

fly fishing club, cambridge.

President: Norman Shippey <normanshippey@btinternet.com>; Chairman Lawson Wight <lawson@camsweep.co.uk>; Treasurer Alan Prevost <alan@prevost.net>
Secretary/Newsletter Editor Peter Reeves <piscator2003@yahoo.co.uk> tel: 01223 511992.
Bookings officer John Caldwell <john.caldwell@mad.scientist.com> tel: 07956 275485.
Affiliated to the **Angling Trust**, and the Federation of Midlands Fly Fishers (Anglia)

Website: www.invictaffc.org.uk



KILLER SHRIMP FOUND AT GRAFHAM WATER

An invasive species of shrimp, commonly known as the 'killer shrimp' has been found at Grafham Water reservoir in Cambridgeshire. This is the first time the shrimp has been found in this country.

Two keen-eyed anglers spotted the unusual shrimp on Friday 3 September and sent samples to the Environment Agency for identification. Once the shrimp was identified as possibly being *Dikerogammarus villosus*, the Environment Agency worked quickly with Anglian Water to put precautionary biosecurity measures in place.

The shrimp is a voracious predator (hence its common name of 'killer shrimp'). It kills a range of native species, such as freshwater invertebrates, particularly native shrimps and even young fish. This alters the ecology of the habitats it invades. It often kills its prey and leaves it uneaten. It tends to dominate the habitat, sometimes causing the extinction of native species. Insects such as damselflies and water boatmen, common sights on British lakes and rivers, could be at risk, with knock-on effects on the species which feed on them. It has spread across most of Western Europe over the last 10 years. It can be as small as 3mm but may grow up to 30mm long, much larger than our native freshwater shrimp. An expert in Holland has conclusively identified the species.

Defra Minister, Richard Benyon said: 'I am extremely concerned to hear that this highly invasive species has been found in Britain. Anglian Water has acted quickly to put biosecurity measures in place and the Environment Agency is working hard to establish the extent of the problem and what action may need to be taken. We need to do everything we can to protect our native wildlife and young fish from the potential damage the killer shrimp can cause.'

The shrimp could have arrived at Grafham in a variety of ways, including boating, angling, fish-stocking or naturally via birds. Dr Paul Leinster, Chief Executive of the Environment Agency, said:



'We are devastated that this shrimp has been found in Britain, and very grateful to the keen-eyed anglers who found it. We are currently establishing the degree of the problem, and whether the shrimp is only in Grafham Water or if it is in nearby lakes and the Great Ouse as well.'

Ciaran Nelson from Anglian Water said: 'We have put precautionary biosecurity measures in place around Grafham Water as containing the shrimp is of paramount importance. We are also assisting with investigations to establish if it is already more widespread. The presence of this species poses no risk to the quality of drinking water supplies.' We are asking all water users at Grafham to take the actions asked of them on-site. This includes checking their equipment for shrimp when they leave the water and removing any that they find. They should also ensure their equipment is thoroughly cleaned and dried before it is put into any other water. Subject to these controls, recreational activities on the reservoir can continue.'

Water users from Grafham wanting more information on the measures they should take can contact Anglian Water on: 08457 91 91 55, or via www.anglianwater.co.uk.

If you think you have seen an unusual shrimp, please email a photograph to alert_nonnative@ceh.ac.uk for identification.

Quite clearly this most unwelcome illegal immigrant presents serious problems to the established ecology of our lakes ponds, rivers and streams with most severe consequences if this should become widely spread.

We can do little to curtail the free movement of wild water birds but we can all act in a manner to ensure that we are not responsible for a major catastrophe.

GWFFA on their website gives a code of practice to combat this potential national menace and it seems prudent to me to reproduce this advice here.

“We strongly urge club member to follow the instructions here to help Anglian Water to ensure that the Fishery remains open.

