

Graham Williams

Graham began his angling career as a 7 year old. He fished initially for coarse fish on the River Cam in the Haslingfield/Byron's Pool area. His first trouting was around Haslingfield using a bubble float and live bluebottle flies! In 1988 he ventured to Rutland Water with a fly rod and caught 6 stockies and was hooked.



Graham joined Invicta in 1991 and was a very keen Club member, supporting most of its activities and regularly attended all our fishing events and the winter meetings. He was also a very good angler and was one of the Club's most prodigious trophy winners. He won the Carr Cup 6 times, the Carl Hunter Bowl 3 times, the Beecroft Shield twice and the Brown Trout Trophy and the Evening League once each, making 13 wins in all.

He served on the committee for 21 years from 1997 to 2017.

From 1991 he was a member of the Club's AMFC team – later taking on the organisation for Invicta teams. He was also an annual Pilgrimage match member for many years.



In 1999, whilst trout fishing using a size 12 booby at Grafham, he caught 37lb pike. This may well be the largest pike ever caught on a fly rod; it made front page news in the Angling Times. This catch was later included in a book entitled Mammoth Pike, written by Neville Fickling in 2004.

In 2002 he caught a 13lb 1oz rainbow at Ravensthorpe, a fishery record at the time. He reported that it was sadly broken later in the season by the infamous Dave Barker's 16lb, recently- stocked fish!

He also fished the Phillips UK Pairs Championship several times – he was actually employed by Phillips before he started his own business. He won it once, came 2nd twice and came 3rd once.

From 2005 to 2012 he was voted Club Captain – a title then for the organiser of the AMFC.

In 2010 Invicta took over the running of the Floating Line competition previously organised by Grafham Water Fly Fishers Association; Graham took the reins and began liaison for sponsorship with Simon Kidd of Snowbee, a relationship which remains to this day. Graham continued running it with Gary How for several more years.

In 2012 he was voted Club Chairman but was forced to step down after one year due to his travels to Canada where he has family.

Graham along with with other Invicta members, fished for tarpon and bone fish at Los Roques, Venezuela.

In 2014 Graham took over the production of the Club Newsletter. He continued with the Newsletter to mid 2017, when it was decided to discontinue publication.

Sadly, when on a family / fishing holiday in Canada in March 2015 Graham began to feel unwell. The problem developed and began to curtail his activities from then on but he was determined to carry on as long as possible.

In January 2016 he was diagnosed with Motor Neurone Disease and in 2017 he was forced to cut short his trip to Canada because of his illness. He then spent time at Papworth Hospital before being admitted to the Arthur Rank Hospice in September. He spent virtually all 2018 in the Hospice, dying on 20th December, aged 72.

When asked about Invicta FFC, Graham said that within the Club he had developed many friendships and had also become friendly with other anglers from all over the country.

He was friendly, quiet, knowledgeable, well respected, a meticulous organiser, an excellent fisherman and a very, very good Club member. He has been sorely missed in recent times and will be remembered for all the right reasons.

Robert (Bob) Ayres