



## *Kingswood Legionnaires*

### **Not Another Christmas... We Already Had One of Those Last Year!**

Hi Everyone and welcome to the bumper K&H RBL AC Newsletter for December. This will be the last one you get this year so devour its content and enjoy its delicious festive offerings. I just had a peek into the archives of last year's matches to see who won the Christmas match, and it was Johnny Thompson with 4lb-9.5oz. Of course that was on the river so I'm expecting a bit more than that this time around. This will be the first time we have had a Christmas match at Farleigh Wood, and I don't know whether you noticed but there was a few strange faces around the lake. With so many Post Office guys fishing it's no wonder our Christmas post is always late... or lost. Anyway troopers, you'll be reading this newsletter after the match, so I hope you all had a good day, and in case I forget to mention it in the pub, A Merry Christmas to one and all and see you in 2013... God willing. Finally, don't forget to buy a calendar! 50% of proceeds go to the **Help For Heroes** fund.

#### Match Results



#### **Farleigh Wood, 13<sup>th</sup> December 2012**

Well, would you Adam and Eve it? Our first ever match at Farleigh Wood was on my birthday and I won! Drawn on the right-hand bank to where we had the draw, just by the small bush, I fished an 8mm pellet hard on the bottom and close to the sticks, which were jutting out of the water. The word on the grapevine, via Johnny Thompson was I'd get some good rudd there. Well these rudd were dark brown beasts with big scales. Never seen rudd like this before ☺ Okay, so 21-0-0 of carp obliged and made my day. In the old bridesmaid's position, (remind me to explain this one to you), was Leigh "Postman Pat" Wakefield with a very close 19-9-0 of similar "rudd". Julian Pinkett outflanked the remainder of the field with 11-6-0 of mainly big "rudd".



#### **River Frome, Woolverton, 17<sup>th</sup> June 2012**

Oh the glorious...17<sup>th</sup>. Back to reality with our opening match of the season on the delightful river Frome... not! Well it was a nice day... it didn't rain... much, and it wasn't too windy. What more do you want? Oh Yeah! Fish. The man who found most of them this time round was none other than that dark horse Johnny Mack. Johnny amassed a staggering 5-6-0, including a 1-5-0 stripey, to easily win the booty, or at least what was left after PO man Richard Hughes took overall top spot by half an ounce. Nevermind Johnny, there'll be a much cherished trophy coming your way soon young man ☺ Coming up the rear guard was ex-commando, special forces fish catcher Clive Purshouse, who managed to

subdue his quarry with his Lee Enfield 303 complete with shiny bayonet. His prisoner tally amounted to an impressive 2-13-0 of mostly... fish! Don't panic! Don't panic Mr Mainwaring!

#### **Shackles Lake, 8<sup>th</sup> July 2012**

Hmmm... This inter-club match with Frome Vale & Clevedon was not very well supported by any side for some reason. However, that didn't bother Les "I'm a lovely boy" Williams, who pelleted his way to success with a bag of super silvery skimmers topping the scales at a level 14-0-0. Is that access field getting longer?



#### **Ashlea Farm, 15<sup>th</sup> July 2012**

This match should have been on the river Avon at Chippenham, but due to some unseasonal flooding it was hastily switched to Cross Hands' Ashlea Farm lake, thanks mainly to Johnny Thompson who managed to pull a few strings... or pulled something anyway ☺ As it happens there were only 8 of us, 'cos someone forgot to tell the Post Office lads... OOPS! It was all Brian's fault because he was away and whenever he's away during one of our matches everything seems to go wrong. Well, this match was not without its drama. Apart from an early carp for Bobby Hole, the first couple of hours were very quiet, and then... Johnny Mack was hooking and losing carp like it was going out of fashion. Then I started getting in on the action and the next thing I knew I was minus a top 2 pole section as

a carp shot off across the lake like a bat out of hell. Undeterred I tackled up again and bang! Another section gone, only this time I got the fish in. I threw the pole to one side and grabbed my waggler rod to finish the job. All that for just 12-0-0 and some well-earned Guinness money. Bobby Hole wasn't very far behind with his 10-0-8 for second, but biggest loser of the day was Johnny "The Mackerel" Mack who lost about 20lb of prize specimens. Steady Eddy Davis was third with 9-9-0



### **Whitehouse Farm, 5<sup>th</sup> August 2012**

Only 11 anglers, 6 from Alcove and 5 Legionnaires broke off their summer engagements to do battle at Whitehouse Farm. With pitchforks at the ready we... sorry wrong battle. This was a miserable day overall. Fishing was hard and the rain was wet. The top weight went 37-0-0, which went to the other side, and whose name escapes me, but who cares anyway. They also ran in a total of 90-0-0 against our hard earned 72-0-0. We will triumph on this devilish water... one day.



