



Welcome to the December edition of your long-awaited newsletter. Christmas is almost upon us and another year is drawing to a close. And what a year it's been. We've seen a change in the club's constitution, we're joint tenants of some of the finest fishing on the Somerset Frome and Brian has hung up his poppy appeal collection tin for good. 25 years of fund-raising is quite some feat and we, the editorial team here at the Kingswood Legionnaires HQ, applaud this noble and heroic accomplishment. Well done to Brian and everyone else, who over the years has helped to make the Poppy Match a truly momentous occasion. Okay, let's get on.

Match Results

Westerleigh August 7th

This was a friendly, fished on the top lake and was attended by 9 anglers. Winner was Bob Hole with 26-4-0 and Ted Brown was second with 22-5-0. That's right! Ted Brown was second!

F. Bryant Cup – Crane – September 11th

This was also an interclub match with Airsprung AA. Weights were quite reasonable for the Crane, and I'm of the opinion that this section of the Bristol Avon is showing signs of significant improvement. Top rod on the day was D.Target of Airsprung with 11-5-0, followed by yours truly with 9-3-0. Glen Welsh chalked up a second place on the Legion score sheet with 4-12-0. Team weights were Airsprung 28-14-8 to the Legion's 28-5-8.

W.Milton Cup – Beanacre – October 9th

This was the saga of the panting peggers, as a band of jolly anglers set off in search of some fishable waters. Eventually, a kindly farmer put wrongs to right and directed the happy helpers to a field o'er yonder. 'Twas a long slog for some and especially I, who was drawn on't end peg. But as luck 'ud 'ave it, the fish were bitin' and a lovely net of redfins and chublets did come tut scales. 'Aye another feather int cap for I wi' 8-4-0 and 10 luvly points int bag. Crackin'! Next up to the rostrum was Antony Hole with 6-4-0 followed smartly by Stevie Cooke with 4-10-0.

Interclub - Golden Valley - Swineford

The 'Golden boys' led the way and cleared out the kitty, after easily taking the top 2 places during a difficult 5 hour stretch on a stretch lasting a difficult 5 hours. B.Ferris of Valley led the charge and returned 8-7-0 followed closely by his team mate K.Smith with 8-2-0. The Legion's 'best boy' came in the shape of Alan Maggs who troubled the scalesman with 5-4-0. Team weights finished with Golden Valley on 49-5-8 to the Legion's total of 30-2-0. Verdict? Could do better.

Alcove Poppy Match - Whitehouse Farm

This was a nice gesture by the Alcove lads. The match attracted a turn out of 17 anglers, who between them raised a very useful £100 for the Poppy Appeal. Best catcher of the day was that old stalwart Brett Hibberd with 26lb. Organiser cum match secretary, Ian Chappell, wasn't very far behind with 24lb. Everyone else will just remember it as being a very wet and windy one.

Poppy Appeal Open

Another great turn out of die-hards greeted the morning assembly and stood with heads bowed during the customary 2 minutes silence. 119 anglers filed through the small hall and headed on to a beckoning river to do peaceful battle amongst the fields of Keynsham, Swineford and Saltford. But alas! There can be only one winner and that title was bestowed upon M.Challenger who captured 31-2-0 of mostly bream.

Individual and Pairs positions update

Top ten individual positions: Joint 1st - Bill Kumpik & Antony Hole with 28 points. 3rd Bill Croom – 22 points. 4th Ted Brown – 21 points. 5th Bob Hole – 19 points. 6th Alan Maggs – 18 points. 7th Brian Lloyd – 16 points. 8th Gary Takle – 11 points. Joint 9th Clive Pursehouse & Glen Welsh 9 points.

Top three pairs positions: 1st Alan Maggs & Ted Brown – 23-12-8. 2nd Bob Hole & Clive Pursehouse – 21-5-8. 3rd Antony Hole & Gary Takle – 16-6-0. (See Brian for your handout)

Finally – A poem entitled 'Fishful Thinking'

The fishing bug is known to bite
From early morning till fading light
Canals and rivers throughout the land
Teem with men with rods in hand

Do they have a predilection
For gazing at their own reflection?
Their umbrellas keep bad weather at bay
Or are they asleep under them all day?

What prompts this strong primeval urge
To perch upon a verdant verge
Indulging in water sport
And returning their quarry once it's caught?

Whilst lovely grub means wriggling bait
What's happening to the piscator's mate?
His earlier catch which he baited and hooked
Now finds her goose is truly cooked

She's on a line, always waiting and wishing
When he's away on the river bank fishing
Remember chaps the damp and the cold
Will give you arthritis when you get old

And sitting too long you must avoid
Or all you'll catch is an haemorrhoid
But spare the rod and spoil your wife
And bottomless joy is yours for life

Merry Christmas