

Invicta FFC Life Members

David Jones— awarded a Life Membership in 1997

David Jones instigated the Club, has been a major contributor over the years, and is our only inaugural member.

It was in 1975 that the adult tutor of Comberton Village College, a few miles west of Cambridge received requests to introduce a trout fly-tying group into their Evening Class programme. The tutor Les Beecroft, who was very well-known locally, and he agreed to run a fly-tying group during the winter of 1975/76.

At this juncture although the East Midlands TFA and the Mid Northants TFA both existed, there was no dedicated reservoir trout fishing club operating in the Cambridgeshire area. Grafham Water FFA (GWFFA) was not formed until about 1981, with David Jones as its first secretary.

As the Invicta website History document records, 'one member of the fly-tying group, a Mr David Jones called a meeting on the 5th April at the College for any members who would be interested in starting a new local trout-fishing Club. Thirteen anglers attended the meeting and Invicta FFC was formed with David volunteering to be its first secretary. From that first day in 1976 David has been a major contributor to Invicta. He has held the following positions. Secretary eleven years, Newsletter editor ten years, Winter speakers organiser 10 years and last but not least our note taker at winter meetings for a massive thirty six years.

He produced the first Club newsletter in 1976 and in all produced about twenty eight newsletters in the era of typewriters and photocopiers. In 1979 he won the Presidents Cup in its first year and in 1997 he was awarded Life Membership in recognition of his continued services over the years. In 2015, after forty seasons with the Club, he was awarded the Invicta Trophy in recognition of his contribution.

Graden Smith – awarded a Life Membership in 2005

Graden joined Invicta in 1984, he joined the committee and became treasurer in 1986 until 2003 a period of 18 years. He fished in the B&H & AMFC teams and was a Pilgrimage member and entered the England eliminators. Since 1989 he has held positions within the AMFC and is currently a Vice President. He has won Club trophies four times; the Carl Hunter Bowl twice and the Beecroft Shield twice

He was awarded Life Membership for his contribution to the club and the AMFC.

David Moore – awarded a Life Membership in 2015

In 2007 David was invited to join Invicta as an Honorary Member on his retirement from a distinguished management position in Anglian Water and for his support of Invicta. He was also involved with the England Youth Fishing Team. Since then he has been involved with the Salmon & Trout Association, Fish Legal, the Angling Development Board and the Angling Trust.

Within Invicta he supports and organises Club events and is club captain. He is a committee member, Pilgrimage member and a member and now organiser of our AMFC teams. He has won 5 club trophies – the Carl Hunter Bowl three times and the Brown Trout Trophy twice. He has entered the England Eliminators. In 2019 he won the East Thames Aggregate Shield for the biggest fish caught in AMFC

competitions that season and in 2021 he won the prestigious Dave Hodgson Memorial Trophy event at Draycote.

He was awarded Honorary Membership in recognition to his services to fishing which was later amended to Life Membership in recognition of his work within Invicta.

Andy Newman – awarded Life Membership in 2017

Andy joined Invicta in 1986 and has been a committed member of the club, joining the committee, the AMFC teams, the Pilgrimage and most club events. He was also involved with arranging the setting up early versions of the Invicta website and been club Chairman.

He has won club trophies 5 times; the Presidents Cup (twice), the Brown Trout Trophy, the Beecroft Shield and the Evening League.

He was awarded Life Membership in recognition of his significant contribution to Invicta.

Alan Prevost – awarded a Life Membership in 2018

Alan joined Invicta in December 1998 and has been a very committed club member. He joined the Committee and then became treasurer in 2002, a post he has held for over 20 years. He has fished in the AMFC teams, organised Club dinners since 2008, organised draws, and won two club trophies (the Presidents Cup and the Invicta Trophy twice) – a wonderful achievement.

He was awarded Life Membership for the conscientious way in which he carried out his role for many years and his commitment to the clubs social activities.

John Reynolds – awarded Life Membership in 2020

John joined Invicta in 1978 and in the early years he supported all club events. Being a good caster he arranged 'cast-ins' for club members. He was on the committee and was also Club President for 6 years.

