

## fly fishing club. cambridge.

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



### THE INVICTA 150 CHALLENGE FINAL RESULT.



**DIDN'T YOU DO WELL!** Photo left shows Bobbie Worker (Secretary of the England Youth Fly Fishing Association) receiving a cheque representing the result of the Invicta 150 Challenge from Norman Shippey (President of the Invicta Fly Fishing Club, Cambridge.)

This was presented at the Invicta annual dinner and trophy presentation held at the Lion Hotel, Buckden on 27th February. See report on page 3. The cheque was made out for £1000+ as the final figure had yet to be calculated after that evening. The actual figure being £1034. Congratulations to all members contributing to this good cause.

**EYFA Secretary Bobbie Worker receives the cheque from Invicta President Norman Shippey**

### PETITIONS TO NO. 10 DOWNING STREET DO WORK.

The importance of all anglers, despite individual disciplines and interests, to unite and support each others against clumsy bureaucracy has been recognised and has been fundamental in the establishment of the Angling Trust.

You may recall that you were all invited some months ago to sign a petition to 10 Downing Street, in opposition to the EU proposal that recreational sea angling should be included in national fish quota regulations with the accompany restrictions and paperwork overload involved. I hope that many of you took the time to add your names and support to this petition.

Anyway, the petition was successful and has been upheld. Read the Government's response -

"The UK Government opposed the proposals in their original form because of their potential impact on recreational sea anglers. Our discussions with stakeholders including the Angling Trust, supported and further informed our assessment of the impact

of the original proposal as a complicated and unwieldy measure that would have introduced strict controls without any real appreciation of the impact of recreational fishing on the wider marine environment. As a result of the opposition mounted to the proposal, the scope of the measure has been confined to recreational fishing from a vessel and only for stocks subject to multiannual plans (cod, hake and certain sole and plaice stocks). It does not include fishing from the shore. Also, recreational catches for these stocks are no longer required to be counted against quota – as was set out in the original proposal. Member States are though required to monitor such catches by way of a sampling plan."

So you see, provided concerned individuals do respond, positive results can be obtained if the voice is loud enough. This is surely a very clear indication that numbers count and that individual as well as club memberships of the Angling Trust are critical to our sport. I am a member... are you?

## invicta calendar of forthcoming events 2010

Mar. 18th	INTER-CLUB QUIZ NIGHT...The <u>BIG</u> one! Harston Village Hall	7.45 for 8 pm
Apr. 12th	PITSFORD Carr cup points apply. Choice of partners.	8.30 for 9 am
Apr. 23rd	GRAFHAM WATER. AMFC Spring Match	tba
Apr. 25th	ENGLISH DISABLED FF/GWFFA DAY. Grafham Water	10.00 to 5 pm
May 1st	THAMES WATER SHIELD Farmoor II Oxford. Bank fishing competition.	10.00 to 5 pm
May 11th	TUESDAY EVENING LEAGUE STARTS Draw for partners.	5.30 to 4 pm
May 15th	ARTHUR COVE MEMORIAL MATCH Bank event at EyeBrook.	9.30 for 6 pm
May 16th	RUTLAND WATER Carr cup points apply. Choice of partners.	8.30 for 9 am
Jun. 4th	EYEBROOK Carr cup points apply. Choice of partners.	8.30 for 9 am
Jul. 10th	GRAFHAM (PRESIDENT'S CUP) Carr cup points apply. Draw for partners	8.30 for 9 am
Aug. 1st	INTER-CLUB FLOATING LINE COMPETITION Grafham Water	9.30 am to 5 pm ?
Aug. 14th	PITSFORD (CARL HUNTER BOWL) Carr cup points apply. Draw for partners	8.30 for 9 am
Sep. 4th	RAVENSTHORPE Carr cup points apply. Choice of partners.	8.30 for 9 am
Oct. 2nd	BEWL WATER. AMFC Autumn Match	tba
Oct 5th	HANNINGFIELD Carr cup points apply. Choice of partners.	8.30 for 9 am
Oct 10th	PITSFORD. AMFC Fun day.	tba
Nov. 13th	ELINOR 'Fur & Feather' Bank fishing event.	8.30 for 9 am

\*\*\*Please note that some dates are changed from those originally advised.\*\*\*

## SUDDEN SURGE IN POPULARITY OF INVICTA WEBSITE ?

[invictaffc.org.uk](http://invictaffc.org.uk) - Site Info from Alexa

[invictaffc.org.uk](http://invictaffc.org.uk) is ranked number 5511051 in the world according to the Alexa Traffic Rank and is in the England category.

