

Kingswood Legionnaires**Will 2014 Really Be Any Different To All The Other Years? Course It Will!**

Welcome to your double whammy newsletter. At around 4pm on February 9th, 2014 we will be turning our backs on the river Frome at Woolverton for the very last time. It's kinda sad and yet it really did have it coming, what with the long walks, numerous obstacles and poor fishing. However, it has done well for us as a club. It has helped us to recruit a few new members and help raise some much needed revenue over the years. Well, when one door closes another opens and so the 2014 season looks set to be very different as we explore several new waters and really get to grips with Barton Farm. The Bradford-on-Avon section is well stocked with good roach, bream, perch, a few good chub, carp and millions of bleak. With 3 matches booked on this stretch next year, including our next Xmas match, I'm looking forward to some really good weights

**Match Results**

June 16th Woolverton – The first match of the new season and everyone was raring to go... home after the first couple of hours. The river was low, it was clear and as usual it was tough. It turned out to be a battle, actually more like wet fishing socks at 5 paces, between myself and the very secretive Alan "big perch" Maggs. No surprise then that Alan weighed in 3lb-8oz to my 3lb-7.5oz. What a difference a dry weigh-net makes ☺ The rest of field struggled to each put together a 2lb weight. Nearest to the mark was steady Eddie Davis with just 1lb -12oz. (*Hark the herald angels sing*)

July 14th Monkton Park – Being able to drive down to the river and drop off your kit is a real bonus on any venue, so this one got off to a good start. Then the sun came out, which was pleasant, and then some guys came along and told us they were going to be scuba diving in our swims because there was going to be some gala on the following weekend and they had to remove all the rubbish from the river. Oh well, just when you thought it was going to be a good day. All that aside we carried on and fished away like we didn't have a care in the world. Did we struggle? You betcha! It took just 2lb-15oz from a Johnny Mack corner to walk away with the top prize and a neat little header from John boy Thompson with his 2lb 11.5oz shot, which hit the back of the net like a bullet. However the divers fared much better with around 2 tons of prime scrap metal from the river bed.

August 11th Manor Farm, Warks Avon – One of the most surreal motorway journeys I have ever witnessed started the day, with several near miss collisions by the White Van Man as we trundled along at a steady 60 mile an hour. Then when we arrived at the venue it was like a scene from the mad cap movie Whacky Races as we desperately tried to find our way

down to the river bank. Eventually and with precious time slipping away I legged it along the bank and hastily pegged out every other swim so that we all had plenty of room. It was a real godsend being able to drive right up to your peg and so luckily we made up for lost time. The Warwickshire Avon is a well-known barbel river but in a match do you sit it out and hope one comes along... or do you just catch as much as you can and hope for the best? Most of us chose the latter option, which paid off. Not counting the outsiders, man of the match went to secret agent Alan Maggs who put together a very handy 4lb dead, which included a chub of 2lb-11.5oz, followed by barbel lips, or rather Leslie "the mullet" Williams who came within a whisker with his one kitten weighing 3lb-14oz. The whole event was witnessed by one Roy Garland, former Evening Post Angling Correspondent, who I imagine was glad to get home and change his underwear. The general opinion was we all liked the venue and so we'll be going back again next season, only this time to a different patch, which will be reserved for us.

September 8th Woolverton – Only 4 Legionnaires showed up for this match and one of those went off and fished somewhere else! I drew peg 8 and had the option to fish on the top of the highish bank or between the trees. Having tried between the trees last time I drew this peg, I thought I'd try the other side and fish high this time. I kicked off with a single red over the far side and caught a small roach instantly. Feeding little and often I caught small fish quite steadily throughout the match until the last hour when it died, as usual. So I ended up with 4lb straight and won quite comfortably. Clivey Purshouse was next with 2lb-4oz followed by Tommy "getting rougher by the minute" Ruffe Lloyd with 2lb dead. (*Oh come all ye faithful joyful and...*)



