

The Kingswood Legionnaires' Newsletter

The Legionnaires Bounce Back!

It seems nothing can keep the legendary Kingswood Legionnaires away from their fishing, proving where there's a will, there's a way. So, it's not exactly business as usual but we're up and running after a shaky start. Lockdown was proving extremely difficult for some members who were forced to take on a whole range of totally absurd tasks, such as decorating and gardening. However, thanks to determined negotiations between the Angling Trust and the powers that be, we were finally given the green light to resume our passion, subject to social distancing rules. The Angling Trust has made it clear to their members that insurance policies could become invalidated if the guidelines were not strictly adhered to. For most fishing clubs, including us, it meant we have had to adopt a completely new way of running our matches... or fold. For us, it also meant we had to take a giant leap into the 21st century and implement online banking technology to allow us to move money around without actually handling it. It took a while to get it all set up and unfortunately we had to sacrifice our first river match at the Crane in the process. Meanwhile, our special operations team (Paul and Jason) swung into action, providing a safe solution to the match draw and weighing procedures. Everyone then got onboard and agreed to the overall plan, which allowed the club to proceed with events. So far, the new match booking system has proved to be a resounding success. Happy days!

Wyatt 'Earp' Comes Out With All Guns Blazing At Staverton Showdown

Fearsome quick-fire rodslinger, Paul Wyatt 'Earp' had been visualising a victory at Staverton for the best part of 3 months and finally made his dream come true after a long 6-hour steamy affair. The hot and sunny, high noon weather put paid to any hope of decent weights during this much anticipated contest and so Paul needed just 5-7-0 of chublets to make his day. The event was somewhat marred by the fact our peggers had to quickly re-peg due a double booking, which meant we had to settle for whatever suitable swims we could find at the lower end of the river. It seems we might have to weigh up the advantages and disadvantages of this venue at our next dates and fixtures meeting, as another double booking will also affect our September match. In second position was superstar match ace, Ian 'Swanny' Swanborough, who has lost none of his tinsel from last season, weighing in a 3-15-0 mixed bag. Kev Murch and renegade, Leigh Wakefield, banked the remaining section prizes.



The bunch of outlaws who stole the cash at Staverton

Whitewash At The Whitehouse As Alcove Surrender To The Dominant Legionnaires

As far as interclub contests go, this one was a surefire benchmark victory for the boys in green. The event was evenly matched with 11 anglers on either side, spread out with alternate pegging over the two lakes. Jason was drawn on noted peg 14 on Margaret's Lake and Kev had what is arguably one of the best of two pegs on George's Lake, so the scene was set. As usual plenty of carp were hooked and lost on both lakes but the Legion boys hung on to enough of them to make a big difference come the final weigh-in. Jason led the way with a steady stream of good size skimmers followed by a trio of chunky carp. I was on the same lake as Jason, pegged on number 8 and managed 2 good carp plus a few skimmers. Bob Hole was at the other end of the island swims on peg 6 and also made an impression with a good net of silvers including some chub and F1s. On George's Lake, Kev's wife and helper (and covert spy), Rachel, kept Kev in the picture by checking out and reporting on the opposition. Further strong-arm carp tactics were deployed by Ian Brice on George's Lake and John Treasure on Margaret's, with plenty of back-up weights, making for a memorable and victorious team performance. Well done to everyone. The Legionnaires finished up with a total weight of 135-1-0 compared to Alcove's 67-5-0. The Legion had five of the top 6 weights and picked up most of the cash. Top results as follows:

1st. Jason Pitman - 27-0-0

2nd Kev Murch - 22-14-0

3rd Ian Brice - 20-04-0

Top silvers: Bob Hole - 16-1-0

Margaret's Lake Section: Bill Knight - 17-5-0



Winning warriors at Whitehouse

Woeful Witham Friary Lake Fails To Impress On Jolly Boy's Away Day Outing

It was a case of away day blues for the 11 contestants of this long-awaited event, all of which, eagerly expected to be in for a jolly day's outing at Witham. However, the fish proved scarcer than a handy pack of Friar's Viagra and the day ended up being about as exciting as a bottle of Friar's Balsam. The fairytale began with a meet-up at Sainsbury's in Bath, followed by a journey in convoy, across the untamed wilderness of deepest, darkest Zummerzet. When we arrived at the lake, our jaunty joint match secretaries, who had travelled ahead of the main convoy, were looking a little sheepish. So the question on everyone's lips was, "How the heck are we gonna tempt the fish out from under the mass of weed beds?" (Still waiting for an answer on that one.) The weed was one surprise but the big one was yet to come. Depths ranged from 18" to 24" with an average 6"-9" on the inside. Within the first hour, it became quite obvious that we were in for a loooong day. With such shallow water in front of us I plumped for a small fish attack tight against the weed bed alternating between maggot and chopped worm. When I began catching small perch steadily, I decided to stick to the plan as I couldn't see anyone else catching. In the meantime, a few biggish carp came swimming by, leaving a trailing cloud of silt in their wake. I tried to mug one or two but to no avail. I carried on catching the occasional small fish, including a few roach and rudd, right up to the very end. Come the weigh in, it appeared Kev Murch had managed to sweet talk a few nice crucians from the edge of a bed of water lilies to easily win the day with 4-6-0. Forever the bridesmaid, I finished up in second place with a straight 3lb and Adrian took the minor purse with a 1-13-0 catch of mainly small fish. Brian Lloyd put up a brave struggle against all the odds to finish in 4th place with 1-10-0.

Next Match - Staverton 13th September

I don't want to sound like the merchant of doom or anything but be aware that there will have been a match on the previous Wednesday and a match the day before, on the Saturday. Also, we will be restricted to the higher peg numbers because there will be another match on the same day. Is this a very popular venue or what? This match will also be the first of our knockout series. So, if you intend to fish, compete or participate, please call me with your credit or debit card details no later than Friday 11th - up to 9pm. (Can someone give Glynn a gentle nudge please? Cheers ☺)

Presentation Of Trophies...

Well it seems increasingly unlikely that we will be able to organise a formal presentation ceremony this year, which is very unfortunate. However, we do still plan to hand out trophies to those much-deserved winners, with the most probable date being October 11th, at the end of the match on the Crane. Come and get 'em!

All for now river warriors! Stay safe!