[www.alexa.com/siteinfo/invictaffc.org.uk](http://www.alexa.com/siteinfo/invictaffc.org.uk)

What on earth is going on? In edition 150 I showed that according to the Alexa ranking, Invicta's website was ranked at 23,599,352. Now, a few months later Alexa are showing the current ranking as above. Now to move up the rankings so quickly 18,088,301 places seems to me rather odd. What can Colin be putting on the site? Maybe we should all take a look at our website to find out why it is suddenly so much more popular! Or, maybe we should just ignore Alexa altogether and get on with our lives without regard to popularity ratings but do not forget to use the site more frequently to stay informed.

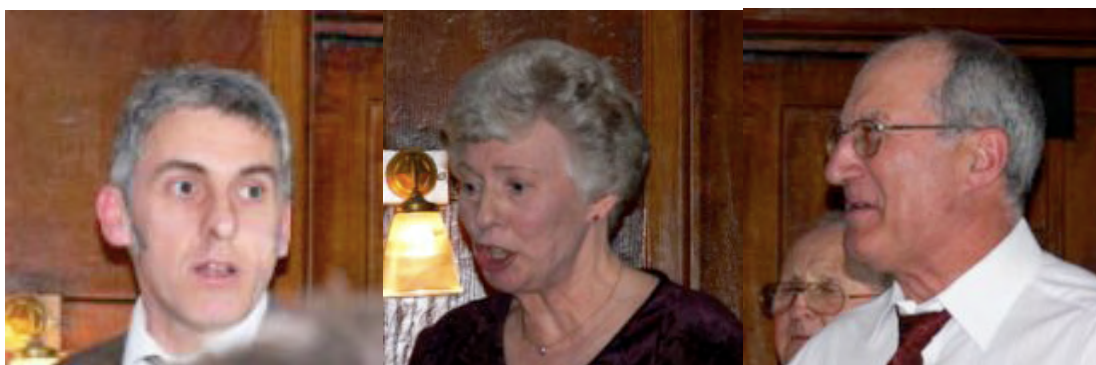


### 24lb PIKE FROM RIVER CAM

Invicta member and Bulgarian National Fly Fishing team member, Stanislav Mankov holds a 24 pound Pike taken from the River Cam on a fly! Not only that but this magnificent specimen was contacted, played and landed using a fly on a #6 weight fly rod on March 8th.

Stan clearly does not believe in doing it the easy way. Remarkably enough, as the photo shows, the capture took place in a built up area near the City.

## THE INVICTA DINNER 2010....THE FACTS.



**Your Chairman in full flow**

**Brenda Prevost 'stand up'**

**Rev. Bob Ayres addressing**

On the evening of Saturday, 27th February, the more sociable members of Invicta, plus myself, gathered at the Lion Hotel in Buckden for our annual dinner and trophy presentations.

The meal itself it has to be said was excellent and the raffle, run by Steve Middleton and Bob Ayres, was a classic and exemplary exercise in extortion - so nothing new there. Well, there was a new twist this year in the raffle in that the proceeds did not go to club funds as normal but formed part of the fundraising for the Invicta 150 Challenge to assist EYFA in their sterling work with the youth. Some of us may wish that their work was not quite so effective as those young lads are formidable opposition out there, opposition that some of us more mature members could well do without! Anyway, be that as it may, the evening in effect marked the end of the initial challenge and between us you raised a grand total of £1,034. The Invicta Secretary was later heard to mumble (he does a lot of that) "So much blood squeezed from so few stones." It was a remarkable achievement from a small club and passed all expectations. Just think what may happen if other clubs were to apply themselves to helping out EYFA (and the Wild Trout Trust for that matter.).

After the meal our Chairman, Lawson Wight endeavoured to take our minds off our overloaded digestive systems by thanking the dinner organiser Norman Shippey, full supporting cast and other Invicta officials for their efforts since the last dinner. He also put a case to the distaff side (present on this occasion) for supporting their partners and to encouraging them to go off and selflessly enjoy themselves fishing round the Country or the World. Adopting a TV technique he also introduced a commercial break into his address when he brandished and extolled the virtues of

an inflatable rubber ring in a net mesh from Steve Parton as an invaluable accessory to comfort whilst fishing in wet weather - saturated nether regions being generally unwelcome by most of us apparently. (If this was a self help attempt at income support, I don't think Steve pays commission Lawson which is a pity as I have just ordered two.)

