

fly fishing club, cambridge.

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SECOND SUCCESSIVE WIN FOR INVICTA IN INTER-CLUB FLOATING LINE TEAM EVENT



Well Invicta have long claimed that fun is important in our events and the all smiling faces certainly seem to reflect this. For the team situations this year clubs were divided up into teams of four and the victorious quartet shown here are the Invicta 'B' team (L to R - Simon Sells, Mick Facey, Gary How, & Kieran Caulfied) receiving their awards from Invicta chairman Lawson Wight. For full report see pages 2 & 3).

PRESIDENT'S CUP REPORT - GRAFHAM WATER 2010 - by Matt Willatt.

On Saturday 10th July 2010 11 anglers attended the annual Invicta boat trip to Grafham, fishing for the Presidents Cup. Reports had indicated that the reservoir was proving a little challenging – with such a fantastic first half of the season and an abundance of natural food, things had to balance out at some point. Graham Williams and Mark Searle had found fish in Savages creek early on – before the sun had peaked. Fish were showing on the surface with floating lines and red diawl bachs doing the business. When takes dried up the washing line was used with a small booby/ floating damsel to keep the flies at the correct depth. My only action of the day was a roaring take from a brown of 3lb 4 oz which took a black booby fished on the surface. My boat partner, Ian Wilson found two daphnia feeding trout including one rainbow of over 3 lb around L buoy on a Di7 at 10 ft deep on a black cormorant booby. (See Ian's booby pattern attached). Mark Searle finished as top rod with 7 fish for 14lb 5oz and Graham Williams a respectable second with 5 fish for 9lb-. Graham released an additional fish which was undersized

but still counts as an additional 5 points in the Carr Cup. So congratulations to Mark who wins the Presidents Cup and continues to deliver the results on tough days. (Thank you to Graham Williams for the results and to John Caldwell for organising the day.)



Small Eyed Cormorant Black Booby as tied and used successfully by Ian Wilson. The style and colour combinations are so 'this season.'

Invicta calendar of forthcoming events 2010/2011

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
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	REPRESENTING ANGLERS & THE FUTURE - David Moore. Harston V/Hall	7.45 for 8 pm
Nov. 13th	ELINOR 'Fur & Feather' Bank fishing event.	8.30 for 9 am
Nov 25th	FISHING HERE & THERE - John Krailing. Harston Village 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

*****Watch e-mails and newsletters for possible future changes to this schedule *****

*** BOB AYRES in the last newsletter invited members to contact him to register interest for future Pilgrimage events. For this or any other reason please note his NEW MOBILE is 07747 002383. ***

INTER-CLUB FLOATING LINE COMPETITION - CHRIS MC LEOD & ANGLIAN WATER

Invicta were asked to organise this event for 2010 when we won the match last year. We agreed and, with a few modifications, this annual fun get together was fished on Sunday 1st August.

46 anglers were organised into teams of up to 4, although strangely some were not apparently aware of this until they came off the water even though the conditions were widely circulated prior to the event and teams/boat pairings prominently declared at registration. This did not seem to matter though as the primary objective was to provide a match using only floating lines and promote the sport and the existing good relationships between clubs.

Boats spread out evenly at the off, but all within the western half of Grafham. Fishing had been indifferent so tactics varied, but nymphs and dries were the order of the day for most. Rods were slow to bend. Those that did soon straightened as lots of fish performed long distance catch and release accompanied by the odd tasteful expletive.

Some were doing quite nicely though. Fishing an ultra slow retrieve with washing line was working for Gary How with Booby on the point and 2 trailing red Diawl Bachs and on a team of Hoppers for Gordon Alleyne in another boat. Their scores gradually ticked over while others struggled. If you found a pod of fish they tended to have a go at the flies, although many experienced half-hearted takes. Fish just weren't responding to pulled flies, and most were actually empty. The prolific fly life had disappeared and the fry feeders were not in evidence. The odd splashy rise indicated that fish were about but what they were doing on the surface remained a mystery.