### **Kelmscott, 12<sup>th</sup> August 2012**

This was tragic! A travesty... a real Watergate affair. It had all the elements of mystery and intrigue as we really didn't know what to expect. It started early one morning in August, when we all set out on our journey of great expectations. Leading the convoy was our duly elected warrior Brian "I'm Welsh" Lloyd. The former sapper and self-employed grime buster led us a merry old dance around the Oxfordshire countryside until eventually we found our bearings and meandered down the pot-holed track. After 3 attempts I managed to dislodge my oil sump from the grips of a deep ravine and crawl slowly towards safe ground. After some merry banter, I hot-footed it up the bank, laying numbered pieces of white paper opposite likely looking fish holding grounds. More banter swiftly followed as we drew our fateful pegs and dispersed amongst the mist. Five hours later, all was to be revealed. As each man in turn tipped his tiny offering into the weigh bag, I swear I saw tears of sadness well up in the eyes of grown men. As it eventually dawned on us, that we had travelled all this way for such a paltry prize, feelings began to run high and the finger of blame was duly directed to whoever came into view. And the result of our laboured toil? Well, Johnny "The Hatchett" Mack swiped the loot with his 1-2-8 of tiny roachlings. I can still hear him now. His haunting laugh echoing around my head, driving me crazy with his incessant girlie giggling. Never, never, ever again.



### **Woolverton, 9<sup>th</sup> September 2012**

Another inter-bash between ourselves, Airsprung AC and the Post Office. And surprisingly it was Team Legion that charged to the finish line with more than 4lb clear of our nearest rivals, Airsprung. Top bender on the day, rod bender that is, was Bobby "Ooh I've got a bad back" Hole, who plumped for an early draw, which uncannily

fell directly onto a shoal of prime hungry redfins. His 8-8-0 bag easily outclassed that of Leigh Wakefield's 6-7-0, and obviously helped us to top team position on the day.

### **Barton Farm, 30<sup>th</sup> September 2012**

With the local council backing down on Sunday parking charges and with no stiles, streams and fences to get over. Plus the fact Airsprung had to pull out giving us a "free" match, this had the makings of a pleasant day. And with recent news of the National's winning weight coming from this stretch, everyone was hoping for a draw on the bream pegs around the brook area. Unfortunately they didn't show, despite some savvy anglers being drawn exactly in the expected area. It ended with two Post Office stalwarts battling it out on adjacent pegs. The winner might have come from peg 1 only the angler who drew it decided to go off in search of greener pastures. Hmm... I wonder who that was Les? Anyway, that man Leigh "I'm almost a celebrity now get me out of here" Wakefield just pipped his team mate Julian Pinkett for the honours with 8-6-0 against 8-4-8. Overall it was not a bad day Les ☺ ☺ ☺

### **Crane, 14<sup>th</sup> October 2012**

The river was running off after yet another flooding and it still didn't seem quite right. Too much colour and swirling eddys made presentation difficult for everyone. Talking about eddys reminds me of Eddy Davis walking past his peg and wandering up towards Swineford in the fog before I called him back. Well it was magical Macca who once again worked his hocus pocus to conjure up a lonesome 2-13-0 chub and run off with the loot. My 1-7-0 was only just enough to beat off the advances of Alan "I catch big perch" Maggs who was on the next peg.

### **Whitehouse Farm Poppy, 4<sup>th</sup> November**

We had a match and Bobby Hole won some cash. Otherwise, not a very memorable day.

### **Legion Poppy Appeal, 11<sup>th</sup> November 2012**

This matched raised over £1500 for the Poppy Appeal. Amazing!

### **Farleigh Wood, November 25<sup>th</sup> 2012**

This should have been on the river at Woolverton but again the weather put paid to our plans, and so we ended up fishing the pond. Frome Vale's Andy Whiting pulled out 24-8-0 of carp for first and team mate John Treasure waggled 13-7-0 for second. They're banned!

### **Merry Christmas to all and...**

Come back Chris Thompson and Mick Stowford... we miss you guys!

All for now!