Following this, our stand up comedienne, Invicta's answer to Joan Rivers (eat your heart out Jo Brand), Brenda Prevost, regaled us with a further selection from her repertoire of stories. I have to admit some of these I did not quite follow but I have led a rather sheltered life and understand that most of these were gained from her contact with sailors ... Well, I guess that explains it then.

Then followed the Trophy presentations by our President, ably assisted and misled by the Secretary. This appeared to go well, the trophies being duly collected by recipients (or proxies) in most cases but three remained at the finish. One trophy, the Carl Hunter Bowl was presented to Kieran Bonas, his name being engraved on it and I have to admit to being curious to seeing later Adam Worker leave carrying it but they are good friends and in fact neighbours. It later transpired that Adam was in fact the winner of the trophy. It seems that our trophy recording software (Backofafagpacket Version 1.0) would benefit from an swift update. Sincere apologies Adam & Kieran for this mix up, now you know what it is like to be older and fallible! Thanks also for carrying it off so well, there was only a vague suggestion of a puzzled look in your eyes - you did well and the error will be corrected. The other pots and shields were correctly engraved and presented... in so far as I am aware anyway.



The (now revised) list of Trophy winners is as follows:

CARR CUP- Graham Williams (yet again!!)  
CARL HUNTER BOWL - Adam Worker  
PRESIDENT'S CUP - Mike Smith  
TUESDAY EVENING LEAGUE - Mick Facey  
INVICTA TROPHY - Andrew Johnson  
BEECROFT SHIELD - Graden Smith  
BROWN TROUT TROPHY - Chris. McLeod

The evening was then concluded by the Chuckle Brothers (Bob Ayres & Steve Middleton) with the raffle interspersed with anecdotes from them displaying their total disregard for any concerns over plagiarism, intellectual property or unauthorised recycling, and giving the distinct impression that they were not nearly so familiar with sailors as Brenda.



## FROM LITTLE ACORNS... 35 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH (MARCH 2010) THE FIRST TROUT WERE STOCKED INTO RUTLAND WATER, DAVID MOORE TELLS THE STORY.

Andy Warhol said we can all have 15 minutes of fame and mine were on a grey wet day, 11 March 1975 when I tipped a rather unglamorous dustbin of fingerling trout into a murky 200 acre puddle that is today twinned with Grafham Water as the best trout fishery in Europe.

The plan was to stock with fingerling brown and rainbow trout in 1975 and 1976 before the fishing began in 1977 so they could grow on the rich feed which would be released as the 3000 acres of agricultural land flooded.

This wasn't a new idea and some snags had been encountered before. First we had to remove as many coarse fish from the streams and ponds in the valley as possible to reduce competition and predators to give the small fish a reasonable chance of survival.

Then we had to make sure the first flooding didn't go anaerobic through rotting vegetation, a problem when Eye Brook was flooded in 1937. Removing vegetation by stripping top-soil, hedges and trees all helped here and we waited until March 1975 when we had 200 acres of water to provide a stable environment.

Another threat was a parasite "eye fluke" which thrived with the massive populations of snails associated with newly flooded land. Snails are the intermediate hosts for eye fluke and release the stages which infect trout. We partly countered this by releasing a high proportion of brown trout which are much more resistant to infection than are rainbows and the first 54,000 fish which I released in March 1975 were all browns weighing just 20grams each, less than one ounce.

By May 1976 we had stocked 272,000 browns



**Feeding time at Horn Hill Hatchery - now part of Gwash Trout Farm.**

and 360,000 rainbows and test nettings showed excellent growth rates, some of the previous years fry had already reached nearly 2lbs. Unfortunately that year was one of the worst droughts of the century and the reservoir started to shrink, not what we had planned for. Combined with very high temperatures and prolific weed growth the snail population exploded and along came the dreaded eye fluke. The fish stopped growing in these horrendous conditions from June to September which probably lost us one or two pounds per fish in what should have been the peak growing period.

However the August bank holiday came along with torrential rain and six months of floods filled the reservoir for opening day in May 1977. As the waters rose fish were gorged on earthworms and even drowned moles were found in their stomachs.

