



## A Happy New River Fishing Season To You All!

This newsletter may have been a long time coming but it's full of words, both big and short, and some pretty pictures too, plus you'll find some interesting and exciting... news. So, it's July already and we have had one river match on the Crane and at the time of writing, another one is due on the river at Staverton. We have also had an AGM in between plus other matches on lakes and stuff. Did I mention Billy's Blog? Oh yes and Billy's Blog is going well too. So, what are you waiting for? Read and enjoy!

### **Sensational Swanny Does It Again On The River Tone – 12<sup>th</sup> February 2023**

Ian Swanborough has been on top form all season and he showed his prowess once again at our match on the fast stretch of the river Tone. Unfortunately, the expected big bags of chub didn't materialise but many of us did find one or two of them plus the odd trout and grayling. Minnows played a big part in the occasion too ☺ Ian had several chub for a total of 14-08-0, seeing off his nearest rival, Kev Murch, who managed to coax 10-08-0 to the net. In third place was Ian Brice with a few nice specimens for 6-13-0.

### **Another Sublime Performance From The Unstoppable Swanny – Crane, 19<sup>th</sup> February**

This match replaced the Staverton match, which was cancelled due to flooding and once again, that man Swanny rose to the occasion. 9 anglers turned up for this one and it was a tough old day to say the least. Most anglers on the lower numbered pegs struggled for bites all day and even the higher numbered pegs were slow to give up their residents. Ian fished caster and maggot on waggler on a peg at the end of the first field to amass a weight of 14-09-0 of mainly chub, more than doubling the weight of second placed, Leigh Wakefield, who finished up with a total of 6-13-0. Leigh was packing up early when he had 3 chub in the last 40 minutes. Kev Murch was third with 4-14-0.

### **A Critical Bream Or Bust Day On The Avon At The Chequers – 12<sup>th</sup> March**

It was the same 9 old hardy souls that turned out for the last match of the river season and on a river that didn't look very inviting. We had a little delay to proceedings first thing, as we didn't have the right combination to the padlock on the gate. Eventually, after a couple of frantic phone calls, we finally got the right numbers and were able to get access into the field. It was too wet to drive on so we all had a muddy push to contend with. The

'straight' was the place to be but once again the expected bags of bream became more of a pipe dream as very few of them showed up to the party. However, Leigh Wakefield managed to find a few, putting 9-09-0 on the scales for an easy victory on a really tough day. Jason Pitman got lucky with one big specimen weighing in at 5-05-0, which was enough to secure second place. Ian Swanborough must have been out of sorts on the day as he only managed third place with 3-13-0.

### **Invitee Steals The Show (and the cash) At Ivy House – 14<sup>th</sup> April**

With the river season now over it was onto the lakes and the first one of the year was at Ivy House, near Chippenham. As usual we struggled to get a full contingent and had to invite a few outsiders to make up the numbers. It doesn't sit well when an outsider wins the match and takes the cash but that's what it has come to. Top man today was Airsprung angler Steve M, with 79-02-0. Our best effort came from Kev Murch who finished second with 41-10-0, and I managed top silvers with 13-04-0. I don't think we'll be doing this one again.

### **Local Rod Slips In Late And Steals The Show At The Sedges – 21<sup>st</sup> May**

Once again we needed outsiders to make up the numbers for this match at the Sedges, and once again we lost out to a non-member. Local rod, Paul Homewood got a free day's fishing thanks to Fishery Manager, Jamie Cook's intervention before the draw. He also won the match with 53-15-0. Our best effort came from Jason Pitman who finished up with 44-11-0 for second. Third place also went to an outsider, with Andy Gard taking a share of the spoils. So, that makes 2 matches where we have had to call on non-members to make up the numbers and because of this, it was decided at our AGM to cease booking lakes that have a strict minimum angler limit, In future, matches held during the close season, i.e., during April and May, will be held on waters with no minimum limits. This means we could still have matches on lakes if the no minimum limits apply. Otherwise, we will be looking to canals, where we will not be unaffected



by any limitations. The downside is that we will no longer be able to visit many commercial venues where the fishing can be exceptional.

### Justin Gets Among The Bream For A Close Finish On The Crane – 18<sup>th</sup> June

We had a good turnout for the first match of the river fishing season on the Crane, with 14 anglers in attendance. That meant there would be anglers drawn in the third field. As usual, everyone wanted to be drawn on a high numbered peg and for good reason. Pegs 11, 12 and 14 produced the bronze for Jason Pitman, Ian Swanborough and John Treasure, with Jason coming out on top with a nice net of slabs for 34-04-0. Close on his heels was Ian S, who fell just short with 31-07-0 for second place, while John managed a single bream and some bits, including an eel, for third place with 5-01-8. Most anglers on the lower numbers struggled, as there was a noticeable shortage of roach and dace about.

### Forthcoming events...

Our next club match will be held on the river at Staverton. This dreamy stretch of river has yet to throw up any big weights for us but who knows... maybe this time? This match is also the Pairs match, where all contestants are paired up for the season in pursuit of the prestigious Pairs Challenge Trophy. Good luck to everyone!

After Staverton we're invited to take on the Alcove AC boys and girls at Whitehouse Farm on 6<sup>th</sup> August. In recent years, this annual event has not been too well supported by Legion members, so can you all please make every effort to attend and support your club for this interclub competition. Do your club proud!

Also in August, is the Jolly Boy's Outing. This year we're on the Gloucester canal on a private stretch, controlled by Stroud AC, where you can park behind your peg. It doesn't get any easier. I'll provide more info on this a little nearer the time and we'll probably meet up somewhere to ensure nobody gets lost.

### Other news...

Welcome new member Jon Amato. Jon hasn't been fishing for a number of years and is a bit rusty, so be gentle with him ☺

At our AGM, Ian Brice agreed to take over the job of joint match secretary from Jason. Ian will be organising the pegging and results sheets from now on with Jason providing some guidance and backup during the transition period.

2023 AGM – The meeting was well attended and we were treated to a rare appearance by our President, Bill Croom, who has agreed to remain in the post. Vice President, Bob Hole, was also present. Issues raised at the meeting were attendances, especially at the 2 close season matches in April and May. It was agreed not to hold further competitions on waters that have strict lower limits. Also, our treasurer, Clive Purshouse, warned of impending doom if we didn't raise the cost of membership subscriptions to help counteract further potential financial losses. Consequently, all subs have now been raised by £5.

### Swanny Swans Off With The Swag At The Annual Prize-Giving Ceremony

In-form Ian Swanborough had a fishing season to relish as his final points tally hit 55, which was 5 points ahead of his nearest rival, Jason. Needless to say, he walked off with a shedload of shiny trophies for his efforts, plus the coveted club tie. **Well done Ian.** It was a magnificent performance on what proved to be a difficult season due to extreme weather conditions and several annoying cancellations.

### Images from the annual presentation



Well done to all the trophy winners, including Leigh Wakefield, who was unable to attend the meeting for personal reasons.

**All for now River Warriors!**