

## The Kingswood Legionnaires' Newsletter

### Another River Season Comes To A Close... But For How Much Longer?

Unless you've been living under a rock, or you're from some other planet (and I have my suspicions about some of you), you might have heard that a debate has been raging for a few years now, about whether to keep the close season on rivers. Well, the time for talking is over and the subject is finally heading towards a definite conclusion. The Environment Agency, together with the Angling Trust, will make the ultimate decision based on the results of a countrywide angler's survey, in which anglers were asked the simple question... should it go or should it stay? (Actually it was a long, drawn out series of questions.) The survey closes on March 11<sup>th</sup> and the results will be published soon after. The 140 year law has forbidden anglers to fish on rivers between March 15<sup>th</sup> and June 16<sup>th</sup>, a period during which, it is believed the majority of fish in rivers tend to spawn. However, there is no evidence to support this theory and scientists now believe that fish could spawn outside this period depending on water temperatures. In favourable conditions, spawning may even take place more than once in a year. So what's your view? Mine has always been to keep the close season because I feel there are many benefits to other species of wildlife, such as birds and insects, who breed at around the March to June period. It also allows time for bankside vegetation to grow back, creating valuable habitats for wildlife. Yes, I know it means more swim clearing but such is life. All that said, there is still something a little magical about the glorious 16<sup>th</sup> June, which anglers of a certain age can probably relate to. In any case, it's not like we don't have all-year-round fishing now on lakes and canals, so it's not like we're missing out on our weekly fix. However, just like Brexit, there will undoubtedly be winners and losers.

### Bumper Fish Fest Fun at Farleigh

I can't remember any other Christmas match where so many fish were caught, which makes the 2018 Xmas match at Farleigh Wood one for the record books. 16 anglers hauled out an incredible 2021b-12oz of fish, with 5 weighing in over 20lb each. In absolute contrast, our Xmas match on the river at Stowford the previous year, returned a total weight of just 5.5oz between 17 very wet and weary rods. So, I'm happy to announce that all future Xmas matches will be held at Farleigh Wood, with Stowford as a reserve.

And it wasn't only the fishing that brightened up our day. Our short trip back to the Red Lion for fish and chips, ale and some hearty banter also went down very well. It's hoped that we can book this very warm and welcoming public house for all our future Xmas presentations. Okay enough of the jibber jabber... Winner on the day was Kev Much with 26-7-0, followed closely by Adrian Dennis on 26-0-0 and John Treasure on 24-7-0 for third place. As always everyone received a prize and Lucky Brian got to wear the 'muppet of the

Match' award... again. (Suits him)



Brian looking the part at our annual Xmas prize giving ceremony.

Kev Much (The Jester) with, beaming smile after his victorious effort at Farleigh Wood.





**Xmas continued... more stunning pictures.**



**Long Walk Proves Productive Once Again on the Crane...**

Our first match of the New Year was held on the Crane, Keynsham, on January 13<sup>th</sup> and once more the winning weight came from the farthest peg. However, with the river in a very dour mood it didn't take much to romp home with the prize money and a tidy trophy. Top performer, and my partner in crime, was Adrian Dennis who only needed 4-14-0 to take the honours in what was a 14 peg field of cold and weary contenders. Adrian's 14 points catapults him up the aggregate

table, and he now lies just 2 points behind me. Second place went to in-form Paul Pitt who placed 3-07-0 on the scales, followed by Nigel Vigus on 3-02-0 for third.

**Party in the Park for Paul Pitt at Chippenham**

Monkton Park played host to our February match held on the 10<sup>th</sup> with the river totally out of sorts. Okay, so it had some colour, a little too much... and it had some flow, way too much. One day we'll get it right but today was not going to be that day. Feeder tactics dominated throughout and bites were very hard to come by. Paul Pitt hadn't had a sniff come mid-day but then went on to bag a large skimmer followed a whopping six pound bream, the largest single fish recorded this season. His total weight of 9-01-0 was just too much for the rest of the field, needing only 3lb for second place. That fell to crack matchman Alan Maggs, whose mixed bag almost tripled Ian Swanborough's 1-03-0 for third place.

**Individual Aggregate Heats Up With Just One Match to Go! (Where are you?)**

A.Dennis	<b>73</b>	As usual it's going to go
B.Knight	<b>72</b>	right down to the wire in
A.Maggs	<b>65</b>	the individual aggregate
P.Pitt	<b>64</b>	stakes, with some too
C.Purshouse	<b>61</b>	close for comfort point
J.Treasure	<b>49</b>	positions, heading into
I.Swanborough	<b>44</b>	the final match at
K.Murch	<b>39</b>	Bradford-on-Avon on
J.Pitman	<b>29</b>	Sunday 10 <sup>th</sup> March.
I.Brice	<b>28</b>	Here's how it looks for
		the top 10 with only a

possible 12 points up for grabs. On the face of it, it looks like there are only 4 possible contenders, unless of course they all blank, in which case it will be wide open. **Good luck everyone!**

**Pairs Challenge Trophy... All But Sown Up?**

The Pairs Challenge Trophy looks to be heading safely towards Adrian Dennis and myself, who have a clear 25lb lead over nearest rivals Alan Maggs and Clive Purshouse. However, half a dozen good bream at Bradford could throw a spanner in the works and cause a major upset here, so it's not over till it's over and I don't hear any fat lady singing just yet.

B.Knight & Adrian Dennis	<b>85.07.5</b>
A.Maggs & C.Purshouse	<b>60.06.0</b>
J.Treasure & I.Brice	<b>45.12.0</b>
R.Hole & P.Pitt	<b>24.00.0</b>
G.Sage & M.James	<b>19.07.0</b>
B.Lloyd & I.Swanborough	<b>14.14.0</b>



**Forthcoming matches...** April 14<sup>th</sup> Harescombe, Match Lake. Word on the street is you'll need 3-4 keepnets! May 12<sup>th</sup> Farleigh Wood – one keepnet will do. Make a note: The **Away Day** will be at South Cerney on Walter's Lake. Details to follow. **All for now river warriors!**