



All Quiet On The Western Front

I can't believe it's October already! Where has this year gone? Since I've been "semi-retired", I seem to be busier than ever with both work and with fishing. I'm trying to get at least 2 days fishing in a week now, otherwise it won't feel like I'm slowing down and enjoying myself, which is what you're supposed to do when you retire... isn't it? What I have noticed recently is that if you want to find some peace and quiet in your old age then you have to go out there and get it. Well, now that I've practically got it, I can honestly say, I'm enjoying being a "poor pensioner". State pension and free bus pass aside, I'm happy to report that all is quiet on the western front. And at my age you're allowed to talk a load of boll*cks! Anyway, there's plenty of proper, interesting news in this newsletter so read on and enjoy!

Dennis & Brice Blow Away The Pairs Competition At Staverton - 9th July



If you put the initials of Ian Brice and Adrian Dennis together they read "I BAD" and they certainly were. The badass motherfishers slashed the opposition to pieces on this first Pairs Aggregate match, held at Staverton. As usual, the river was running slow but it also had some nice colour to it for a change, which prompted at least one bream to feed. As it happens, the only bream on the munch was in Ian Brice's swim and what a fish it was too. It turned out to be nice specimen of 6lb, which qualifies for the heaviest fish of the season so far. The big slab helped to bump Ian's weight up to 8lb 7oz for an easy victory over his nearest rival, Jason Pitman who managed a mere 3lb 15oz for second place. In third place with a section win was myself with 3lb 9.5oz. Jon Amato took the other section with 2lb 8oz including a roach of 9.5oz. Adrian weighed in 2lb dead, which gave the dynamic duo a total of 10lb 7oz and a lead of just under 5lbs. A terrific start to the pair's competition.

Brave Legionnaires Get Another Unfair Spanking At Whitehouse Farm - 6th August

The annual interclub match between the Legion and Alcove got underway at Whitehouse Farm on Sunday 6th August and as usual the Legion were well out-gunned by the opposition. The magnificent 7 did all they could to save face but the almighty 13 Alcove boys took full advantage of the numbers and gave us all a good spanking. Top rod bender on the day was John Dursley

with 48lb 7oz of carp from Margaret's Lake, followed by myself with 30lb 6oz, also from Margaret's Lake. Other Legion weights of note included Jason Pitman with 21lb 1oz, taking top spot on Georges Lake with Jon Amato coming third on Georges Lake with 12lb 8oz. Kev Murch returned 21lb from Margaret's Lake and Ian Brice was just an ounce behind Kev with a catch also from Margaret's Lake. Team Weights: Alcove 199-7-0. Kingswood Legion 119-7-0.

End Peg Alan Hammers Out A Victory On The Glorious Gloucester - 20th August

Alan Maggs just loves end pegs and seems to draw them quite often. In fact, more often than most but you've got to hand it to him, today he made the Away day end peg pay. This was our new venue for the annual Away Day and the big bonus was being able to park right behind your peg. Apart from Alan, everyone else struggled for bites but we put that down to the fish being overfed due to several weeks of multiple practice matches on the run up to the Division One National. So it does deserve another visit, just to see what we could have had. Alan's performance produced a total weight of 7lb 1oz for a convincing victory over nearest rival, Leigh Wakefield who put 2lb 8oz on the scales. Close behind and in third place was John Treasure with 2lb 2oz and section wins went to Clive Purshouse and myself with 1lb 9oz and 2lb respectively. I found out later that the Div 1 National winning weight of 109lbs came from a peg that was tantalisingly close at only a dozen pegs away.

Jon Whips Up A Roach Frenzy At Chequers - 10th September

This was the annual Fred Bryant cup contest and this year it was held on the Chequers stretch of the Bristol Avon. It was marked down as an Interclub with Golden Valley but It's just as well we didn't invite anyone as we struggled to find enough pegs for the 9 Legion anglers who attended. Some swim clearing had

to be carried out beforehand and even then I spent another 40 minutes clearing away reeds so missed a big chunk of the match. It was an unexpectedly warm and sunny day, which after last year's episode was the last thing we needed. However, only 2 people decided to risk their lives by going in for a swim and paddle boarders were thankfully few and far between. The bream failed to put in an appearance, which was expected in such bright sunlight so it was down to roach to make up the weights. Jon Amato had the right idea by targeting them with a whip to great effect. His winning weight of 6lb-9oz consisted of all roach, whereas my weight of 4lb 12oz was all kinds of everything, mostly caught in the last hour and enough for second place. Lagging behind in third place was Alan Maggs with 4lb 8oz. Due to access issues, this could very well be last time we have a match on this stretch.

