

## fly fishing club. cambridge.

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

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



### INVICTA 'A' TEAM TRIUMPHANT IN ROUND 3 GROUP 3 OF AMFC COMP.



Upstaged by the 'B' team in round one, the 'A' team took top slot in very blustery conditions at Rutland on 29th June. The smiling heroes of the day are (l to r), Alan Taylor, John Mees, Mike Smith, John Caldwell, Mark Searle and John Brownbridge. Don't they look smart? For full report on this momentous victory see page three.

#### [www.invicta.org.uk](http://www.invicta.org.uk) How often do you use the website?

The Invicta website is well established and well run, constantly updated and is a very valuable resource.

Details of club meetings and events are clearly displayed but one would obviously expect that. If you are not aware, one can also access fishery news and weekly Anglian Water fishing reports. The site also boasts a picture gallery, archives of the Newsletters and winter meeting speakers reports, trophy winners, details of the Ron Asby library (open for members use), a helpful pdf library and a message board for registered members use.

In addition there are many useful links to other organisations including a five day weather report and the extremely useful UK wind map.

The site is well used, looking at it today I note that it has received 8,116 'hits' to date. You may care to up this 'hit rate' yourselves by using it more frequently.

The web site is maintained by our member 'webmaster' Colin Brett and we would wish to acknowledge this facility and thank Colin for his truly excellent work in fashioning and maintaining this facility for the benefit of all.

## invicta calendar of forthcoming events 2008

Sep.6th	RAVENSTHORPE Choice of partners. Carr cup points apply	8.30 for 9 am.
Sep.14th	AMFC round 5 CHEW VALLEY Organised by Royal Navy/Royal Marines	tba
Sep.17th	BEWL BRIDGE FC 'GRAND MAX' FLOATING LINE COMPETITION	tba
Oct. 4th	AMFC RUTLAND WATER. Autumn Association Match (John Caldwell.)	tba
Oct, 7th	HANNINGFIELD. Choice of partners. Carr cup points apply	8.30 for 9 am
Oct. 12th	AMFC FUN DAY at EYEBROOK.	tba
Oct, 16th	STEVE SKUCE (GRAYLING SOCIETY). Harston Village Hall	7.45 for 8 pm
Oct, 30th	INTERNATIONAL FLY TYING. Stanislav Mankov demonstrates at Harston VH	7.45 for 8 pm
Nov. 13th	The ever popular MICK BEWICK. Mick makes an overdue return to Harston.	7.45 for 8 pm
Nov. 27th	BRIAN MARSHALL. Keeping Salmon and Trout in our rivers. Harston V.Hall	7.45 for 8 pm
Dec. 11th	INVICTA DESTINATION FISHING & XMAS SOCIAL. Harston Village Hall.	7.45 for 8 pm

### BOB BROOKS

It is with great regret that we have the report the sudden death following a short illness on 24th June of Bob Brooks. Bob was a very popular and well known figure in fly fishing circles locally, a recent Invicta member but member of GWFFA for many years. A very able fly fisherman and field sports enthusiast, Bob will be missed by the many that knew him and fished with him as he was always excellent company with a cheery countenance and friendly manner. His demise was premature and rapid - he had been on the water with Invicta only this spring so it was a shock to all of us to lose an ideal member. Our sympathy and best wishes are extended to his wife Jane and family.

### WINTER MEETINGS

Oh dear, it is fast approaching that time of year again. Low light levels, early dark nights, low temperatures, mist and fog and idiots chuntering on about the number of shopping days to Christmas.

However there are compensations, one is the emergence again of winter Grayling fishing for those fortunate enough to have access to it. Another is the start of the celebrated Invicta winter meetings. The meetings are held every second thursday at Harston Village Hall (ample free parking) at 7.45 for 8.00 pm. Our first meeting is on Thursday 16th October and will combine both of the winter compensations as our first speaker will be Steve Skuce of the Grayling Society.... so a perfect opportunity for you to find out more about this fascinating branch of the sport. Don't miss it - make a note in your diary NOW!

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR (...Yes, some people do respond to me, why don't you?)