The fish were all in fantastic condition and mostly 2lb to 5lbs. Brown trout



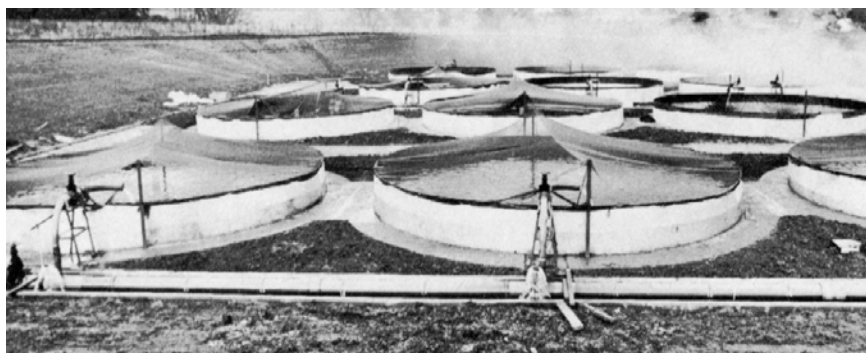
**In they go. An historic moment for David & us.**

made up 54% of the catch whereas they had only been 43% of the trout stocked showing how important it had been to anticipate the eyefluke. This resident brown trout population ensured exciting fishing for double figure browns right through to the mid-eighties.



**The first fish released 13 March 1975 and David with Hatchery Assistant Bob Garrett, one went on to be one of the best bank anglers at Rutland Water. (David regrettably neglected to advise us which one.)**

**The rearing tanks behind the dam, these were demolished in 1990.**



### **Peter Reeves adds -**

I recall David's address and slide show of encouragement prior to opening, firstly to Invicta who I believe were still meeting in Cottenham British Legion or was it Conservative Club at that stage and then subsequently the same address to the Hertfordshire Branch of the Fly Dressers' Guild... at which stage he had not changed one iota from the photos above. The article also brings back memories of opening day at Rutland. Although we had carried out an earlier reconnaissance trip in the daylight things are different in the darkness and groping around in the dark to try and locate somewhere to park

and then to actually find the water was not easy. I ended up somewhere in the vicinity of Fantasy Island I believe. I and my near neighbours on the bank were not those with early big bags, in fact I recall only one fish on that day which I took later on to an Eric's Beetle (a large, weighted Black & Peacock spider with a yellow rump) - a measure of how desperate I was getting! After that exploring such a large and virgin water was fascinating and usually much more productive. Hey ho, I look forward to adding more such memories in the future.

### John Reynolds adds -

Unfortunately the opening day at Rutland seems like only the other week. 3 of us spent days pouring over old contour maps of the valley where the reservoir now nestles. We eventually decided on the south shore of the south arm slightly to the west of what is now called Berrybutts I believe. We took ages to find the waters edge as this was virgin ground and it was pitch black in the early, very early morning. We also discovered that the fences were very good at keeping anglers out as well as the sheep in. We started fishing when it was just light enough. I used a slow sinking shooting head on a Richard Walker reservoir rod (Hardy Superlite?), the dogs whatsits in those days. We all expected to have our limits in a hour or so. How wrong we were. Still fishless when the sun warmed us up we switched to floating heads and PTN's. This at last did the trick and we began to catch the odd Brownie. Spooning the fish didnt help much as they either were full of bits of straw ( not caddis) from the old stubble fields or earthworms. We had loads of takes from the totally uneducated fish but just couldnt seem to connect with them. Back to the ss with an ace of spades which accounted for a couple more. By mid afternoon we were exhausted, probably due to no sleep the previous night thanks to the excitement of it all. In the end we had 5 or 6 fish each and not a single rainbow in sight. My best brown was 2 1/2 lbs but I was there!

### Bob Ayres adds -

Over the years I and my friends have enjoyed many Club & personal fishing trips to Rutland Water. During that time you will of course recall that the fishing lodge was originally on the North shore at Whitwell and was later re-sited to its current position. Having been asked to recount an interesting memory to you I'm having a job to select a particular one. For example, will it be the one where Alan Taylor & I got into our usual muddle with an engine started before the sinking line is fully aboard & finds its way around the prop shaft, shearing off the drive pin leaving us stranded near Berrybutts on the South shore with no mobile phone ( who had one in those days!!) and the lodge on the North shore – with nothing to do but walk off to find a phone box

eventually in the airman's married quarters nearby - which was of course out of order – and Alan finding himself knocking on the door of one of the houses to be greeted ( as I remember it hazily) by a voluptuous young married lady who immediately asked what she could do for him!! ( I think I'd better stop there & leave it to your imagination – but you know Taylor!!) or.....

how about the windy Club day when Graden Smiths deer-stalker hat, be-laden with countless metal fishing club badges which he'd earnestly collected from all over the place over many years, blew off into the water and sank like a stone just before he'd been able to turn the boat round & get the landing net to it or .....

what about the snowy first day many years ago when Steve & I ventured forth not just with tackle but a frying pan & plenty of bacon & eggs - cooked at least 3 fried breakfasts during the course of the day to keep our spirits up & Steve hooked & lost the only fish of the day at twilight in Old Hall Bay ( which of course he still maintains was a big fish) or ...