Mike Smith caught most appropriately on a Silver Invicta, which encouraged the ever enterprising Mark Brinkman to put on a team of them. No surprise then when he had a broad smile on his face as he told us what flies he had bagged up on.



Mixed team success for Best Boat - Mark Brinkman (GWFFA) & Lawson Wight.

The two other full bags were Gary and Gordon, with Gary's being the heaviest, so congratulations to him and to his team, Invicta B comprising Mick Facey, Simon Sells and Kieran Caulfield, for winning the team section of this match.

Two fish of 3lb 8oz were caught, one by Gary, but only one prize can be won. The 46 anglers competing in this match caught 1423 trout to give a rod average of 3.09 fish per rod. The victorious team on the was day (Invicta B) narrowly beating GWFFA D by 7oz. Top individual on the day was Gary How of Invicta B. Gary caught 8 trout weighing 16lb 12oz by drifting from Savages Creek to Hedge End with a tequila booby on the top dropper with two red diawl bachs behind. Award for the best fish on the day went to Mark Searle (Invicta - the 'G Buoys') a cracking over wintered Rainbow of 3lb 8oz matching Gary How's of the same weight in his Top Rod award.

- 1st Invicta B 18 fish for 35lb 3oz
- 2nd GWFFA D 18 fish for 34lb 12oz
- 3rd GWFFA A 16 fish for 30lb 2oz

The winners were each awarded an engraved souvenir trophy glass whisky tumbler (generously donated by Gary How) and a fly line donated by Snowbee, but subsequently we realised that there is a team trophy in existence so that will be engraved and placed in the new Invicta trophy cabinet which is now in the Grafham Lodge Harbour View Cafe.

Discussions and consultations are now in progress already regarding the progression of this popular and possibly unique event for the future and we are confident this enjoyable competition combining floating line use in conjunction with reservoir rules to encourage newcomers as well as 'usual suspects' on a selected invitation basis amongst regional like minded clubs will continue to become an unmissable get together for fly anglers to enjoy with possibly some expansion of dynamic ideas for added excitement and encouragement for extended participation. Watch this space folks.



A rather glum Lawson presenting a delighted Mark Searle with award for best fish.



Treasure this picture folks! A more cheerful Lawson presenting an astonished Mick Facey a trophy for winning the Invicta Tuesday Evening League in 2009 which the Committee had earlier concluded never actually existed.... until one of them discovered it in a cupboard having completely failed to remember putting it there many years earlier! My lips are sealed on who this 'memory' man was but apologies to Mick for the 6 months delay in presentation... you were lucky to see it at all!

EYFA SUCCESSFULLY DEFEND HOME INTERNATIONAL TITLE

Four Teams of fourteen anglers competed for the title of Home International Champions. England was seeking to defend their title following last years successful win at the Championships hosted by Wales.

Anglers must be aged 12yrs to 17yrs to have qualified to represent their country. Many successful senior anglers including the current World Fly Fishing Champion have benefited from the development, training and team spirit of the England Youth Fly-fishing Team and Association. The tension and excitement was electric at the gala dinner and prize giving ceremony at the base for the Championships at Wyboston Lakes Hotel, Bedfordshire.

Ahead of the Championships England were clear favourites given their impressive win last year in Wales, and the fact that Grafham Water is their home venue. Scotland were also considered to be close contenders for the title, whilst Ireland and Wales would have to put in an exceptional performance given that their teams were younger or less experienced in the tactics required on Europe's premier stillwater trout fishery.

On the day the weather proved to be changeable. A bright, sunny morning with light breeze did not bode well for a successful day's trout fishing, however as the day progressed the weather changed and it became overcast with a strong breeze blowing across the reservoir towards the south bank, leading to near ideal fishing conditions for Grafham Water. From 1630 onwards boats were congregating in the area off the Anglian Water Fishing Lodge furiously trying to catch more fish in the final minutes of the championships. Boats were jostling for the best drifts and being cautious not to be in breach of the regulations regarding the 100 metre exclusion form other boats and the entrance to the harbour. These drifts brought the boats down towards the large crowd gathered to welcome the competitors ashore and heightened the tension and excitement as it is impossible to know how the anglers have faired until they come ashore due to strict regulations concerning communications and a ban on the use of mobile phones in a match.