Dear Peter  
As usual - a very good newsletter. (*Number 143 - last issue (Ed.)*)  
The commercially tied" Stick Fly depicted was in fact called a "Baddow" and besides being very effective at Grafham was in fact tied for Hanningfield and tied with a white or badger hackle "up front" - Great Baddow being a village close to that fishery. The other one shown is a genuine stick!

We had both Nigel & Mick Huffer. Both very good. Sorry, that, when I came to speak to you two years ago I was just recovering from a bout of flu.  
Kindest regards  
John Wadham  
(*John is Secretary of Rutland Water Fly Fishers*)



## COMPETITION NEWS

### ANGLIAN WATER/FULLING MILL

Well, regrettably the Invicta team did not progress through to the next round so you will hear very little more about that except that Iain Barr's team, Guideline Rutland Raiders did and went on to win the Northern final at Rutland in grand style.

### THE AMFC GROUP 3 ROUND 3 AT RUTLAND SUNDAY 29TH JULY

Well, however I thought this match would start, I did not expect it to be with me watching the RN Marine in the sharp end of the boat applying his lipstick! Mind you, it was that white stuff beloved by cricketers. With very little sun in evidence I thought the sun cream was a bit over the top also but he clearly knew what he was doing. Al, the aforementioned marine, was keen that I should follow his colleague at the start 'who had a good day the day before.' Well, as he was heading towards the Fantasy Island area of the bowl where local info suggested the fish were, I was more than happy to oblige - this being the third time in about 4 years that I had fished Rutland. The wind at this point was quite brisk and blustery and light line control allied to partner safety called for difficult and tiring casting adaptation. As we approached the no-go area in front of the dam my partners slow sink line went straight and as I was about to offer congratulations I realised that an impudent rainbow was savaging my red holographic Diawl Bach offered on a floater.

So it was to continue with us each taking a fish more or less at the same time and proceeding equally. Well more or less as I was fishing more. Al was a busy lad with a box full of spare spools and he seemed to always want to try another one and his fly changes came thick and fast also. I was content to continue with my floater with the Diawl Bach and an Alexandra on the dropper. By mid-day Al had 5 and I had 4 in the boat and everything seemed to go dead, except the wind and waves which were getting more of a problem. We tried different areas of the bowl to no avail. By mid afternoon we decided that we were wasting our time and decided to move to Normanton bay which took us a long time motoring against the waves. Not a touch there despite me finally changing to a Di something. After interminable battering there we decided to seek sheltered water adjacent to the sailing club. Well, that was a marathon voyage at the speed we took to avoid shipping too much water and indeed it was agreeably more sheltered but apparently fishless. Not that I was too bothered by that as I spent all

my time trying to sort a tangle which was self-perpetuating in the wind. Not having sorted it half an hour or so later, Al and I both agreed that as it was starting to rain, we should run for cover. I felt guilty at quitting 15 minutes early until turning into the harbour and realising that we were one of the last boats to return. Fortunes it seemed were very mixed but the most successful claimed that slow sink lines and bright blobs, rapidly retrieved were the answer. Mind you Al had been doing that for much of the time and was only a little ahead of myself using a floater and 'proper' flies. He was right about the sun cream though, I did end up with a very red face! (See photo on page 1)

### RESULTS.

1. Invicta A	76 lbs 0½ oz
2. RM/Navy	67 lbs 2½ oz
3. Army B	39 lbs 4 oz
4. Crawley	30 lbs 8 oz
5. Invicta B	27 lbs 7 oz
Best Bag Baz Reece	21lbs 3¾ oz
Best Brown Rob Jackson	2 lbs 12¾ oz
Best Rainbow John Mees	4 lb 3¼ oz

#### INVICTA A

John Caldwell	4 lbs 6½ oz
Mark Searle	18 lbs 14½ oz
John Mees	15 lbs 13¾ oz
Alan Taylor	17 lbs 9¾ oz
Mike Smith	2 lbs 2½ oz
John Brownbridge	17 lbs 1½ oz

#### INVICTA B

Paul Stevens	3 lbs 12 oz
Ian Wilson	7 lbs 10 oz
Alan Prevost	-----
Kieran Caulfield	6 lbs 4 oz
Peter Reeves	8 lbs 13 oz
Oscar Boatfield	-----