Clive Clobbers The Chub At Staverton Revisited – 24th September

This match was the Queen Elizabeth II Memorial Match and was supposed to be an interclub event with Golden Valley AC but they failed to turn up. It might have been something to do with the long detour we all had to make via Trowbridge due to the usual access road being closed because of road/water works. Whatever... Well, we had a dozen anglers competing and the whole stretch to ourselves so there was plenty of room for everyone. Before the draw we had a little drama to contend with as a horse had thrown its stable-girl rider and came galloping down toward us. Eventually, he headed back to the stables by himself so all ended well. (I need to find out his name and get a bet on him at his next race ☺). Now I know I've said it before but being able to park behind your peg is what helps to make this a perfect venue. However, a few more quality fish would also help as Clive proved by catching a 2lb chub on his first cast with bread. Clive kept up the momentum and took advantage of his early lead, putting another 3lbs of fish in the net before the final whistle. That brought his tally to 5lb 3oz, which was enough to walk away with the day's spoils. In second place was Mr Consistent, Jason ~~Donovan~~ Pitman with 4lb 12oz. Jon Amato took section 1-6 with 3lb 6oz and I managed to win section 7-12 with 4lb 7oz. I did lose a very big chub in the nearside reeds but you don't want to hear about that do you?... Do You?

The Kingswood Legion Rules Supreme On The Crane... but only just! – 8th October

This was the return interclub match with Alcove AC and our chance to even the score after our defeat at Whitehouse Farm. It was held on the Crane section of the Bristol Avon, which returned some mediocre to low weights the week before in the Commercial House League. We had 12 anglers in total, with 7 representing the Kingswood Legion and 5 from Alcove. As usual, the last couple of pegs in the second field were favourites but only if the bream would show. As it happens, today was a bright and sunny day and the river was a little clear so bream would not be the main quarry. Instead, roach, dace and bleak would be the targets and low weights were expected. Boat traffic was minimal and paddle boarders were few, which helped keep stress levels down, so it was just the usual overhanging trees and snags to contend with. The river did look as though

it was flowing very slow but on presenting a float, the pace was just about right. Small fish were topping so it had the makings of a pleasant day. Peg 2 isn't usually a noted match winning peg unless the bream show but today there was some quality roach in residence, which fell to Alcove's Andy Pritchard, who managed to find 9lb 6oz of them, all tempted by caster. That was enough to seal victory. Meanwhile, Alcove's Dave Manning had drew fancied peg 12 and managed to find 7lb 13.5oz of quality roach to take the second place payout. That left our own Ian Swanborough, who drew peg 6, finishing in third place with 5lb 15oz. Section wins went to Ian Brice with 4lb 7oz and myself, who whipped out a 5lb 9oz mixed bag. Team weights: Alcove AC, 26-13-8. Kingswood Legion, 28-14-0.

Individual aggregate positions

With 4 points matches behind us, we are now half way through the season. Where are you in the table?

Individual Aggregate		Pairs Aggregate Positions	
Positions (Top 10)			
B.Knight	30	A.Maggs & J.Pitman	19.11.0
J.Pitman	26		
I.Swanborough	24	B.Knight & C.Purshouse	19.07.5
I.Brice	24		
J.Treasure	23	A.Dennis & I.Brice	19.02.0
A.Maggs	22		
J.Amato	17	J.Amato & J.Treasure	17.09.5
K.Murch	13		
C.Purshouse	12	K.Murch & A.Humphries	06.15.0
L.Wakefield	11		

Forthcoming events...

- Our next match in the calendar is to be held at Stathe Drain on 22nd October. This is an invitation match although I don't think we have invited anyone. Will the bream show on the lower pegs? Will the tench put in an appearance? Whatever happens it'll be a nice day out and a change from lakes and rivers.
- We'll soon be in November and there are poppy matches to be fished. The first of which is the Alcove Poppy Open on 5th November at Whitehouse Farm. This one could go off with a bang?
- Then there's the Main Poppy Appeal Open on 12th November, which is fished from the Chequers to Newbridge. It's a great RBL fundraiser so get your ticket... if you can.
- Then it's back to normal service with our next points, pairs and knockout club match, which will be fished at Riverside Drive. It's been a long while since we were last at this venue so fingers crossed for some good chub weights.
- That takes us up to December and our Christmas match, which will be held at Bitterwell Lake (hopefully). I'll book the Folly for our Xmas lunch and prize-giving once I know exactly how many will be fishing.

Other news...

New Year Calendars!

I'm still waiting for more photos please so get those snappers out and send me your best profiles for the 2024 calendar.

All for now River Warriors!