Following a very tense and physical day's fishing the competitors returned to the harbour and tied-up to the marina at 1700. There were great stories of lost fish and missed

opportunities, and many tired sighs of relief that the hard work was done and soon the results would be known.

The results of the 26th Youth Home International Fly Fishing Championships were announced at the Gala Dinner last night;

1st England
2nd Ireland
3rd Scotland
4th Wales

England won by a very impressive margin, the widest margin in memory for an International Championships. Ireland did a superb job to win second and will go home very pleased with their team effort. Scotland and Wales both professed to have had a most enjoyable championships and look forward to winning next year.

All thoughts have turned to next year's event being hosted by Scotland at the Lake of Menteith which is set in the Trossachs, amidst magnificent scenery where Highland meets Lowland. The 700 acre lake is a well regarded Rainbow Trout and Brown Trout fishery in Scotland, and is reputed to be the best location for fly fishing of this nature in central Scotland.

Four Invicta junior members formed part of the 14 man English team Ryan Worker, Adam Worker, Kieran Bonas & Oscar Boatfield who are to be congratulated on an outstanding victory.



Oscar Boatfield adding to the bag.



A rather nice 'high energy' photo of Invicta's Kieran Caulfield setting out from the harbour at Grafham acting as a boatman for the Youth Home International competition. Kieran is deeply involved with EYFA activities.

INVICTA FAIL IN MIDLANDS AW/AIRFLO MIDLANDS FINAL

Oh dear! Our team were reported in our last issue as being cock-a-hoop after a superb result in the earlier heat of this prestigious competition (it used to be the Benson & Hedges event originally I believe.) However, cometh the day, cometh the disappointment for not only our team but for their supporters as they struggled against the intense opposition. I have not received a tear stained match report for this event, I cannot imagine why, but did receive a copy of the final results. Those of a nervous or emotional disposition should look away now.....

Oh well! There is always next year.

		anglian <small>WATER</small>		
Team Results				
		No. of	Total Weight	
		Fish	lb	oz
1st	Airflo Team Cormorants	34	76	3 3/4
2nd	Team Rio- Draycate Flyers	32	75	7 1/2
3rd	Grafham Water FF Assoc	29	67	5 3/8
4th	Hanningfield	30	63	9 3/8
5th	Rio Masters	26	61	15 5/8
6th	Greenwell Persuaders 'A'	25	54	11
7th	Loop UK	25	51	10 3/4
8th	Orvis Team Rutland	22	48	11
9th	Toft Trout	24	45	3
10th	Soldier Palmers	17	43	13 1/2
11th	Invicta FFC	16	30	11 7/8
12th	Pitsford Pirates	11	20	1/2

DO WE GET VAUE FOR MONEY IN TACKLE ? - by Peter Reeves.

(An edited version of an article written for and first published in the Bewl Angle.)

Now in my 73rd year with nearly half a century love affair with the fly rod one could well assume that I would know what suits me and have no need to buy more tackle. As it turns out I am buying more now than I ever have done in the past. There are two reasons for this and the main one being that after experiencing very painful tennis elbow in both arms some time ago I had to look for solutions, the secondary one being the awareness that I cannot take it with me so why not enjoy it now? The result of the search for solutions gave two conclusions. Initially it seemed obvious that heavy tackle i.e. AFTM 8 or 9 was not helping so I began that chase down the line ratings via #7, then to #6 and eventually in light wind conditions #5, although I have a Sage TCR 9' #4 weight bought for river use but which I am waiting for an evening rise in light breeze to check out on still waters as well. I was helped in this downrating by evolution in design and material understanding via the manufacturers which enabled me to produce the same performance with less effort with lighter gear anyway, which quite frankly also generates more satisfaction and I am not so tired at the end of a long day. This has to be paid for. You really can get much better value for money at the present time in tackle than ever before in real terms if you shop selectively. Also technique had to be scrutinised and I came to the conclusion that having had only half an hours casting tuition much more than 40 years earlier was not helpful so pondered deeply on what I may be doing wrong and decided to get advice in casting clinics. It is amazing how deeply entrenched faults are perpetuated, more particularly amongst boat anglers who do not have to consider dam walls, trees and bushes etc. These two factors have revolutionised my fishing and whilst you may feel I have strayed from the point, not so. Best value is not only affected by the gear but in the techniques (or lack of them) applied to the tackle.