BANK ANGLERS - on arrival at Grafham Water you must register that you are bank fishing by phone or in person 01480 810531. When the tackle shop is closed register with the Duty Warden on 07801 574683. Before departing you must return the the fishing lodge bio-security point, so that all of your equipment

(waders, line tray, net bag etc.) can be hosed down. The Duty Warden will then sign you off as able to leave the site. No bank fishing prior to 08.00 am and all bank anglers to be back at the lodge by the prevailing boat-in time to allow washing off before dark. When the boats are off the water this season anglers will be advised of the time to be back.

BOAT ANGLERS - You will be automatically registered at the lodge when you collect your boat number. Drogues and nets will be provided and you must not use your own. On return to the pontoon you will be directed to the bio-security point so that the remainder of your equipment (boots, bass bag etc.) can be hosed down. The Duty Warden will then sign you off as able to leave the site.”

This inconvenience and shortened bank fishing time is regretted but anglers will appreciate the reason for these additional procedures and will no doubt wish to full co-operate given the unimaginable possible consequences to our native aquatic species

invicta calendar of forthcoming events 2010/2011

Oct 14th	FLY TYING FOR THOSE WHO DON'T - Peter Reeves.	Harston Village Hall	7.45 for 8 pm
Oct 28th	FISHING ADVENTURES -Rob Waddington.	Harston Village Hall	7.45 for 8 pm
Nov 11th	FISHING HERE & THERE - John Krailing.	Harston Village Hall .	7.45 for 8 pm
Nov. 13th	ELINOR 'Fur & Feather' Bank fishing event.		8.30 for 9 am
Nov. 25th	REPRESENTING ANGLERS & THE FUTURE - David Moore.	Harston V/Hall	7.45 for 8 pm
Dec 9th	LOCH FISHING - Lawson Wight & Peter Reeves.	Harston Village Hall	7.45 for 8 pm
Jan 13th	COMPETITION FISHING - Graham Pearson.	Harston Village Hall	7.45 for 8 pm
Jan 27th	THIS COACHING LIFE - Peter Hartley.	Harston V/illage Hall	7.45 for 8 pm
Feb 10th	RECENT SUCCESSES, TRENDS & TACKLE - Simon Kidd.	Harston V/ Hall	7.45 for 8 pm
Feb 24th	INVICTA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.	Harston Village Hall	7.45 for 8 pm
Feb 26th	INVICTA ANNUAL DINNER.	Red Lion Hotel, Buckden.	7.45 for 8 pm
Mar 10th	PAST & FUTURE - John Mees of Anglian Water.	Harston Village Hall	7.45 for 8 pm
Mar 24th	INTER-CLUB QUIZ NIGHT. Mayhem again.	Harston Village Hall	7.45 for 8 pm

*******Please note that some meeting dates have been amended*******

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



SHARE YOUR GOOD FORTUNE WITH OTHER FLY FISHERMEN & PROMOTE INVICTA

Raise the Club's profile and 'come out' to let others know that you are a member of **the** elite Invicta club - surely the Country's premier friendly fly fishing asylum! In their infinite wisdom your committee have produced a distinctive and devastatingly attractive self clinging widow sticker for your car windscreen, back window or tackle shop window, door etc.

Your treasurer is even now distributing these objets d'art **free of charge** (yes, you did not mis-read that) to members at winter meetings. Well, the first one is free - those wealthy members who run second cars or fleets can obtain extra stickers at £1.50 each inclusive of postage & packing. If you do not flock in to attend the winter meetings you can send a stamped addressed envelope when renewing your subscription for 2011 and request your sticker - provided you have not already received one that is.

The object of all this unprecedented largesse is not only to show how discerning you all are but to encourage less fortunate individuals to share Invicta membership and the massive advantages that go with it. Should you have friends, neighbours or acquaintances that enjoy our sport and for some inexplicable reason are not already members, please draw attention to what we offer and get them to contact our membership secretary (Alan Prevost) by phone or via our website, to rectify their lamentable under-privileged status immediately. Payments received now cover the remainder of this year plus all of 2011.