In 1982 John was in the Invicta team to fish the first-ever Benson & Hedges regional heat at Rutland. John was top Invicta rod and 3rd overall with 15 fish for a meagre 10lb 8oz (those were not the days for sizeable stockfish!) he entered England Eliminators and in 1986 and fished for England on Lough Conn, where he finished 3rd overall.

In September 1985 he fished informally at Grafham with some famous Welsh Anglers which was to be the start of the autumn 'fry-bashing'. Also as a result of that meet-up the first Pilgrimage was held in May 1986, when anglers from Invicta and Llanilar travelled to Chew Valley Lake for some social fishing over several days. John was a keen supporter of the Pilgrimage for over 30 years.

He was a very skilled angler, winning the Beecroft Shield (3 times) the Presidents Cup and the Carr Cup. He was awarded Life Membership for his early contribution to, and long term membership of Invicta.

Alan Taylor – awarded Life Membership in 2020

Alan joined Invicta in 1984 and was a very active club member, joining the committee , was our member of the Great Ouse Federation, AMFC teams, Pilgrimage , Fenland Fair, Club Captain 1991, Carr Cup Bookings Officer, club barbecues host and barman at the winter meetings at the Plant Breeding Institute and finally Club President. He won club trophies 4 times; the Beecroft Shield, the Presidents Cup and the Invicta Trophy twice.

In 1987, when a Dr Ron Broughton of the Grayling Society visited the club Alan joined the Society and loved grayling fishing for many years.

In 1998 Alan took early retirement. Soon after he got a job as a Fishery Warden at Grafham Water, a position he enjoyed until he retired in 2014 He was well-liked and respected.

In 2006, when fishing for the AMFC team at Bewl, he caught the biggest rainbow ever recorded to this day in an AMFC competition - an 11lb 12oz ugly stockie. He was rewarded with the following headline in the AMFC Newsletter - 'Size does matter and Alan Taylor has the biggest'.

Sadly in 2018 his health began to decline and he last trout- fished in 2019. In 2020 he was awarded Life Membership in recognition of his service to Invicta.

John Caldwell - awarded a Life Membership in 2021

John joined Invicta in 1992 and has been a dedicated and active member.

He has been a member and Captain of the Benson and Hedges and AMFC teams, committee member, Newsletter Editor, Booking Officer and organiser of the Invicta stand at the Fenland Country Fair.

John has won club trophies on nine occasions including the President's Cup, Carl Hunter Bowl, Brown Trout Trophy and Beecroft Shield.

In 2006 he took over as secretary of the AMFC.

He was awarded Life Membership for his tremendous contribution to Invicta.

Mike Smith - awarded a Life Membership in 2021

Mike joined Invicta in 1991 and has been a very active member attending most club events. He fished for Invicta teams and has been Bookings Officer.

Mike is a very competitive angler and has won club trophies on seven occasions including the President's Cup, Beecroft Shield, Carr Cup and Carl Hunter Bowl. He continued to fish club events up until 2017 despite increasing health issues.

He was awarded Life Membership for his long term commitment to Invicta.

Steve Middleton - awarded a Life Membership in 2021

Steve joined Invicta in 1985 and soon became a very active member; he has served on the committee and been Chairman and Club President.

He has supported and organised the Pilgrimage and been involved with the Fenland Country Fair, Fishing for Forces Charity and the AMFC team. In addition, Steve has run and organised the bar at winter meetings and the raffle at club dinners. Steve is well known for his humorous manner.

In 2014 he shared the Invicta Trophy with Bob Ayres for their services to the club.

He was awarded Life Membership for his commitment and contribution to Invicta over many years.

Chris McLeod – awarded a Life Membership in 2022

Chris is one of the most dedicated and long serving supporters of Invicta and rarely misses an event. He was club chairman from 2001 – 2007 during a difficult period for the club.

He is one of the clubs most experienced and successful anglers and is a regular 'Invicta A Team' member. His trophy wins run into double figure, but his experience extends beyond Trout having fly fished for Bone Fish in Venezuela and Barbel in Spain.

He was involved with the organisation of the England Youth Team and his background in publishing has been invaluable to the club over many years in the production of promotional material etc. Chris has always done this willingly at no cost to our club. He is also a major content contributor to our website with his excellent match reports.

He was awarded Life Membership for his huge contribution and dedication to Invicta over many years.