



Is Global Warming Playing Havoc With Our Matches?

After a long and very hot summer with temperatures hovering just below human melting point, along comes the rain. Well, we certainly needed it, what with rivers and lakes all over the country drying up fast, but did we really need it all in one go? We must have had 6-8 weeks of daily rain, washing out our Staverton match and then killing off any chance of fishing our following match on the Crane. If that wasn't bad enough, along comes the big freeze. An iced-over Bitterwell Lake and an uncooperative fishery manager put paid to our scheduled Christmas match. Could it get any worse? Oh Yes! Our hastily rearranged match on Boyd Lake, which was also iced over, was further hampered by completely unexpected snow fall. With time running out we had to then bribe the owner of Boyd Lake to allow us to fish our now very belated Christmas match, at the end of January. Was it all worth it? Well, that's a story for another report (see below). **Happy New Year and welcome to the first newsletter of 2023.**

Magical Maggs Mauls The Opposition At The Crane - 9th October 2022

It was total carnage on this annual autumn match on the Crane stretch of the Bristol Avon, not only because of Alan Maggs' bloody massacre of the rest of the field, pike were everywhere. At least in my swim they were. I had drawn well on the day, pulling out the end peg in the second field, so I was hoping for bream... as you do. However, my first fish was a roach which I promptly lost to the jaws of a hungry pike. It seemed no matter where I put my feeder or cast my Crowquill Avon float, if I hooked a roach then the pike would have a go. I think I lost eight fish in all with some coming back badly mauled. There were definitely a lot of roach in my swim but far too many pike too. I should have rested the swim for 10 minutes so that the pike would move down to Alan, who was in the next peg. Alan caught a nice net of quality roach for a comfortable win, putting 8-10-0 on the scales. Non-member, Steve Brown plucked out over 5lb of fish to take second place with Ian Swanborough's 3-1-0 being enough for third place. 3 others had nets with over 2lb of roach and dace. Alan is my partner in the Pairs Aggregate so a welcome boost to our tally... and no hard feelings.

Forthcoming Matches...

Our next match will be held on the river Tone, near Taunton, on February 12th. We will be on the "Fast Stretch", which according to the Taunton Angling boys is manic chub fishing territory. Hopefully they'll still be there when the jinxed Legionnaires arrive. Personally, I'm so looking forward to getting on the river and doing some stick-float fishing, it's been way too long. This will also be the next round of the knock-out.

The following week, on Sunday the 19th, we'll be on the Crane. This is the Staverton replacement match and fits in on the only available date left in the 2022/23

calendar. For our final match of the season we will be On the Chequers stretch. It should be much quieter on the bank than our last visit was and providing the river is in form, there could be some big nets of bream caught (LOL). My best ever river catch came from here many years ago with 32 bream, each weighing on average 4-8-0 apiece. I could have had a lot more but my 10-foot long keepnet was full to the brim, so bring at least 2 nets with you. Right, with that match over it means we will have fished one match less than the usual 8 points qualifiers this season but nothing we could do about that. So, let's remind you all of your current positions in the points tables...

Points and Pairs Aggregate Update - Top 10

With just 3 matches left, here's how it looks on the leaderboards...

Individual Aggregate

- 1st - Alan Maggs - 39 points
- 2nd - Ian Brice & Jason Pitman - 32 points
- 3rd - Ian Swanborough - 30 points
- 4th - Bill Knight - 28 points
- 5th - Leigh Wakefield - 25 points
- 6th - Clive Purshouse - 22 points
- 7th - Adrian Dennis - 21 points
- 8th - Paul Wyatt - 20 points
- 9th - John Treasure - 18 points
- 10th Glyn Sage - 14 points

Pairs Aggregate Positions

- 1st - Bill Knight & Alan Maggs - 26-9-0
- 2nd - Ian Swanborough & Ian Brice - 25-9-8
- 3rd - Clive Purshouse & Jason Pitman - 14-11-8
- 4th - Adrian Dennis & John Treasure - 8-10-0
- 5th - Glynn Sage & Tony Humphries - 3-13-0

Good luck to everyone!

The Christmas Match – Boyd Valley Lake, Bitton, 29th January 2023

Well the match finally got underway on Boyd Lake, a venue hardly any of us had fished before, so we had no idea what to expect. That said, we were expecting fair weights of carp, roach, chub, possibly a few barbel and skimmers but what we got was something else. 11 anglers turned up for this one with a couple staying away because they didn't like the colour of the water, or was it the mud? Anyway, it was certainly a bit red in colour but not too scary to be fair. After about an hour without a bite we were all feeling a little confused to say the least and then about halfway through the match, it was action stations! At least it was for Clive, who latched into a double-figure carp on pinkies. Soon after, Jason joined in the fun and landed a 7 pounder, also caught on pinkies.



Word came along the bank that Leigh (above) was catching small fish steadily but everyone else was really struggling. With about an hour to go, Clive hooked into another carp, this one was bigger than the first one, which went 13lb. His second effort went 17lb giving him just over 30lb and totally obliterating the field of innocent onlookers. I finally caught 2 small roach in the last hour to save my blushes, which wouldn't have noticed against the deep red backdrop. Well done to Clive who finished up with 30-4-0. Jason was second with his 7-1-0 carp, which won him a section payout. Leigh won the top silvers prize for his 5-13-0 catch and amazingly, I won my section with just 6oz.

Well, that was the first part of the day over and so next, we were off to the Brassmill pub in Keynsham for a well-deserved meal, a cold beer and some prize giving. At least everyone walked away with something to show for their ordeal. Not sure if we'll be going back to Boyd

again, but never say never. Below are some half-happy faces to prove that you can go fishing, catch nothing and still have a great time...



All for now River Warriors!