Should you not be able to wait for your free copy, you can always renew your subscription for 2011 early - still only a miserly £17.00 per year - well, we know how 'careful' some of you can be, specially those emanating from Yorkshire. I understand that our kind hearted and non-rapacious treasurer does not bank cheques for 2011 renewals until after the New Year so why wait?

A word about these self-cling new stickers. They work best applied wet (spray or dip in a bowl or saucer of water) Apply to the desired area, re-position whilst wet then gently using a credit card as a squeegee, smooth out any air bubbles then leave for 2 hours to dry out. Then it only requires you to park prominently. Small (A4) posters are also available if you wish.



....TO BE A PILGRIM - PUT A SONG IN YOUR HEART!



Those who have taken part in the tripartite 'International Pilgrimage' event in the past will certainly sit up and take notice. Those who have not are missing out on a very sociable and enjoyable annual get together.

With origins lost in the mists of time and in bars of various licenced premises, the pilgrimage consists of fortunate members of three clubs, Llanilar from Wales, Leslie from Scotland and Invicta representing England.

This motley collection meet up every year at one of several favoured destinations to fish for pleasure with each other and culminates in an international competition between the three

clubs with the apparent connivance of enabling the Welsh contingent to claim victory and ensuring that Invicta has a long standing right to claim third place.

It is all good natured and great fun and co-ordinated this year by Bob Ayres.... (yes, that Bob Ayres.) The dates for this year are 23rd to 27th May fishing AW waters with the 'International' at Grafham on Friday 27th May with a celebratory dinner.

For more details contact Bob Ayres on 01223 526480 mobile 07747 002383 or e-mail bobjen.ayres@virginmedia.com - you will not regret it!

INVICTA FORTUNES IN THE 2010 SERIES A.M.F.C. EVENTS.



Invicta A team presented with the Queen Mother Bowl for the heaviest bag recorded in the Association of Major Flyfishing Clubs Autumn Match in which 18 teams took part*.

Although Invicta A had an excellent result in the AMFC Autumn Match as shown above, 2010 was in general not a particularly memorable year in so far as results went.

Invicta A team in group 3, despite some notable individual performances throughout the season, finished a creditable 3rd out of the 5 teams competing in that group. The Invicta B team in group 4 once again managed to secure the final place in the lowest group. Not the result they were aiming for but you have to admit they are the most consistent team in the competition in so far as final placings are concerned. Next year maybe lads.

Clearly both teams have scope for improvement in the 2011 series and Graham Williams, our Club Captain, is seeking to raise the teams in the results table in future. In this he needs a pool of committed and reliable individuals on whom to call. So if you have made your mark in competitions or would like to, please contact Graham as early as possible to record your interest and willingness to take part in future successes. His mobile number is 07831 198554 and his e-mail address is graham.williams@transvent.co.uk.

(*That is 17 teams defeated by Invicta A)



INVICTA ANNUAL DINNER & TROPHY PRESENTATIONS FOR 2011.

The ever popular annual event for good food in good company, watching the 'usual suspects' collect their silverware is scheduled for 2011 at the Lion Hotel, Buckden once again (7.30 for 8.00 pm) on Saturday 26th February. Relinquishing the organisation for this February Festival, Norman Shippey hands back the reins to the Rev. Bob Ayres, who will be tempting your tastebuds with menus later - and who will doubtless be delivering his customary (very dodgy) sermon on the night. Bob may possibly be supported once again by Sister Brenda Prevost from, one believes, a nautical order. Watch this space folks and put in your diaries now!

ON THE FLY.....

One of the joys in fishing any large area of well established water is not knowing what you will contact next.... or when!

Sometime perfectly rational coarse fish can unexpectedly grab our flies without any apparent reason. Now what makes them do that I wonder?

A case in point is Chris. McLeod (seen right) brandishing a bream in excess of 12 lb caught on a nymph (in the mouth he claims) off the seat at Grafham. Not a totally unique event, I caught a similar bream many years ago off the dam at Grafham to a small muddler - but not common either. What makes these fish suddenly take leave of their senses? Chris will no doubt claim a superbly presented nymph fished with consummate skill but methinks there is more involved and am puzzled as to what it may be. Some time ago I took maybe 8 roach on an Ivens Brown & Green nymph off the mouth of Savages Creek one evening but not one before or since in 45 year of fly fishing- why? Meantime if you have any experiences &/or photos of non-game fish taken on a fly.... why not share them?