October 13th Crane – The river was on its way down after a bit of a flood so it was a bit muddy in places. There was a nice pace on the river and the colour looked good, so what more could you ask for? Well, Johnny “The Knife” Mack was drawn in the lane alongside Steady Eddy. John Treasure was drawn on the platform and I again drew the back of the Marina opposite the outfall. I couldn’t help noticing lots of small fish leaping clear of the water on the outfall and thought “aye up! Looks like predators are about” or something like that anyway. Well within 20 minutes of the kick-off I was tussling with a double figure snapper. I wanted my roach but she wanted it more, so it was a case of who was going to give in first. She let go after a few minutes but not before she had almost eaten my precious roach, which surprisingly survived. And so we went on all day long... one to me and one to Mrs Pikey. Cut a very long story short Johnny come lately Mack slid 4lb-4.5oz of redfins into the weigh-net and I could only manage 3lb-12.5oz for second after losing about the same amount to you know who. Still, it was an eventful day and a better turn out than the last match.

An ecstatic Johnny Mack with hands full of trophies plus the club tie at an impromptu prize-giving ceremony at Woolverton. John won the coveted title of Club Champion for the season 2012-13 but couldn’t attend the AGM and receive his booty officially. Well done and keep smiling. (Where did you park the horse John?)



Individual Aggregate Positions To Date – So where are you in the league table? Okay, currently in first place is the man in the picture, Johnny “The Hatchet” Mack with 28 points, second but not picturesque enough for this quality, high calibre publication is Alan “I’ve got a cunning plan” Maggs, also with 28 points. In third position and right on their bushy tails is moi with a rock steady 27 points. Falling well behind with 20 points is Bobby “I’ll have an early peg” Hole who leads Eddie “The Eagle” Davis on 16 points. Billy “The Kid” Croom rides out into the sunset with 13 points to his credit, whilst Johnny “Mafiosa” Thompson joins Clivey “Tup North” Purshouse with 11 points abreast. Tommy “The Roughneck” Lloyd has much in common with Leslie “Up The Wurzels” Williams as they both scrape along the river bed with 8 points apiece.

Pairs Aggregate Positions To Date – In pole position with a whopping 17lb-15oz are clear leaders Johnny Mack & Alan Maggs. Coming up the rear are The Silly Billys, Knight & Croom with a combined 14lb-13oz. In third position (of the Kama Sutra) are Bob Hole with his handicap Brian Lloyd and in last but one position are “Team Dynamite” messrs

Purshouse and Davis. So, that just leaves the deadly duo, who individually go by the names of Johnny Thompson and the stand-up comedian Leigh Wakefield.



Above is a photo of Leigh Wakefield posing with an American Signal Crayfish he caught on peg 7 at Woolverton. Sorry but crayfish don’t count chaps!

Forthcoming Matches – Well the next match is the one you just fished. The Christmas match was held today at Woolverton and the winner was..... A full report will appear in the next exciting issue of the Kingswood Legionnaires Newsletter. January 12th we’re on the Crane at Keynsham, then we’re back here at Woolverton for the final fling and on February 9th we’re...

Club Calendars - Well if you want to know more then you had better buy a calendar. They’re just £2 each with £1 going to **Help For Heroes** and the other quid going into club funds.

Other Stuff! Back in the summer we got wind that there was a length of the Berkshire canal up for grabs and so we quickly formed a recce committee and set out to investigate. Myself, Bob Hole and Brian decided it would be best if we had a short session on the canal to see if there were any signs of piscatorial life forms. Sadly there wasn’t and there wasn’t much water in the trench either. I think the real reason why Brian wanted to check it out was because he had the hots for the land owner. You bad naughty boy!



Here’s what the canal looked like but looks can be very deceiving as we found out after about 3 hours without a bite between us. We decided it was a non-starter.

Well that’s the end of another one chaps and we’ll do it all over again in 2014. It just remains for me to wish you all a very **Merry Christmas** and a blooming bountiful **New Year!**