### GWFFA INTER-CLUB FLOATING LINE COMPETITION

Sunday 6th July saw this notable annual event staged at a rather breezy and damp Grafham Water. However the conditions were not a dampener on the enjoyment of the day as the flotilla roared out of the harbour at 10.00 faced with receptive fish, apparently over most of the water. 301 prime fighting Grafham fish were netted and at least as many more contacted and lost. Being restricted to floating lines only was most definitely no handicap and at the weigh in and meal I understood that most anglers, like me, found that Diawl Bachs in their various forms were most successful but when this wind dropped all too briefly I found to my delight that dry flies worked like magic. It seemed too that sparkler

boobies were effective in the hands of some especially in the area round the boil, or so I was informed.

In the end Invicta fielded 10 competitors, 3 of whom were juniors who had a good day and acquitted themselves very well. In fact Ryan Worker who scored Invicta's only maximum bag, was joint recipient of the Best Boat award and, as his boat partner duly acknowledged, was instrumental in him achieving top bag weight by pointing the way. Well done Ryan, a great achievement. Ryan pictured here in his blue Invicta shirt receiving his award, is only 14 years old yes, that is not a misprint, despite looking remarkably like Will Carling in his hey day! It seems to me that the enthusiasm and ability of the Invicta junior and other younger members could well revitalise our competition situation in the future. GWFFA also shares in this investment in the future as I was partnered with young Matt Holdroyd who outscored me and was fresh from a successful English Youth qualifying event the previous day. Matt not only was clearly more than competent but was constantly quizzing me on all matters of technique, approach, entomology and aspects of the water anxious to ever learn more. I only hope I was of some help to him.

*Picture (above right) shows Mark Haycock (centre) and Ryan Worker (right) collecting their trophies for 'best boat' from GWFFA's Peter Hartley.*



- 1 GWFFA (46 fish - 115 lbs 11 Oz)
- 2 RWFF/ELFA (45 fish - 100 lbs 1 oz)
- 3 MID-NORTHANTS FF (37 fish - 92 lbs 13 oz)
- 4 INVICTA (35 fish 70 lbs 10 oz)
- 5 EDFD (30 fish 70 lbs 10 Oz)

Heaviest Bag Mark Haycock Mid-Northants(23 lbs 13 oz)

Heaviest Fish Hilary Tomlinson RWFF/ELFA (5 lbs 7 oz)

Best Boat Ryan Worker Invicta/Mark Haycock Mid-Northants (16 fish - 40 lbs 9 oz)

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## INVICTA MEMBER IS TOP ROD AT GRAFHAM WATER EVENT



Invicta honorary member, David Moore who retired from Anglian Water in June 2007 after 30 years as Recreation Officer fished for the England Fly Fishers against the Professionals at Grafham Water in June.

David proved on that occasion that he does not just know about fisheries management but can do his bit with a rod catching the fish also. He took the Top Rod position on the day with a very creditable 8 fish weighing in at 16 lbs 10 oz.

Not content with that he also caught the best fish of the day (being triumphantly brandished here) a superb over-wintered rainbow specimen of 4 lbs 13 oz.

Congratulations David on what many would view as a truly excellent day's fishing and it is good to see that you are not wasting a well earned 'retirement.' David is still involved with fisheries activities with the Fisheries and Angling Conservation Trust (F.A.C.T.) which seeks to unify the various British angling groups under one umbrella and with one voice, loud enough to be heard even by our deaf Government.

Photo courtesy of Richard Slater and Anglian Water.

## FAVOURITE FLIES - From your Secretary (..... yet again!)

This was originally intended to be a series where members shared their favourite patterns. However, apart from our chairman, members do not seem to have favourites or if they do they intend keeping them secret as nobody else has responded. So it looks as though you are stuck with mine until such time perhaps as someone whimsically suggests a Blob of some outlandish hues Ha! Ha! This issue sees an interview with Mike 'Black Gnat' Smith and whilst bearing not the slightest resemblance to Mike's version in size, colour or function, mine at least, is a good dry pattern to imitate many small dark flies.

