



The Bob Ayres Trophy Is dry fly fishing the appropriate format for this trophy?

I would like to say that I'm honoured to have a Club Trophy named after me but when Paul Heavens phoned and said additionally that it would be awarded to the winner of a dry fly competition I was a bit taken aback. Was this really appropriate? The reason I felt this was because in recent years my dry-fly days have been curtailed and now, with health failing, I'm more likely to be found trailing a line behind the boat! Steve Middleton would say that it's my best method!!

However as I looked back over my time in Invicta since 1984 I can clearly remember some very good times dry-fly fishing and, with the help of my diary, I'd like to share three of the best with you.



In the mid 80s and through the 90s, Grafham was well known for its dry fly fishing with the 'Bob's Bits' fly (developed and named after the late Bob Worts a GWWFA member who reputedly used the wool from his pullover for the body of the fly) was used widely. At the time club member Carl Hunter (he of Invicta's Carl Hunter Bowl fame and an International angler) was one of the best dry fly anglers around and I fondly remember catching 6 fish to his 8 fish limit fishing dries in a Carr Cup boat day; I was right chuffed.

Mark Searle has very kindly reminded me of a very rare Club day with him in a boat at Pitsford. Not only because I didn't move the anchored boat all day but that I, fishing a claret suspender buzzer' and out-fished him 13 – 5.

My third memory on dries is the fabulous sport we enjoyed as a Club when we travelled in May each year for the Pilgrimage with Welsh Club Llanilar and later with the Scottish Club Leslie too. At that time the water was renowned for its orange/ red buzzer hatches and I well remember my first days fishing there in a boat with current member Roger Hurren. We had a limit day on dries and I even caught one behind the drifting boat whilst reading a newspaper at lunchtime. I also recall beating my dear friend Alan Taylor, a great angler 8-1 on dries on another trip (how can that happen?)

I can answer that by stating that there have probably been many times over the years when I've been thrashed mercilessly in a boat so it's good to remember the odd good one. All-in-all I now feel comfortable that perhaps, after all, the dry fly day, is appropriate and I look forward to Club members fishing for it.

Bob