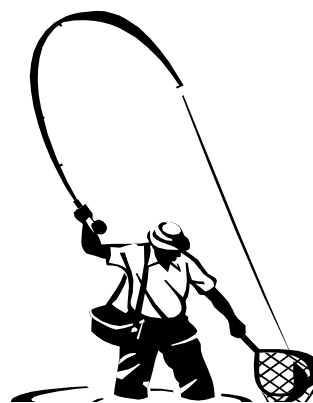


Kingswood Legionnaires

Newsletter

March 2003



Welcome everyone to the March edition of your favourite newsletter. Another Legion Pairs National Open just behind us and sadly, there were no Kingswood legionnaires in the top ranking this year. This prestigious competition attracted a total of 72 anglers from all over the country. With the river rising steadily after days of torrential rain, it was decided to switch the whole event to the canal. By Sunday morning, the river had dropped 18 inches and by the end of the match, levels were down a further 18 inches. In future, it's most likely the river section will be used so long as levels are within the banks. With more boats now moored on the canal, it would have been very difficult to accommodate any more than the actual number of entrants this year. Aside from that, some anglers had to endure a mega walk to their pegs. Still, as far as I'm aware everyone enjoyed the day despite the boat traffic and abysmal weights.

Match Results

F. Britton Shield – Barton Farm

This was also the return interclub match with Alcove AC. The river was 'pushing' a little after recent rains but did have a nice tinge of colour. Bream were the target species on the day and it was John Thomas that found most of them. John finished ahead of the field with 14-15-0, beating Neil Farler's 11-1-0 into second place. The legionnaires put in a cracking performance against Alcove, weighing in a creditable 36-12-0 to Alcove's miserable 19-14-0. Brett Hibbard was their top man with 9lb something? Hard luck chaps! They need someone like Ray Newton in their team!

Legion National Pairs Open – Barton Farm

There were lots of familiar faces by way of the Tilehurst lads, Frampton, Lee-on-Solent and Twickenham branches. After a hearty breakfast at The Three Horse Shoes, the scene resembled 'The Charge of the Light Brigade', albeit on foot, as 72 anglers raced on to the canal footpath in search of their pegs. As usual, the fish showed in the first 2 hours then made a hasty retreat as boat traffic churned up the silt and sludge. With so many barges on the canal, perhaps we should have positioned some 9mm canon on the bank. I'm sure a few boats would have gone down with all hands, to the sound of deafening cheers and riotous applause. (Can't believe I'm writing this stuff!) In contrast, after 5 long hours, the scene looked more like the 'Battle of the Somme', with weary bodies straggling along the footpath on their way to the pub for the final results and a well earned beer. Peg 6 came up trumps for Tilehurst's T. Littlewood and M.Gutsell, who amassed a combined 66 points to take the top trophies and top payout plus winner take all 'kitty'. Frampton Legion goose-stepped into second position on a weight count back, as their total 62 points tied with Hardwicke. Kingswood didn't fare too well this year. It was over to Ted Bethel and Ian Chapple to carry the K&H banner, finishing well down in 7th place. All credit to the results team, especially Steve Cooke and his laptop for finalising the results in record time. Every competitor should, in time, receive a copy of the final results sheet.

End of season positions

Winner of the individual aggregate goes deservedly, to Mark Summerhayes, who totalled 142 points from this

place with 116 points. Winners of the coveted 'Pairs Challenge' trophy are Mark Summerhayes and Glen Welsh. And the man who knocked out everyone else, is Alan Maggs. Well done to all. If you want to know where you finished up, contact Rich Watts.

Next Matches

Our next match will be fished at Plantation Lakes on April 13th. Are you fishing? Brian will be away in 'Umgalumba', South Africa, so contact either Rich Watts or me and let us know please. I'm told we'll be fishing the horseshoe lake.

On May 11th the Kennet & Avon canal at Devizes plays host. If you're unfamiliar with this section of the canal, you'll be quite amazed at the quality of fish. It will fish well to waggler, feeder and pole and be prepared for a few surprises. You'll make me wish I didn't say this won't you?

The annual Star & Garter match will be held at Westerleigh on May 25th. Contact Ted Brown for tickets.

Coach Outing

At present, it's looking like Linear Fisheries, Oxford but if we don't get ourselves sorted soon, it will more than likely be 'Blacklands'. Now we don't want that do we? Seriously though, we should know where we're going by the next club meeting so stay tuned.

Presentation Evening

As you will all no doubt be aware, our club presentation and social evening will be held at the Whitehall Rugby Club. It's a disco dancing, bopping party extravaganza night not to be missed and at only £6 per head you can afford to invite all the family and a few friends, if you have any. A buffet will also be available for those in need of a nibble. The date is **June 7th**. This event needs your support, otherwise it could be the last! Please make every effort to attend.

Other News

- Amalgamation tabs are on sale at a reduced price from Brian. But not for long! Give him a ring if you want one. 0117 9676030
- Don't forget to renew your rod license. Rod licenses expire on March 31st. Don't get caught out. You have been warned!
- Bill Croom has a feeder rod and a trolley for sale. Give him a ring on 0117 9651913. It's a bargain!

All for now!