( I tell this one with some trepidation so would any lady-readers please forgive me) the one that concerns Alan Taylor's bowel habits. It's based on the maxim that whatever goes into the body has at some stage to come out & Alan was, in his younger days, a big eater! So one day he took himself off to a small 'privy' on the peninsular and according to Steve, did the business & just managed to get out of the privy before this enormous 'log' fell against the door so that no-one was ever able to use the said privy again or.....

the story about the summer evening Alan & I drove after work to the Berrybutts car-park & then walked the miles westwards to the end of the fishing limit, fished until last knockings & then in almost complete darkness had to walk back to the car through Berry butts wood, hearing strange scary noises, which turned out to be a slumbering flock of sheep, with me (with my night-blindness or that's my excuse) holding Alan's arm for guidance in the darkness!! - lucky no-one saw us - or .....

the windy day, with the lodge still on the North shore, that Steve, Alan & I ventured in our boat to the bottom of the South arm to fish & the wind got stronger & stronger during the day to the point where 'Skipper Steve' declared we should make for home and the by-now big Westerly blew us down back down the South arm, with waves threatening to come over the stern of the boat, to the end of



the peninsular – for us to be confronted by the prospect of crossing at right angles the massive waves that had travelled the miles down the North arm. Rumour has it that during that hazardous crossing I actually donned 2 lifejackets & was crying in the bottom of the boat ( or it would have been the bottom if Alan was not already there!) – with Captain Pugwash singing Yorkshire sea shanties to keep our spirits up or ..... the other time when Alan was fishing with his mate Peter in one boat & Steve & I were in another & Steve's back went &, as the fishing was good, I refused to take him off the water but laid him in the bottom of the boat and put a rod in his

hand ( was that the start of his illustrious back-drifting career?) – when later in day we went to find Alan & Peter only to see only Peter sitting in their boat – it turned out that Alan's hernia had recurred and he, like Steve, was prone in the bottom of the boat -- so Peter & I fished on and on, as you would, and it was only at the end of a long day that we returned to base and carried the casualties out of the boats and carefully laid them across picnic tables to straighten them out – no St John's in those days .....

or the evening when I was driving the boat at speed & failed to spot a large black sailing club buoy ( well have you tried to see round Steve when he's at the front!) and rammed it hard knocking it completely off its anchorage. That would have made for an interesting evening's sailing & probably did very little to foster angling/ sailing relationships or.....

that other time, more recently, when Alan & Steve were bank-fishing at Normanton & Alan was using his brand-new very expensive floating line which he'd just joined to his backing line with a 'super-duper' new knot that Henry Lowe had taught him and Alan hooked into this large fish which took off into to distance dragging Alan's new fly line after it – the flyline having parted from the backing at the knot. (Henry, I'm sure that the knot was

theoretically perfect it was simply that it couldn't cope with the 'Taylor factor'). Steve's memory tells of Alan whimpering as the end of the line disappeared through the rod rings and trying to walk after it until he realised that

Rutland's water is very wet or ..... only last year on the Club day at Rutland when coincidentally there was something like an International Eliminator being fished on the same day at which John Mees was officiating. John was excited and his normally quiet tranquil manner was abandoned for the more noisier John that we do occasionally hear. Steve's classic quote to John was "John there's people phoning up from Grafham, they can

hear your voice but they can't find you!"

BUT .....

the one I'd like to share concerns the evening that the legend that was John Rolph, Alan Taylor & I set off for an evening's bank fishing. At the time the lodge had just been re-sited to the south shore & the old North shore lodge & car-park was the new home for the day-sailing club. Our destination was Stockie Bay (on the North Shore between the dam & the old lodge) and our parking spot was, as it had been for many years, the car-park at the old lodge at Whitwell. We drove in as usual, parked, fished to twilight, returned to the car, loaded the tackle and proceeded to drive out of the car-park --- except we couldn't! Instead of there being an open gateway, our progress was halted by a pad-locked 5-bar gate, which protected all the expensive sailing boats from potential pilferers. What the heck to do now! We wandered about looking for an alternative exit – couldn't find one! So I phoned ( yes even I had a mobile by then – but Alan didn't!!) the lodge on the South shore – everybody had gone home & the answerphone was on!! So we decided we should phone the police!! Should it be 999? We thought better of that & via directory enquiries got the local police. I immediately became a crime statistic & was given an incident number (which Rolphie thought was



