

## Getting Back To Basics As The River Season Beckons

I don't know how many times I've said this but I will never tire of fishing a river. There's something magical about watching a float as it slowly meanders downstream, knowing that at any second it could quickly disappear below the surface. At that point it could be fish on but you just don't know exactly what you might have hooked into until it breaks the surface. The whole combination of expectation and uncertainty makes float fishing a river one of the most exciting and therapeutic activities known to man (and woman I guess). It's the same when fishing a feeder on the river. You cast out a groundbait feeder and wait for the tip of your rod to pull right round indicating that a bream has taken the bait or could it be a large roach? So, it's time to forget about the last 3 months of carping, the last 2 years of Covid, the cost of living, the price of fuel, monkey pox and Boris the buffoon. Let's all get back to the river and enjoy another season of trials and tribulations, predictions and anticipations, luck of the draw and some pleasant banter among friends and colleagues. Looking forward to seeing you all on the bank very soon but in the meantime we have the first AGM since 2019 coming up.

### Hard Going On A Thoroughly Miserable Day At Monkton Park, February 13<sup>th</sup>

Monkton Park can be a strange venue at times and it's certainly very unpredictable. Somehow, when it's looking its best it produces the worst results. The constant wind and rain didn't help morale either and it was just one of those matches that we were glad to see the back of. Now, with the pending onslaught of ridiculous parking charges facing us in the future, this venue could be in doubt. So, we had just 9 members turn out for this one and the pegging was well spaced out. Kev had the longest walk but fortunately, Rachel was on hand to help out, bravely sitting it out under a tree for most of the day. Now that's devotion for you. Top gunner on the day was in-form Jason with 2-8-0 from peg 2. Kev was second with 2-2-0 from the end peg and third was Paul with 1-9-0 from peg 4.

### Squeezed Out At Staverton Again But No Stopping Jason, March 13<sup>th</sup>



[Above: A group of renegades posing at Staverton]

Well it was the last match of the river season and Staverton was the venue. Sadly, we were subjected to yet another double booking as the Trowbridge boys decided to have a knock-up on all the best pegs. It wouldn't have mattered much except that we couldn't use the lower section due to scaffolding on the railway bridge, making that area totally

inaccessible. This picturesque section of river is very deceiving and if it wasn't for the fact that we can drive right up to our pegs, I don't think we would entertain it. However, I'm sure that its sheer mysteriousness will see us going back time and again. So, we were confined to the higher numbers, which are never the best pegs and rarely produce any significant weights in any of the matches but at least we were all in the same predicament. The weather wasn't too bad and at least the pegs are quite comfortable so all we needed was



fish. Well that man Jason seems to be on a mission these days and attacked the venue with a vengeance using pole to great effect, landing some nice chub from peg 10, which I think was permanent peg 74. His 3-4-0 was enough to push Tony's 2-9-0 into second place. Section wins went

to Adrian with 1-9-0 and John (JT) who amassed a total of 10oz. The happiest winner on the day was Steve who won the lucky peg draw for the first time.

### A Challenging Day On A Blustery Bridgwater Canal, April 10<sup>th</sup>

It was another trip down south and back to the Bridgwater & Taunton canal for this event. This time we were on the 'Wides' section at The Hope & Anchor Inn. The stretch should have been closed off to club anglers but that didn't stop 5 of them taking up some of the better pegs. Well, the most surprising thing of the day was that we only saw one paddle boarder all

day. There was no boat traffic and very few walkers and cyclists but the real pain in the backside was the strong wind, which was blowing from left to right all the way down the canal. This made bait presentation difficult and as far as I am concerned it cost me a couple of good tench. Having fished this section of canal before I knew that tench would play a major part in the weights at the end of the day. And so it was to be. However, due to the winds weights were much lower than expected and only 6lb was needed to secure the win. That went to Kev who was drawn on peg 1. His 6-6-0 total was just 8oz ahead of Jason who brought 5-14-0 to the scales for second place. Ian 'Cakeface', Swanborough wasn't too far behind with 5-7-0 taking the first section. Alan had a decent bream together with some small roach and rudd, pushing his weight up to 5-2-0, which was enough to take the second section. We had another first time winner of the lucky peg draw, and this time it was Glynn. I think we might be going back to this place soon ☺



### **The Match That Never Was, Comwich, May 8<sup>th</sup>**

Well if this match would have gone ahead there would have been just 5 competitors, so hardly worth the effort. Talking about effort, it does take time to find new venues for the close season, then make several phone calls to confirm the booking and then the numbers etc. Not to mention adding it to the match calendar and diary for the year. We have a dates and venue meeting every year to discuss match options for the coming season and everyone is invited to attend. Can I suggest more members come along and have their say if they are unhappy with the choices that the committee make. Once a match has been cancelled we have to go back to the controlling club to let them know, which is not always well received as they could have booked the water out to some other club or used the venue themselves on that day. Just saying.

