

The Kingswood Legionnaires' Newsletter

In Memory Of The Ones That Got Away (Mostly about me ☺)

I don't know about you guys but me... I'm a loser. No, I'm not down on my luck or in a dark place or feeling sorry for myself... well, yes I am just a bit. What I mean is I'm forever losing good fish. Admittedly, sometimes it's my own fault. Swinging in fish, just to see them drop back into the water has cost me dear over the years and yet I still do it. Fishing too fine when there are big fish around has also cost me, yet I still do it. It's become habitual. It's like, when you search around in your 'maggie box' for the biggest maggot you can find to go on the hook each time before you cast out. You just do it. However, there comes a time when you think you're tackled up ready to tame any size fish, then the unthinkable happens. You hook a monster carp in the river... and of course you lose it. Then you hook another and lose that one too. In between all this panic-stricken action and hysteria you hook into a bream, which you know could be a match winner only to see it roll over and say goodbye. Fishing really sucks!

It's Meaty Mayhem At Whitehouse Farm

Fresh from our previous outing to Whitehouse Farm just a week earlier, we were all full of anticipation for this inter-club match held on August 6th. Top weight on the previous week was over 60lb coming off Margaret's peg 12, all caught on meat. Needless to say we were all hoping for a peg 12, 13 or 14 draw on this day. As usual, I dived into the draw bag right after Leigh "Lucky Legs" Wakefield and drew out plum peg 13. Whoopee! I had a large tin of meat all prepared and cut up into large pellet size pieces and I was planning on taking no prisoners. To my left I had Bob "The Bread" Price and to my right I had Martin Alexander, two well-seasoned matchmen, so I couldn't afford to slip up. Margaret's Lake was well fancied and I was sure the top weight would come from there. So was Paul Pitt who drew Margaret's peg 6 and attacked the chub with a vengeance. After an hour I finally hooked into my first carp, which weighed in at a hefty 13lb plus. This was quickly followed by an animal weighing 18lb-2oz. I then lost the next two before changing hook size. I then went on to land one, lose one right up to the final whistle, when I lost another one. It didn't matter, as I



had done enough and emerged as the overall winner with 52lb-12oz, which included 4lb of silvers consisting mainly of a 2lb crucian. The guys either side proved their metal with Martin Alexander weighing in 39lb for 2nd, and Bob Price putting 38lb on the scales for 3rd. However, our man Paul Pitt helped to close the deficit with a useful 33lb. Alcove Ace Steve Dawson was the only other angler to catch more than 20lb with 23lb - 10oz to his credit. It was an epic battle between all anglers of both clubs but the Legion finally came out victorious... but it was close. There was not much more than 6lb between us. Up the Legion!

An Away Day Best Forgotten...

The unpredictable and rather sullen river Kenn in Clevedon was to be our "exciting" away day event this year, which was held on Sunday August 20th. The day got off to a very slow start, mainly because half the

contingent went to the wrong bridge. Some said I didn't tell them which bridge we were meeting at. For others, it was obviously a bridge too far. Finally everyone arrived at the right bridge and the draw got under way for a 6-hour "fun day." The day was long, quiet, boring, soul-destroying and pants. For many it started off slow and then went downhill from there. To cap it all it started raining in the last hour, which literally put the dampers on it. At the weight in, end pegger Paul Pitt came out on top with an impressive 6lb-1oz, followed by Ian Brice with 4lb-12oz and I somehow scraped third with 3lb-1oz. Section winners were Alan Maggs with 2lb-4.5oz and Adrian Dennis with 2lb-15oz. The luckiest man on the day was Roger Worlock who walked away with the dry net award, being a pack of jelly fish.

Mark, The Bradford Bream Dreamer...

September 10th was the date for the annual inter-club contest with Airsprung AA and also our Fred Bryant Cup tie, which was held at Barton Farm, Bradford-on-Avon. Paul Pitt pegged out for us (many thanks to Paul) and split the match around 50/50 with sections either side of the field gate. Of course everyone wanted a high-ish peg number because that's where the bream live. I decided to go into the draw bag straight after Alan Maggs who was looking exceptionally lucky on this particular morning. My hunch proved right as I pulled out peg 11, which was the first peg inside the gate to the field. Bob Hole had drawn this one last year and landed 5 good bream so I was elated. The river was moving, albeit slowly, but it could have done with a bit more colour to it so I was feeling a little apprehensive. However, 8 balls of groundbait went in on the whistle and the waiting game began. In the meantime I loose fed maggot out to the middle and fished 13 metres of pole for plenty of small fish before putting the groundbait feeder out over the bed of groundbait. The rest is history... 2 lost carp, which I couldn't shift off the bottom and a 5lb plus old black bream that rolled its way to freedom. Come the weigh-in Mark James, who has been in good form lately had managed to tempt one lonely bream to his net, which went 5lb-14.5oz, taking his tally up to 9lb-4oz for a decisive victory. The top Airsprung AA man was B. Haigh with 7lb-14oz, followed by our own Johnny the Macca acca on 6lb-3oz. The

Kingswood Legionnaires won the day by a clear margin, so yet another team win chalked up this season. (Are we getting good or just lucky?) My day ended as expected, being pipped for a section win by just an ounce. ☹

Rub-a-Dub Dub, Mark's Now On The Chub...

It was two from two for Cockney Rebel, Mark James, as he once again put in a fine performance to win at Christian Malford on September 24th. On a low and flow-less river, many anglers found it hard going. It was even harder if you had pike in your swim. Mark finished up with some quality chub for a total weight of 9lb- 6oz, followed by Adrian Dennis who had 7lb- 9oz despite him admitting to only 4lb. Third place, and section money went to Clive Purshouse who had a decent size perch amongst his total weight of 6lb-9oz, just ahead of Ian Brice who trekked all the way back from Docklow Pools for this match and finished with 5lb-13oz. That's dedication for you. Many thanks to the lads who spent hours clearing and tidying the bank for us. However, with so much work involved in preparing this venue, it has been decided not to use it again. Alas poor Christian!

Nigel's Sleight Of Hand Brings Instant Refund...

We finally caught up with the elusive Nigel Vigus at the Crane match held on October 8th and relieved him of his Legion membership subs. He then went on to win the match and so we had to hand his money back, and then some. So in effect, we were just holding his money for him until the end of the match... cheeky! Nigel won on a virtually stagnant, low level river with just 5lb -10.5oz from peg 2. I was second with just 4lb-3oz grabbing some valuable, much-needed points and a knock-out result over Paul Pitt, who amongst many others really struggled. John Treasure was third with 2lb - 3.5oz.

Where it's at...

Here are the top 10 aggregate positions so far, and all the pair's aggregate weights, in numerical order.

		Pairs Aggregate	
B.Knight	36		
M.James	33		
A.Maggs	29	M.James & K.Murch	19.14.8
B.Hole	24	B.Knight & I.Swanborough	16.10.0
L.Wakefield	21	C.Purshouse & A.Maggs	13.11.8
A.Dennis	21	B.Lloyd & B.Hole	07.11.8
C.Purshouse	19	I.Brice & P.Pitt	06.09.0
K.Murch	19	B.Croom & J.Treasure	04.08.8
P.Pitt	18	A.Dennis & S.Jefferies	04.06.8
B.Croom	18		

Lots happening between now and Xmas so check your tabs. New calendars will be on sale at the Crimbo match. I'll be taking new clothing orders soon, so see me to get suited and booted for 2018. **All for now river warriors.**