**A more youthful and gleeful Bob Ayres posing in front of his 'fridge door and brandishing a 7 lbs 12 oz early Rutland rainbow....Sorry Steve, blame Bob - he sent the photo in just to annoy you!**

hilarious) and we were told to wait for a bobby to arrive – which we were told it could be long time as we were judged to be ‘low priority’. So to stretch our legs we wandered about, eventually making our way back to the wretched locked gate. As Alan re-inspected the gate you could see (well you could have done if it’d been light) a “Eureka moment” in his eyes as he discovered that the gate could, in fact, be lifted off its hinges at the other end to the pad-lock! Well we were soon out of there, replacing the gate on its hinges. Phew!! Luckily we also remembered to inform the

local police what we’d done otherwise we may have gone down in local folklore as the disappearing anglers. (By the way if you want to nick an expensive boat I bet the gate still lifts off its hinges!)

And just to finish and to show that it wasn’t all stupidity, there was of course one evening that a youthful (!!) Invicta angler bank-fished alone off the Obelisk on Sykes Lane and landed a very nice brownie of 7lb 12 oz caught appropriately on a Silver Invicta on a floater – the ultimate. Luckily the camera doesn’t lie (or it didn’t in those days!).

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## INVICTA WINTER EVENING MEETINGS. A further report from your winter scribe, Dave Jones.

### STEVE COOPER ON FLY TYING MATERIALS

Steve Cooper used to be a schoolteacher but there is absolutely no truth in the rumour that a student on the assessment committee described him as a bit of a plucker prior to his departure. Steve is well known as a supplier par excellence of natural materials. More recently his name is instantly associated with the annual fly tying symposium held at Stoke-on-Trent each autumn. He thought that most of the stuff from the normal outlets is dire and we could do better by finding materials by ourselves. He quoted the opening paragraph from Skues book “The trout fly dressers year”.

*“Just as it is true that there is more in fishing than to fish, so it is true that there is more in trout fly dressing than the dressing of trout flies. To begin with there is the getting together of material, which is a sport in itself not less interesting than the collection of butterflies or rare editions of Sheffield plate, or any other of the will-o’-the-wisps on which men spend their time and fortune.*

*Not that it is advisable to spend much of the latter on trout fly material. Otherwise might just as well go straight away to a tackle-dealer and enrich him with all of your possessions in exchange for the sort of stuff the dealer sells. No, the sport consists of getting together a stock*



*far superior to what the dealer will sell you for a sum approximately as near as possible to nuppence ha’penny. To do this, time and a watchful eye are needed, and there is scarcely a period of the year during which something or other useful to you may not be picked up.*

*Therefore it is somewhat difficult to say at what point in the calendar year the trout-fly dressers year can be considered to begin”.*

He produced a couple of large tail feathers from a cock Pheasant with fibres almost 50mm in length. Not only that but the colours was spot on and well marked. To give us some

idea of the rarity of such specimens, he reckons on handling some 1000 samples a year; the feathers were the best he had seen in 12 years. The pair were believed to have originated from birds in their 4<sup>th</sup> season which is amazing considering that the birds are reared for shooting and barely survive for a few months.

The common Pheasant is the ring-neck which fulfils the requirements for tying the PTN. However, Melanistic Pheasants have a greeny-blue iridescent body plumage with a much darker well-marked tails. At the other end of the scale, a Leucistic Pheasant is much lighter, bordering on albino particularly in their tails. There are also various exotic varieties including the Reeve’s pheasant, the Lady Amherst’s pheasant and the Golden pheasant. The uses of



the latter are well known to most tyers of trout flies.

Steve is well known for his fine English Partridge capes. Immature capes feature beige coloured feathers around the neck region which lack defined markings. 12 months on and the markings improve especially in the male of the species. Hence the traditional partridge and orange pattern requires careful selection in order to meet the specification.

The snipe patterns widely used in the northern rivers demands the use of wings originating from the Jack Snipe from Scandinavia, and not the indigenous common snipe.

Peacock feathers are widely used. Nevertheless, the pattern on the wings are highly variable. The feathers from the wild birds are much more resistant to splitting than the domestic variety.

Many old patterns demanded the use of plumage from birds such as owls, landrails, dotterel and merlin, all of which are now protected species. I am sure the audience was as surprised as I was to learn that the Starling was also on the protected list! The power of the RSPB in action. Householders are not permitted even to disturb their nests. I presume that starling feathers sold in the UK are procured from the USA. Note that the traditional North Country patterns should not employ the winter plumage which features white spots. On the bright side, certain species are on the up assuming that they have survived the bad winter. Parakeets and Mandarin ducks are good examples although I am not sure how they would be used.