A GREAT OPPORTUNITY FOR INVICTA MEMBERS & OTHERS.

Mind blowing opportunities are not too common and never have been. Rarity has an especial appeal that confers often uncomfortable costings but now I believe that I can put before you an unexpected and totally satisfying fishing opportunity that you may cherish for the rest of your lives on a probably quite affordable basis.

Bold words but can I back them up? I firmly believe that I can and that I may earn your gratitude for some time to come. What is this you may ask... and if you don't ask, what is wrong with you?

Well, a couple of years ago at the difficult end of the season a young and personable student of Entomology (that is insects not languages or Mummies!) applied for Invicta membership and asked about local fishing. I was intrigued by the fact that he was a member of the Bulgarian International Fly Fishing Team and noted via the internet his (many) successes. I invited him to accompany me to Whittle lake for a few hours fishing. I was then treated to a master class of casting and fishing under less than favourable

circumstances. Stan is without doubt on top of the game. Subsequently Stan has proved himself **the** most impressive fly tying exponent at our winter meetings by a **huge** margin. Stan is not just a good fly tyer and fly fisherman...he is internationally acclaimed as a skilled and innovative fly tyer and for his fishing prowess in both rivers and lakes. The midland reservoirs came as a novelty to him as did fishing from boats. Having completed his course at Cambridge alongside which he found time to qualify as a flyfishing he has set up a destination fishing package initiative.

Details of this are given in his new website mankovflyfishing.com. I commend this site to you as very well worth a look.

I don't know how many members have fished in Bulgaria - not very many I would guess. Maybe with sufficient interest an Invicta group may be formed for 2011. I would be very happy to coordinate interest should this be the case. Meantime though, give your imagination a treat and take a look at the website. Mouthwatering!

MEMBERS PROFILE NO.17 - THE EDITOR INTERVIEWS ANDY LINWOOD.

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

AL- Aged about 12. My mates and I used to get a lift to Rhee Valley and Shepreth Pit. We caught the bus to Hauxton, fishing the mill pool and below the A10. I caught my first trout in Hauxton mill pool on ledgered lobworm. It weighed 1lb 3oz!.

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

AL-My first fish on a fly was caught below the A10. A dace on a blue dun, fished using a match rod. Every Spring we used to cycle to Melbourn/Shepreth, fishing for the wild brownies. Starting on Melbourn roadside, I used to catch trout in the tunnels next to the road.

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

AL- Fish were quite plentiful all the way to Meldreth. All returned, all on freelined lobworm. I remember keeping two fish caught just above Meldreth Railway Bridge, 1lb 12oz each.

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

AL - The variety. I own rods from 7½' 3 weight to 9' 11 weight. I fish from small brooks to the ocean.

PR - What is your preferred method of fly fishing?

AL - To catch rising fish and to spot, cover and catch fish in the shallow seas.

PR - Do any other species than trout interest you?

AL - Love bonefishing. (Caught 44 in 4 days this year). All self guided, every fish caught spotted. Fished for tarpon this year. Caught my first on the fly, about 20lb.

PR -Where would be your dream fishing venue?

AL - Already fished them. Rivers, reservoirs, the Caribbean.

PR - Do you have any unfulfilled fishing ambitions?

AL - I would like to fish for bass. Time and distance make it difficult!



PR - Has the attraction of fishing been constant?

AL -Already fished them. Rivers, reservoirs, the Caribbean.

PR - What was your most memorable fishing experience?

AL- A few come to mind. 8lb 1oz Grafham Rainbow on a dry from a boat. 9lb 1oz Hen Brownie from the bank on a hares ear. 7lb chub from the Ouse. 15lb barbel from the Ouse.

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

AL- Predation, cormorants and more importantly, the otter. Decimation of fish stocks by this ruthless killer.