I like to use Steve Parton's Micro thread because it is truly superb. I can use as many turns as I like without bulk, one colour suits all as it is so thin, it is strong and it has little tendency to fray when used with a Rite bobbin holder, I use it for tiny patterns or for Muddlers and it is tremendous value. I tie a lot of flies and my current bobbin has already lasted about two years, has produced many hundreds of flies (maybe thousands) and still is well loaded.

Take the waxed thread from starting point near the hook eye in touching turns to a point above the barb. Apply a small amount of suitable dark dubbing (I use Uncle Jack's superfine floating dubbing) tease out a tiny amount in your fingers. If you can see it clearly you have too much, a seemingly invisible amount is just right and take it to a point half way along the body. Then tie in the post, polypropylene yarn is good as is a bunch of CDC plumes but I have discovered 'Aerowing' from Tiemco which is absolutely brilliant



Half way there, back half of the dubbed body applied and the 'Aerowing' post tied in ready to accept the lateral wound hackle from a point just above the hook shank spiralling down to the shank

at floating. White is good but under some light conditions a darker colour is more visible. The post is about a inch (2.5 cms for the younger element) long tied in at the centre on top of the hook. Take a few turns round, lift up both ends and take a few turns of thread round the base just above the hook shank to form a single vertical column. Then tie in a black hackle, for choice from a genetic saddle cape. These do not come cheap for top grade but the fly illustrated is one of 16 flies tied to this pattern from a single hackle... yes, really. Anyway once tied in take turns round the (held) post spiraling slowly down until you have sufficient turns just above the shank, tie in (by lifting the hackle between the post and the hook eye, dub the remainder of the body with the merest suggestion of dubbing, whip finish the head, stroke down the hackles over the top of the hook shank and cut of the post to the desired length.

You will now have a superb floating pattern which is improved by treating with 'Watershed'. Does it work on Reservoirs? Yes it will work anywhere, the illustrated fly is tied on a size 18 Tiemco 900BL (barbless) hook but I suppose those members who habitually use 12 lbs bs tippets may experience difficulty getting it through the eye.... try it on a size 14 or 12 but remember gnats are not generally that big and big is rarely beautiful in fly patterns! This pattern is of course very similar to a Klinkhammer which is an emerger with the post tied much more forward for the body to fish 'damp' but this is more parachute style centre positioned to float on an even keel and no more trouble to dress than a Bl★b.



The finished fly with horizontally applied hackle, front part of the body lightly dubbed, hackle stroked down the the shank and the wing post trimmed to the desired length - enough to see but not too much to overbalance or catch too much wind.

**MEMBER'S PROFILE No. 12 - Mike 'Black Gnat' Smith interviewed by Peter Reeves.**

PR - Mike, do you remember when you first started fishing?  
MS- Like many of us, catching sticklebacks in the local drain. I'm not sure when I first started using rod and line but certainly at a very young



Mike 'lunching' on Lough Corrib and dreaming of massive hatches of Black Gnats

age. My father and uncles were all keen fishermen so I was indoctrinated early in life. My first memories are of catching perch and dabs (yes, dabs) in a pond at Welton near Hull.

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

MS- The first trout I caught were in Co. Clare, Ireland. On holiday I was sent down to the local river to catch trout on worms for breakfast. I first started fly fishing at Grafham in the early 1970's when the water opened on May 1st. I caught four trout on my first outing and thought it was easy. Little did I know!

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

MS- Not much fishing nearby - I lived in Hull. We used to travel to Newport about 17 miles away where there were several ponds and the Market Wrighton canal for coarse fishing. We used to cycle there with rods strapped to crossbar with tackle and food in the rucksack.

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

MS - I like the variety of methods and the activity compared to most coarse fishing. I used to think it was also the warm weather, gentle breezes and enormous fly hatches.

PR - What is your preferred method of fly fishing?

MS - I don't really have a favourite method - despite the popular belief I prefer sinking lines and lures. I get bored with any one method or approach after a while so I like to fish boats and bank, sinking lines and floaters etc.

PR - Do any other species than trout interest you?

MS - I will fish for any species, anywhere although I prefer fishing for trout and salmon.