Returning to rods, most of mine or at least those currently in frequent use are new having been purchased over the last 3 years. Quite simply they are more user friendly, effective and more pleasant in use. Currently amongst a

cupboardful, I have 3 Sage rods representing a serious investment. In 2008 my partner and I went to fish the wild brown trout lochs in Sutherland. I took a Sage rod for her on the basis that it was easier to use and a Nielsen Powerflex (Icelandic design) bought on the internet for about £40 for myself both rods 9' #6 weight. Even when the Sage was not in use I elected to use the Nielsen on the grounds that when called upon to do more in gusting winds (which went up to 40 - 60 mph) it unreasonably did what it was asked to do with more assurance than the Sage although the Sage does 'feel' slightly better in the hand. Since then and after having had somebody else's rod put into my hand to try, I find myself using by first choice more recent purchases, actually technically both Sage but with Redington labels, both Redfly2 in line weights 5 & 6 according to wind conditions and both costing less than £100 each - I love them.

On the matter of reels, a reel in the UK does not have a demanding function for trout. In the same way as a £3 watch from a garage shop will give the same time as a £7000 Rolex so a cheap reel will normally fulfill the same function as a reel fashioned like jewelry. But - yes sometimes functionality does come into play and again modern techniques in areas of mass production can throw up bargains. I now use mainly Sage 1650 large arbor series reels. They do the same job as any other but do it better so far as I am concerned, with greater satisfaction. I just love handling and using these Sage reels and as an added bonus they cost me just £65 with spare spools only £30 each, have wonderful drag adjustment with no loose parts to lose on spool changes. Lines and leaders are paramount and not an area of cutback. I have unspooled top of the pile Cortland 555/Rio lines (costing £55 or so) to replace them with wonderful, memory-free lines from Shakespeare (Worcestershire.) Sometimes these great lines can be found unbranded costing £7 or so, and I find I get on much better with them. As for monofilament, well opinions vary but best stay with one you have confidence in. One does not have to pay a fortune on tackle if you shop selectively.

THANKS TO INVICTA MEMBER, DEREK FROST for very kindly donating all his fly tying tools and materials to the club for use in fly tying groups and to assist and encourage newcomers to this fascinating and satisfying branch of or sport. There is lots up for grabs so watch out for further details.



The editor muses on random aspects of fly fishing.

“Top individual on the day was Gary How of Invicta B. Gary caught 8 trout weighing 16lb 12oz by drifting from Savages Creek to Hedge End with a tequila booby on the top dropper with two red diawl bachs behind.” OK you saw this as part of the Anglian Water match report on page 3 but for me it rang bells. Some may refer this to as a washing line technique - but surely the Booby would need to be on the point for that but most would claim this as a modern method.

Well! Between 1980 up to the latest millennium I used to keep a detailed fishing diary and reading that opening sentence caused me to dig it out. The written word aids memory wonderfully and as suspected showed my friends and myself used an almost identical method, at Grafham, with great success in the mid to late autumn months from June 1983 onwards until that is some drifted away to other waters and others to assorted graveyards. I say ‘almost’ identical as Boobies did not exist then but greased up muddlers did, Boobies being a more convenient newer innovation acting as wake flies and depth controllers in the same way as muddlers. Even at that stage I see I had elected to normally fish only two flies rather than the original three (less complicated tangles) and my usual preferred taking tail fly for late summer on this method was a Wickham’s Fancy or Pheasant tail nymph. Of course Red diawl bachs did not exist then... or did they?