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

AL- This season I have joined the Upper Witham to fish for trout and grayling. My first visit in May fly time produced 15 brownies to 15".

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

AL - I have been an Invicta member for approximately 20 years. I have enjoyed meeting lots of characters and attending the Annual Dinners!



The editor muses on random aspects of fly fishing.

I can remember the early days of the Reservoir Revolution which opened up fly fishing to the 'great unwashed.' It immediately appealed to some of the army of coarse fishermen, especially in their close season and drew also upon the brook and chalk stream brigade of the retired military.

Then if we wanted to fish and had not remembered to book a boat a month or so earlier you set you very early to get a good spot on the bank, such was the pressure and interest. Getting into the close ranks of wading anglers at a decent spot even at waters such as Grafham was not easy. Learning curves were steep both in technique and tackle and both areas were fast developing. Clubs were formed as mutual support mechanisms and to add extra interest, competitions became part of the scene.

Nowadays those numbers seemed to have thinned out considerably and of the survivors, the average age seems to have climbed dramatically. Where are our younger replacements?

Well, very limited involvement with today's youngsters show they live in a very different world of TV, X-boxes....and protection. They are most definitely not encouraged to discover their environment, understand nature, go bird nesting etc. and are given safer things like electronic toys to play with instead, unlike my own generation who knew and appreciated the real world. I am not decrying child protection, there are some very strange people about and

they are not all holding fly rods. I suppose there always were but in the war years like most of the adult male population they would have been dressed in khaki or blue and sent on a prolonged government sponsored life-threatening tour. Nevertheless, today's young appear to be missing out on a whole dimension of life.

Deprived of their natural heritage through media enhanced parental concerns, we have a generation largely without knowledge of the delights of nature and of field sports. They even are vague as to where their food originates from. Unless we can put them back in touch our own sport will wither. Originally all of the Reservoir Revolutionaries were 'pleasure' anglers but we all have a natural competitive streak and youngsters are not in any way immune to this. Competition fishing is after all pleasure fishing with extra discipline and under the circumstances probably the best way to attract the interest of our young replacements - 'sport' and 'league' being so closely intertwined. Given the myriad of other distractions plus the difficulty of cost, time, transport etc. it is not going to be easy. We must all recognise and salute the excellent work of organisations such as the English Youth Flyfishing Association, Angling Development Board and Angling Trust in promoting active interest and support but don't we all have some individual responsibility for our sport and in engaging others in it? Do your bit and help others and if you are not in a position to do this, support organisations like E.Y.F.A. who can, you can contact them to find out how via www.eyfa.co.uk.

FLY TYING - Everything you wanted to know but were afraid to ask!

Not being blessed with undue intelligence, I am once again offering to host fly tying groups during the winter period. Those with an interest in 'rolling their own' are invited to contact me to register their interest for the coming winter period and to state their current level i.e, total beginner, failed beginner, intermediate or advanced as mixing different ability levels is not always successful. Timings of these meetings can be flexible to suit and are of course totally free of charge.

Thanks to the generosity of Derek Frost you may not even need tools or materials as some of these are going begging! Contact me by e-Mail - peter.reeves@yahoo.co.uk or phone 01223 511992.

CARR CUP 2010 - and the winner is.....

Mark Searle, who I understand is no stranger to this particular piece of hardware.

This award is for consistent performances on Invicta's summer trips and reflects also loyal support for these events. Well done Mark!

Should any of you not be familiar with Mark he is pictured left, confusingly in the garb of Clan McLeod and clearly already in celebratory mode.

Tell us Mark.... is the bulge in the pockets of that jacket caused by conkers?



LAST CAST.... & FASHION NOTES.



Invicta's indefatigable fashion guru (Chris McLeod) who brought us that fetching matching ensemble of Orange caps and bright blue shirts, feels that he has discovered the perfect waders to get Invicta members admired ... well noticed. I believe that he has been experiencing difficulty in locating fluorescent lime green trousers to complete the outfit - can you help?