PR -Where would be your dream fishing venue?  
MS - Bob's idea (see last issue) sounds enticing but if I had to stick to fishing it would be somewhere warm where fish are large and plentiful. Alaska in the summer for king salmon; Egypt for Nile perch.

PR - Do you have any unfulfilled

fishing ambitions?

MS - Not really. I have done most of the things I have ever wanted to. (*.....Lucky bloke - Ed.*)

PR - Has the attraction of fishing been constant?

MS - Without doubt. From a very young age fishing has always been my number one well, maybe number two interest.

PR - What was your most memorable fishing experience?

MS - Difficult to pick out one experience there have been so many but two in particular stand out. In the 1980's fishing at Grafham with John Rolf I hooked a double figure brownie which was lost at the net - the hook just came out and I could have wept as it slowly drifted away from the boat. The other more recent one was running about 100 yards along the bank of the Rio Grande trying to keep up with a sea trout which was again lost at the net (but not by me this time!)

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

MS - None at all!

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

MS - Downhill I suspect. I certainly tire more quickly these days so shorter spells and less activity. Who knows, maybe even back to coarse fishing at some stage?

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

MS - Very important - through the club I have made many new friends, fished new venues and learned new techniques etc.



## A HIGHLAND SAFARI - Peter Reeves drives 1300 miles for small wild brown trout

A never ending flow of rainbows is all very well but I have been looking forward to a return to roots and engaging with the beautifully marked highland wild brown trout. They may be smaller but make up for size in spirit and appearance and have never seen a hatchery or a pellet - and not many anglers either. Due to the change in structure of fishing arrangements at Drumbeg where I used to stay I opted for the hitherto untried Inchnadamph Hotel, idyllically situated on the western shore of Loch Assynt.

We arrived on a Sunday (a non-fishing day in the highlands) to find that we were expected a month later! This sort of misunderstanding seems to accompany me frequently. However, the proprietor, Richard McKendrick on reference to the records was duly assured that I had not totally lost my marbles (I think his first impression) and made us very welcome. Our room had one of the most spectacular and dynamic views one could wish for over the loch and was very comfortable. Two aspects of the hotel took us by surprise though. The food, which was excellent, was of truly gargantuan proportions to which we could never do justice and Richard did have a disconcerting habit of taking short cuts by vaulting over the bar... he will come to grief some day doing this!

We arrived in atypical highland weather, i.e. clear blue skies and hot! It transpired that they had not seen rain for 6 weeks but that was all about to change. Anyway we took a walk up the track to see the local caves with an underground river running though to stretch our legs and on the return were delighted to have a golden eagle, UK's largest raptor, pass low over our heads. The next day we planned a hike to the Gillaroo loch (Loch Maolach-coire), so called because of the belief that the Victorians had introduced the gillaroo trout from Ireland there. I think the name is derived from Gaelic and translates as 'the red fellow.' The weather forecast was for 40 mph winds with gusts up to 65 mph and.... rain! The forecast proved to be correct and, I think to Richard's surprise, we loaded up with our tackle, weatherproofs, lifejackets, map/compass, rollocks, flasks and food and set off with the instruction to return to the caves, climb the hill behind and continue on a compass bearing of due south. We quickly realised that we were both out of condition, not a huge surprise but eventually saw and reached the loch set in a hollow in the hills. Oddly enough the boat already had rollocks and after baling out we set off. With the wind speed the drift was very quick but the row back was not! In fact I worked hard at rowing to just stand still but



**Inchnadamph Hotel is situated at the western end of Loch Assynt - photo taken from hotel room window.**

struggled against the wind to return the boat to its moorings. Clearly bank fishing was indicated but Glynis prudently chose to spectate. However it was like fishing the dam at Grafham in an easterly gale. The back cast hit an invisible wall of air above the sheltering bank and forward cast completely at the mercy of the wind which in the ensuing turbulence slapped it down hard on the water. Being of somewhat unsound mind I struggled with a dry fly (F-fly) which when presented reasonably well was accepted immediately but eventually changed to wet flies (Kate McLaren on dropper and Poacher on the point.) They also worked well and after a few hours and ten or so fish I ran out of fishable bank. Unlike rainbows, brownies are territorial so it is more productive to keep moving as they are less likely to come to you. Given the wet and blustery conditions the prospect of the comfort of the hotel bar finally became irresistible and we set off for the hour trek back. As we approached the hotel I spotted a familiar looking pair of rollocks on the track - just as well the boat had some fitted already!