### **Where did you finish up in the aggregate and Pairs?**

It has been along hard slog these past 2 seasons, with Covid disrupting our usual activities. However, we got there in the end and fished our final points match of the current season at Staverton. Here is a final list of the top ten individual aggregate positions and the top three pairs for seasons 2020/22.

#### **Individual Aggregate**

- 1<sup>st</sup>. Bill Knight – 97 points
- 2<sup>nd</sup>. Jason Pitman – 91.5 points
- 3<sup>rd</sup>. Kev Murch – 76 points
- 4<sup>th</sup>. Paul Wyatt – 73 points
- 5<sup>th</sup>. John Treasure – 69 points
- 6<sup>th</sup>. Tony Humphries – 66.5 points
- 7<sup>th</sup>. Alan Maggs – 62.5 points
- 8<sup>th</sup>. Adrian Dennis – 61 points
- 9<sup>th</sup>. Ian Swanborough – 58.5 points
- 10<sup>th</sup>. Ian Brice – 47 points

#### **Pairs Aggregate**

- 1<sup>st</sup>. Jason Pitman & Adrian Dennis – 53-3-0
- 2<sup>nd</sup>. Paul Wyatt & Ian Swanborough – 51-9-0
- 3<sup>rd</sup>. Kev Murch & Bill Knight – 45-9-0

Well done to everyone for your efforts during the past two seasons. It hasn't been easy and the weather has played its part on several occasions. I'm looking forward to a brand new season of river fishing but I'll be looking over my shoulder as that young shaver, Jason, seems to be gaining ground. Jason also won the knockout competition so I think he'll be the one to beat this coming 2022/3 season. I should also mention and remind you that the Christmas match will NOT count towards points or weights from now on. Qualifying matches for all aggregate and knockout competitions will be river based only, which is much fairer for everyone. So where will you end up in the leaderboard? Will you be flying or floundering (no pun intended).

#### **AGM coming up!!!**

So another AGM is looming and the focus will be on any proposals and the election of officers. Bob has already announced that he will be stepping down as treasurer but fortunately we have some interest in the position although that needs to be confirmed and ratified at the AGM. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Bob for all his valued past work. There may be other changes afoot too so come along and see what's happening to your club management team. Tabs will also be on sale at the meeting and at the first match on the Crane.

#### **Forthcoming events and other news...**

So, the first match will be on the Crane as usual on Sunday June 19<sup>th</sup>, which is also Father's Day. No excuses! It's Father's Day and what do fathers like doing on this special day. Yes, we like to go fishing don't we? See you on the river!

We'll be visiting the Chequers stretch on July 10<sup>th</sup>, which is one of my favourite river Avon venues of all time. Well, it's the only place I've ever caught 100lb of bream from despite visiting Ireland over 20 years. I suggest you bring 2 keepnets for this match... just in case. I wish I had brought 2 nets with me when I was bagging because there were still plenty more bream to be had that particularly special day.

Other matches I'm looking forward to are the Warwickshire Avon on the Away Day trip in August and the river Tone in February, 2023. The Warks Avon has a large head of big chub, a few barbel, some specimen roach, big perch and some bream in the deeper stretch. It's a float and feeder river, although some locals do use pole tactics here. The river Tone has a very large head of chub, roach and dace on the fast stretch, with an occasional grayling putting in an appearance, so you can expect a day of non-stop action (okay stop laughing you lot!). Seriously, match weights during February are often in excess of 20lb, which include chub up to 4lbs.

#### **Newsletter, Facebook & Website**

At some point in the future, we will stop producing printed versions of the newsletter. They look so much better online and in full colour and saves paper etc. The FB page is for members only so, if you leave the club then you will not be able to access this page. The website will remain accessible to everyone.

**All for now river warriors!**