



*“Spring is in the air... and there’s beauty all around”*

Welcome one and all to the mad March Spring issue of your most treasured angling publication. It’s almost Spring, which means we’re leaving the mean, old cold, wet Winter behind us at long last. No longer to suffer the dark and gloomy nights, the cold and crispy mornings and those whopping heating bills... at least for another year. I can remember when the month of March used to be one of sadness and deep sorrow because it signalled the end of the river fishing season and the beginning of the decorating season. Thankfully that is now a distant memory. On the subject of distant memories, I’ve been looking back over the match results of previous years and despite giving up Wolverton, our river fishing doesn’t seem to have improved very much. Are the rivers in decline or is there something more sinister going on? Let’s face it chaps... we’re not getting any younger and our fishing isn’t getting any better. What we need is some kind of Viagra for old fisherman. Something that will get our rods up and keep them there long enough so that we can perform with devastating effect. Well I’ve got mine... have you got yours? I am of course talking about a sense of humour. Get yours today!

**Match Results**

**December 14th Farleigh Wood** – Christmas was to come early for one lucky angler in this multi-club event held on the pond at Farleigh Wood. And it didn’t need any cunning plan or mystical, magical bait to pull off a convincing win either. All it needed was a number one. That’s a peg one draw, which is known to be home to most of the water’s largest inhabitants. Peg one is at the sheltered end of the lake where fish tend to congregate and it was the most fancied peg on the day due to a stiff cold wind blowing in from the north east. However, even if you draw this peg you still have to know where the fish lie and what bait to present to them. Well it didn’t take long for rock steady Eddy Davis to figure it out and before long he was romping home to a convincing victory, much to the dismay of the anglers on the opposite bank who struggled all day for bites. Eddy played an absolute blinder with his unique approach, which was to fish double maggot down the inside left bank. This highly effective method proved to be the most cunning of all plans and paid off handsomely. His huge haul of 23lb-14oz was no match for the rest of the field, allowing for a comfortable win and some very handy Xmas

beer tokens. He also managed to capture a specimen perch of 2lb-15oz, which is a new club record. His travelling companion and partner in crime, Johnny ‘The Hack’ Mack also pulled out all the stops only on a much smaller scale to secure the runner-up position with 6lb-10.5oz. Brian of confused dot com was a close third with 6lb-6oz. After all the excitement, it was back to the Mill at Rode for the annual Xmas nosh-up and prize giving ceremony. The Muppet of the day award went to Ian Swanborough of the Bristol Post Office AC for coming up blank. His humiliating penalty was to wear the silly Christmas gnome hat (see picture below) for the duration of the meal. This will now become an annual award for the lowest weight caught. ☺



### **January 11<sup>th</sup> Crane, Keynsham**

This one turned out to be another death defying endurance test for most of us, with the river running fast and mucky it was a real hard slog just trying to tempt a bite. A few of the Bristol Post Office lads were brave enough to join us but it was down to Mr Postie himself, Leigh Wakefield, to stamp his mark and finally deliver the goods right on time. His unusual approach, which involved using a crowquill avon float rig in conjunction with a long pole sorted the men from the mail when he conjured up two decent size bream and a few bits for over 6lb emerging as the clear overall winner. Top legion rod was none other than myself with a paltry 12oz of surface caught bleak and a couple of tiny roach. A very dismal day indeed. ☹

### **February 8<sup>th</sup> Monkton Park**

I'm still bemused why the river didn't fish well on this occasion as it had a nice steady pace and looked okay. It was perhaps a little clear but that hasn't really been a problem before. Well, we can try to analyse and speculate as best we can but we'll just never know the answers. With half the match already played, news travelled along the bank that everyone was struggling but I could see clearly that the man in the peg next to me was jockeying for pole position. Sure enough when it came to the weigh-in Johnny Thompson, the Peter Pan of Whitchurch, cruised past the post with an impressive 11lb-15.5oz comprising mostly of small roach and perch. As much as I tried I couldn't catch the ace matchman and so ended up in the humiliating bridesmaid position once again with my tiny 7.5oz offering. It did end up all smiles for the happy snapper chappy Billy Croom, who after numerous years as a Legion angling club member finally picked a winner from the football card, walking away with a crisp fiver. ☺



**All for now river warriors ☺**

### **Next match...**

Our next match will be held on the river Avon at Barton Farm, Bradford-on-Avon. And just in case you're interested, our weights (RBL) from the same venue last year were, 1<sup>st</sup>, 31b-3oz, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 21b-12oz and 3<sup>rd</sup>, 11b-7.5oz. I'm just saying... The confirmed venue for **April is Farleigh Wood** and for **May it's Cuckoo's Rest**. Please amend your calendars accordingly.

### **Pairs Aggregate Latest...**

With only one qualifying match left to fish, the Pairs Aggregate leaders are 14lbs clear, and are almost certainly going to win the big one barring any mega upsets at the forthcoming Bradford-on-Avon match. Second place is too tight to call. Here's how it looks at the time of going to print: 1<sup>st</sup> B.Lloyd & E.Davis 39-8-0, 2<sup>nd</sup> B.Croom & J.Thompson 25-06-8 and 3<sup>rd</sup> C.Purshouse & B.Knight 25-06-0.

### **Individual Aggregate Latest...**

The same scenario as the pairs also applies to the individual aggregate but I'm afraid to say chaps I cannot be caught, whatever the outcome of the Bradford match. Here's how it stands:

1<sup>st</sup> B.Knight 45 points, 2<sup>nd</sup> B.Hole 34 points, joint 3<sup>rd</sup> B.Lloyd & J.Thompson 27 points each, 5<sup>th</sup> B.Croom 25 points, joint 6<sup>th</sup> J.McMahon & E.Davis 24 points each, 8<sup>th</sup> A.Maggs 21 points, 9<sup>th</sup> C.Purshouse 19 points and the latest entrant is Steve Jeffries who has 4 points for 10<sup>th</sup> place.

### **Knock-out Competition Winner...**

This season's knock-out winner is moi. Je vous remercie beaucoup mes amis ☺

### **Welcome new members**

On behalf of the club, I would like to extend a warm welcome to all new members who have joined us this season. (Come along to our AGM).

**Our next club meeting** will be held on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> April and not the usual Monday, due to the Easter holidays. All members welcome.

### **Old Joke's Home...**

There's a fine line between fishing and sitting on the river bank like an idiot.

I went fly fishing last week, all I caught was 2 bluebottles and a wasp.

What do you call a fish with no eyes? A fish