton, chaired by Peter Reeves, fielded questions from members.

There was a reluctance to start but Peter Reeves had come prepared and asked a question on behalf of anon. *"Is it possible to target the biggest fish in the reservoirs?"*

John Mees recommended deep fishing based on his personal success in catching at least one double figure brownie with the help of 120 yards of Kerplunk lead line terminating in a large gold tube fly. Lures were presented at depth either by rowing or using an auxiliary rudder clamped to the stern.

Alan Sefton thought that brownies were most easily targeted because they tend to live on the

bottom of the reservoir, are highly territorial and eat almost anything. Zander fry were top of the menu in Grafham whereas Alan reported that in some Scottish lochs, louse featured in many autopsies. The Scottish waters lack the diversity of food found in the English reservoirs so the potential for giant brownies thriving in Rutland and Grafham must at least be as good as experienced with pike and zander. The large brownies in the lochs are only relatively recent targets for specialist anglers but their efforts have bumped the record up to 31 lbs.

Peter Hartley concurred that trolling was probably the most effective method for catching large brownies. The rules regarding the choice of lure are somewhat stricter than north of the border. However, he did relate one incident on Grafham where two anglers were challenged to

reveal the nature of their “bait” immediately cut their lines in order not to “reveal a new secret fly pattern”.

Certain areas are more productive than others. Some anglers liked to troll through the mooring area on the way back to the lodge, last thing at night taking advantage of the shelter provided by the hulls and the preference of browns to engage in nocturnal feeding. The harbour is another hot spot because of the density of fry and provides the chance of double figure rainbows as well as browns.

Anon. fired another question: “*What are the most important factors in an artificial fly?*”

Alan Sefton reflected on the fact that when fish are feeding recklessly they often prove difficult to catch even with the most exact imitation. Hence it was necessary to employ a fly that stands out from the swarm. In general he considered that the depth at which the fly was presented was more important than pattern. Bob Church once remarked that even 1” below the surface can be too deep although in recent seasons at Grafham the trout seem to like feeding at a depth of several feet – hence the popularity of midge tip lines.

Peter Hartley commented on the changes which have occurred, particularly in salmon flies, which now tend to incorporate small bodies and mobile materials. Marabou is a favoured material especially in still waters. Most flies now incorporate fluorescent materials.

John Mees reckoned that size was important but I was not sure if this was just to meet the requirements of the International rules. He did think that the profile of the fly was important though.

This discussion lead to another question, this time from the floor: “*What 5 flies would you not want to be without at Grafham?*”

Alan Sefton wanted a Black Booby, an Orange Booby, a Hares Ear with and without a gold head, Crunchers and Diawl Bachs.

Peter Hartley liked Buzzers, Crunchers, Diawl Bachs, Cormorants and Boobies.

John Mees also had a preference for Buzzers (black), Diawl Bachs, Crunchers, and Boobies but also added Gold tube flies.

Boobies were considered important because they helped to fish the other flies on the leader at the correct depth using the washing line technique.

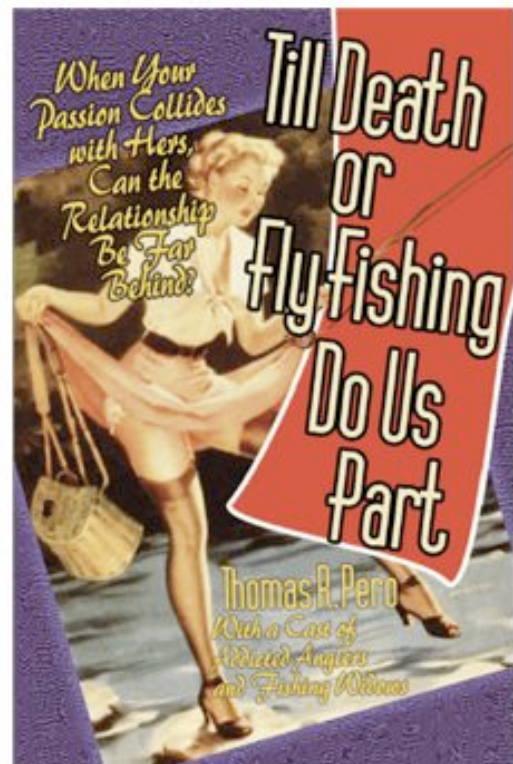
The bulbous head was also thought to set up vibrations in the water which attracted the attention of trout.

The Chairman reflected on the fact that nobody chose dry flies. John Mees responded that 2 Boobies on a Di 3 were near enough to meeting this requirement!

I believe it was our club Chairman who wanted to know about “*The Angling Trust?*”

For those anglers unaware of the current situation, the Government decided that angling should be represented by one organisation and as a stick stated that no funds would be forthcoming from Sport England until this requirement was met. Thus in January of this year the National Federation of Sea Anglers along with the Anglers Cooperative Association, National Federation of Anglers, the National Association of Fisheries and Angling Consultatives and the Specimen Anglers Alliance pooled their resources and became the Angling Trust. This new organisation will actually compromise two elements: the Angling Trust Ltd., and an unincorporated association based on the ACA which will be renamed Fish Legal but will have similar aims as before. Each of the original bodies will have a representative on the board and the various regional bodies will be called upon to provide specialist advice.

LAST CAST



Remember... beauty is in the eye of the beer-holder!