The quality of capes has been transformed through selective breeding. The length of the stem and the short fibre length are truly amazing. They are widely considered essential for dry flies although the high cost is a consideration for some. Capes, which once cost a few shillings, now cost many tens of pounds. I have a couple of Jungle cock capes, which cost all of 75/- back in the 1960's. Chinese capes are reputedly good for lures whereas Indian capes are useful for small wet flies.

When it comes to cost, traditional salmon fly materials win hands down. Most of the species are protected and the only sources are museums, antique shops, craft outlets (Robert Sayles is good for Ostrich plumes!), zoos; e-bay is worth looking at from time to time. Some feathers are only available on a couple of occasions each year so it is a matter of getting your name on a waiting list.

The Argus pheasant displays with a huge array of long tail feathers each decorated with many large eye-like features. A pair of these feathers, preferably not the moulted variety, will set you back £60-70. I noticed that the asking price for a half breast of an Indian Crow was £1000! It looked like a Jackdaw to me. Australian red tailed Cockatoos have tail feathers which sell for \$400 a pair. Macaw tails are generally sold by the \$ per inch. The Western Tragopan is a truly endangered species and limited to small areas of northern India. 80 feathers recently sold for £1600. The photo shows an example of the Black Argus which incorporated Tragopan feathers, tied by Marvin Nolte. The estimated value was £500. I would advise the use of a super strong leader!

We finished off by talking about the importance of correct storage preferably in a re-sealable poly bags. I always include a moth repellent in each bag. Steve recommended that mite infested material is best treated in a freezer and certainly not a microwave.



## OTHER WINTER MEETINGS - ANGLIAN WATER UPDATE.

Unfortunately, due to very extreme conditions with snow and accidents blocking the A1, John Seaton and Nigel Savage had to abort their noble attempt to battle through to update us on the Anglian

Water situations and this particular meeting was cancelled. Many thanks to the pair for braving hostile local conditions to set out in the first instance and perhaps better luck on another occasion next winter.

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### JONATHAN WILSON - ANGLING DEVELOPMENT BOARD

There are some unusual problems in the report of this meeting as our reliable scribe encountered some technical difficulties and didn't produce one so you are left with my memory of events - not nearly so comprehensive! Jonathan was originally invited to talk on the Angling Trust but his anticipated transition to them had not yet taken place so he filled us in on the role of the ADB and their objectives. It became clear that Jonathan's enthusiasm for introducing greater numbers to the joys of angling, particularly the younger element, approached missionary zeal. His schools programme in particular was very important to him. Since the young are the future and we share his concerns, we wish him every success in these ambitions



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### THE QUIZ NIGHT

Those who have attended will realise that any attempt at a lucid report amongst the banter and chaos engendered at this meeting will be doomed to failure. This year the questions were presented by Chris. McLeod and a very enjoyable evening it was too.

The results this year were close, very close but, yes, you have guessed it, the Anglian Wardens were overall winners yet again but the erudite GWFFA team did give them a very good battle. The formula for this event does prove every year to be very popular and doubtless will re-appear in 2011 when hopefully the victorious 2010 team will face even stiffer opposition.



Top right: Our genial inquisitor effortlessly fending off challenges

Lower right:  
The victorious Anglian Wardens.. and don't they look pleased!



## MEMBER'S PROFILE No. 16 - The editor interviews Mark Searle (Pt.1)



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

MS- Answer.....yes I started fishing when I lived in Newport Essex, first with a net in the local stream, which nearly always ended up with me in the water, I just had to go that little bit too far. After that we moved to Sawston where I progressed to my first rod, still managed to end up in the river. The river there held some great Roach, chub and some of the biggest Gudgeon I have ever seen, I am sure that there was a record Gudgeon in there. The river was never the same after they had dredged it after the floods.

My next move was to take up sea fishing, mostly from the beach or piers, later I had the chance to go boat fishing out of Gt Yarmouth, we caught more fish from the boat so I took up boat fishing, until again over fishing killed the in shore fishing and the bait was bigger than the fish we were catching most of the time. I am glad to see that it is improving again, with some good cod being caught.