Having had our fill of walking, the next day we chose the roadside Loch Awe. However although the wind had moderated it was still more than difficult and as no bank fishing is allowed on this loch I returned to the car to find our chairman Lawson Wight and Gail chatting to Glynis having been blown off another loch and spotting my car. After a sandwich I took a short walk to the nearby Loch na Gruagaich. A lovely water with a pair of black throated divers in residence with apparently nothing to do and not concerned by me at all. Fishing from the rocky points was great fun and after 8 very lively fish found the prospect of the hotel bar again very inviting. We did return to fish Loch Awe later in the week and were again advised the best fishing



**A beautiful 'breakfast' brownie from Loch Awe**

was at the far end of the loch (- so why put the boats at the near end?) but found the reverse to be the case and ended up with a lot of fish but soaked to the skin in waterproofs which were not, at least under the prevailing horizontal rain conditions.

For some unknown reason I decided to fish the Corrie Loch (Loch Fleodach Coire) and was advised it was a very pleasant walk. 'Pleasant' in this case was a stiff uphill two hour struggle in full waterproofs but admittedly with spectacular views. I tackled up in beautiful warm sunshine and then cloud cover came over the hills, the wind picked up and temperature plummeted as the sleet started. My fingers were so cold I could not tie knots or change flies except with the greatest difficulty. Under these rather testing conditions I could manage only one fish but was thrilled at the sight of a male Merlin (UK's smallest raptor) only three miles (as the crow flies) or two hours hard walk from the spot we saw the eagle. Clearly the loch had potential for excellent fishing but not on that day.

With Loch Assynt just over the road from the hotel and about 5 miles in length, it was an ideal water to fish when the walking muscles were

howling protest and it had yielded a 10 lb salmon the day before we arrived, quite a handful on a light trout rod I imagine. It was surprisingly good for a roadside loch and I fished it on two days from the bank with 10+ fish each time, including one real beauty of just over 1 lb with the most exquisite markings and was not troubled with very small fish either. I was most impressed with the average size and fighting qualities of the fish of Loch Assynt. So was my return to the lochs of Sutherland successful? The answer has to be a resounding YES. I love the scenery, the botany, wildlife and the fishing. The ambience of the hotel was great and Richard and his partner Jaimie took great pains and worked hard to ensure all their guests got optimum results from their stay. Very, very highly recommended indeed.

***This year Invicta have a trip to the River San in Poland, maybe next year a group to Inchnadamph? Let me know if you are interested as I am happy to co-ordinate interest in trips.***



**The Corrie Loch.... whilst the sun shone... albeit briefly**



**Peter Reeves looks at how some of our Juniors are faring in competitive events..... and is loving it!**

I am not terribly good at biblical parables involving seed broadcast and some falling on stony ground. My working life was in the real world of seeds and stony ground was just not an option. I am however delighted to receive news from Bobbie Worker of some of our juniors recent exploits. Bobbie, mother of Ryan and Adam Worker and family friend of Kieran Bonas, pays testament to the philosophy and friendly encouragement and supportive help of the Invicta Tuesday Evening League in particular.

This has been a springboard to enhanced understanding with some really impressive outcomes. The very young juniors Adam Worker and Kieran Bonas have built on this assistance, in addition of course to their own inherent abilities

to achieve 2009 English Youth Team status. Well done lads and to those who offered advice & help.

Ryan Worker, who literally led the way in the GWFFA Floating Line Competition (see earlier item) competed in this years Youth International at Lough Conn in Ireland last week but unfortunately England did not do well (4th), fishing was very hard. Ireland 1st 6 fish 3.399kg, 2nd Wales 5 fish 2.185kg 3rd Scotland 5 fish 2.175kg and 4th England 1.780kg. Ryan was not lucky enough to qualify for 2009 but will try again next year. We simply cannot deny we have real talent in our juniors, not just those mentioned here and we only have a few! Again I urge all members, consider the future of our sport - do everything you can to help encourage the young... we all were once!