

# Newsletter

February 2004



**D**o your fishing abilities let you down? Do you always feel as though you're having a bad day? Don't worry, you're not alone. Every Sunday, anglers from the length and breadth of the country experience NFS (No Fish Syndrome). This condition has become quite widespread. Unfortunately for us, it has reached epidemic proportions but alas, all is not lost. All you need is a GSOH (Good Sense Of Humour) and to help you along the way I've included a little dose, which should help lift your spirits to new heights. Here it is:

### Joke of the month

Gary and Rich invited Ted out for a day's fishing on their boat. When they dropped anchor to fish, Ted asked: "Do you lads mind if I fish off the left-hand side of the boat?" "No that's okay we'll fish off the right-hand side" said Rich. They did, and all day long they caught nothing. Ted, fishing off the other side, kept pulling them in one after another. A few weeks later, Gary and Rich took Ted out again. When they dropped anchor, Gary asked Ted: "I suppose you want to fish off the left-hand side of the boat again, eh?" "No. If it's all right with you lads, I'd like to fish off the right-hand side." And he did. It was like the Sea of Galilee with fish coming from everywhere on his side. Gary and Rich again caught nothing. At the end of the day Rich asked Ted: "How the hell do you know which side of the boat the fish are going to be on?" "Well, when I wake up in the morning I look to see which side my wife is sleeping on. If she's lying on her left, then I'll fish the left side of the boat and if she's on her right side, I'll fish the right side of the boat." "That's very interesting - but hang on a minute. What do you do if she's lying flat on her back?" "Ah well, in that case it's obvious... I don't go fishing"

## **Xmas Match - Swineford**

Seems so long ago now but I'm sure you'll remember that the river was in flood and eels were the only choice on the menu. Old timer 'Teddy Boy' Brown showed us young shavers how it's done by bagging 3-3-0 for first place and collected the winner's hamper for his efforts. (Look out for jars of mango chutney in the next round of raffle prizes). Brian Lloyd's practice session with Golden Valley paid dividends. He took the runner-up position with 1-6-0 of the slimy 'grinners'. The buffet afterwards was quite impressive. Many thanks to Brian and Margaret for their usual organisational skills.

# A.Shipp Rose Bowl - Christian Malford

Okay, it was cold, windy with torrential rain storms and even thunder and lightening. The river was pushing hard and the pegging, in my opinion, was a little bizarre. (No I'm not complaining!) Those that were fortunate enough to have a little slack water in front of them had the best opportunity of some return. John Thomas made the best of a bad day with the help of a 1-12-0 perch, which swelled his catch to 2-5-0 ensuring an easy victory. Antony Hole float-fished his

way into second spot with 1-3-0 of 'sprats' taken close in. Section wins went to Gary Takle, who drew the 'hot' peg and finished the day with 1-0-0 and Bob Hole, in third place with 1-2-0. Unluckiest man of the day was Alan Maggs, who lost a good fish, lost out in the knockout by 1 ounce, lost top position in the aggregate table and ended up going to hospital with a hook embedded in his finger. Second unluckiest man was Steve Cooke who lost his landing net. Think **you** had a bad day?

#### F.Britten Shield/inter-club/Alcove - Barton Farm

Alcove were so poorly represented that we had to 'lend' them 3 of our own anglers. The river was a little out of sorts with a strong flow and the pegging was ...... Again, it was a case of fishing the slack, if there was any and hoping for a bream to hook itself. Failing that, bash the bleak! One good bream did show up but in the wrong peg. Bill Ferris of Alcove included a specimen of around 5lb in his winning 6-8-0 net ensuring victory for the away team. Our top representative was Bill Croom, who despite a string of mishaps still managed to weigh in 2-9-0. Alan Maggs, now completely recovered from his previous misadventure, slipped into third position with 2-4-0. Overall team weights were: Legion 8-12-0 – Alcove 10-12-8. Unluckiest man of the day? Moi! Having quietly caught over 20 bleak' only about 4 remained for the weigh in. The rest had tunneled out

# Next Match - March 14th

One of my favourite contests of the year is upon us. The National Legion Pairs Open at Bradford-on-Avon. We will again see competitors from all over the country taking part in what has become a rigid fixture in the annual match calendar. If you haven't already, get your application in now

# **Forthcoming Events**

April 18th - Ivy House. May 16th - Lands End

#### Other News

#### **Situations Vacant**

Keen angler wanted for match secretary position. Must be fairly intelligent with an eye for detail. Mathematical and analytical skills preferred. A knowledge of watercraft a distinct advantage. Must be resilient and able to take some 'stick'. Benefits include travel, travel expenses and a preview of the water prior to contests. Apply within.

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