In 1966 returning from Sutherland and an introduction to loch fishing I had time to kill in Inverness and went in a tackle dealer and bought on impulse a small but eclectic collection of flies of which I knew then nothing. One I was intrigued by without wings - now recognised as a nymph pattern, with game red head hackle and tail, peacock herl half body at the head end and red floss silk at the tail end. Not exactly a red diawl back but remarkable similarities. I also recall tying some Hardy’s Favourites (‘A Dictionary of Trout Flies’ 5th edition 1973) which states a fly with a body of peacock herl ribbed with red silk as being an invention of the late J.J.Hardy - yes, of the House of Hardy. Think also of the body of the the traditional USA favourite Royal Coachman.... exactly the same colour combinations.

The moral of this reflection... well, what goes around comes around. Creating a new fly without radically different materials is probably impossible but more importantly do not fail to appreciate and try those traditional patterns - the fish probably have not changed that much but anglers are much more fickle and easily led by monthly comics with much vaunted infallible “new” patterns from so called celebrities. Be different, try traditional - oh when was the last time you used such a ‘must have’ pattern as a Mallard & Claret? Notwithstanding that, Well done Gary! A superb result.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Some of you may remember recent Invicta member, Anthony Williams - yes, he of the Flyfishing Academy. Last time we heard from Anthony he was fishing in New Zealand but I recently received an e-mail from Canada which may interest you.

Anthony writes “Just in case you are wondering where that crazy guy got to, I am in the Irish Pub at Cowichan Lake, Vancouver Island, British Columbia, BC. This bum has currently gone awol in Canada. Been here 6 weeks got 6 to go and might never leave but not sure my latin

temperament will stand those harsh winters. I will understand if you now added me to your junk mail filter. I was meant to be here for 7 weeks but seemed a good idea to be here a little. Being "self employed" has some advantages. Made lots of friends here, lots of retired people wanting to learn to fly fish, trading casting lessons for a trips out in a sea boat. Lot of peeps suffer from MS here, its ok I haven't inhaled. I think some of those Californians made it up the coast.

Out in the Wilderness for most of my time, will probably never get to Victoria or Vancouver. Imagine coming to England and not visiting Cambridge, London, Lutterworth, Manchester, Stevenage, or York? Met a couple of bears but fortunately they were at distance.

Next week plan to head towards Alaska, bigger bears on the mainland. I have taken the precaution of taking some pepper spray and wander round with a bleeding bell round my neck so I don't surprise any. The locals find it good sport to tell me the joke about how to tell the difference between grizzlie and brown bear skat. Brown bear skat has berries in it, grizzlies has big nugget sized pieces with a bell in it and smells of pepper spray. I sound like a morris dancer when I go through the forest.

I reverted to the bell when I got sick of wandering in the woods and river singing the only song I can remember the words of 'singing in the rain'. It has only rained once since I got here.

I watched Spain win the world cup, in what you could loosely describe as a 'pub' in the middle of nowhere in the old logging camp of "Woss" two people in it watching the footie, I took a day off from fishing. The other person was the barman.

I have caught lots of big salmon, if the pennies keep getting spent I will end up eating them instead of returning them. Turned up at a remote bay at midnight expecting to pitch camp, so much for in the middle of nowhere, about 20 people also looking for a remote spot to see a meteorite shower. I get to gate crash the strangest parties.

I can recommend Elk tastes really good like succulent beef on the bone, broke

two rods, one tent, and a pair of waders and a walking stick.

When you are at a party thinking life is a bit dull, get the ladies to do a bang the nail into a piece of wood competition. You need big nails so that they don't bend and a keen eye. I suppose hitting a ball through Iron hoops with a wooden hammer is equally as daft. I am not much good at throwing horseshoes either.

Hope to see some *Orcas in September, they chase the seals, which chase the salmon. You might think poor poor seal, but I am a little fed up of the blighters swimming round my legs taking the salmon off the hook, lucky if I get my fly back. They have learnt that fisherman can get them a easy dinner. ta ta for now. Anthony.

(Anyone care to translate this? - Ed.)

*(*Orcas = Orca orca = Killer Whale.)*