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

MS- I first targeted trout when I was young, with a spinner in a lake, when I was just a boy and you had to keep an eye out for adults, then you had to run like hell. We caught very few trout, but I bet we got the blame for those hard days when the fly fishers could not catch. My first experience on a large reservoir was Rutland when it was still being filled. My Head Chef at the time was a keen trout angler

and asked if I would like to try my hand at trout fishing. Well we set off early one hot bright sunny day; nice day for fishing I said "huh" was the reply. When we arrived he told me what ticket I needed and off we went to catch some trout. I don't know where we were fishing, but the grass was freshly flooded. I was given a rod, reel and told to put them together and he tied on a leader and a fly, gave me a quick casting lesson and told me to get on with it. I had not a clue what I was doing (o.k. Steve I know nothing's changed there). The sun came up it got hotter and hotter, the redder and redder we got, that was my first lesson - trout don't like the sun! My second lesson was learnt after flogging the water, hooking my nose, cracking my fly line that would make any cowboy proud and wearing myself out. Letting the elements do some of the work, there was a little bit of a breeze so I cast across the breeze and put my rod down and let it move my fly for me as I could only cast about 1/3 the distance of my mate, I kept getting grass on my fly but I didn't care I was knackered. Whilst I was wondering what the hell I was doing here my line started to pull away and the reel was turning on its own, that was my first trout caught on a fly and the only one of the day. My Head chef never asked me to go with him again! But I was hooked, (burnt but hooked).

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

MS- There was plenty of rivers and pits not too far from where I lived. Coarse fish mostly, pits for Carp, Tench and Perch rivers for Chub, Roach, Bream, Dace and Gudgeon. So I spent most of my time on the banks or often trying to reach a good looking spot, in the river. There are still some of us that can't stay out of the water, hay Bob!!!

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

MS - I like the friendship that goes with fly fishing, club days and A.M.F.C match days, all are fished in good spirit and friendly. You get to meet a lot of new people and make new friends and fishing partners. The other misconception I had when taken up fly fishing, was I would not need so much gear as coarse and sea fishing (a little bag, rod, landing net, simple) how wrong. (to be continued.)



## NEW HONORARY MEMBER

Your committee are delighted to announce that Peter Firth has agreed to accept honorary membership of Invicta. Living in Lincolnshire, he has been a member of our club for many years and I am sure I noticed his name on one of our trophies recently. Peter is better known however for his tireless work in promoting the sport especially with the A.M.F.C. in ensuring the competition scene progresses smoothly. He is also a Vice President of the Bewl Bridge Fly Fishing Club. We greatly welcome him. Thank you Peter!



## TAKE PART IN HISTORY. The Arthur Cove Memorial Match.

In our previous issue we sadly brought you news of Arthur Cove's death. Now there can be few people who know one end of a fly rod from another, to whom this name does not immediately conjure up immense respect and for many deep affection.

John Caldwell brings news that that Dave Oates, a longstanding friend of Arthur and his family is, in conjunction with Mrs. Pauline Cove, organising a Memorial Match. The details for the Arthur Cove Memorial Bank Competition are as follows:

It will be fished at **Eyebrook Trout Fishery on Saturday the 15th of May**, with a briefing at 9.30 am. The match will start on the siren at 10am, finishing at 4pm.

We hope to have a friendly competition, fished to fishery rules. In the unlikely event of a tie there will be a coin toss.

A nymph only match was suggested, but this was considered unrealistic. *It would be nice to think everyone at some point in the match would try one of Arthur's patterns and spare him a thought!* Charles Jardine will be attending.

Entry fees are as follows: Adult £30  
O.A.P £26  
Junior £21

The beneficiaries will be the Arthur Cove Memorial (to fund a Memorial Bench) with any excess split between England

Youth Fly Fishing Association and Rainbows Children's Hospice, as requested by his family.

Just some of the prizes already on offer are-

A box of Arthur Cove's own flies, with a letter of authenticity from Mrs. Pauline Cove and a Orvis Western Three Fly Rod. Sponsored by Orvis.

A Snowbee Diamond 4 piece Rod (provisional)

A Flylogic (U.S.A.) FLP Disc Drag Reel. Sponsored by St. Georges Sporting.

A Sportfish £50 voucher. Sponsored by Sportfish.

A Day Boat With Two Tickets. Sponsored by Eyebrook Trout Fishery.

A Cortland Whisper Flyline Sponsored by Masterline.

Two Crowood Press Books. Sponsored by Crowood.

A Guideline 4 Cast Fly line. Sponsored by Guideline.

A Day Ticket For Elinor Trout Fishery. Sponsored by Edward Foster. Richard Wheatley have kindly donated four fly boxes.

**So, not only an unusual and a great day at an attractive venue but an opportunity of paying your respects to one of the truly great modern fly fishermen in a manner in which no doubt he would have fully approved.**

**Please contact Dave Oates on 07769 309 440, after 7pm please, or email on [daveoates@msn.com](mailto:daveoates@msn.com) to register. Any further offers of prizes or donations will be gratefully received.**