

Definition Of Poetry In Motion = Float Fishing On Rivers

Well it is as far as I'm concerned and I really missed it over the close season. Now when I say "float fishing", I mean watching a moving float sail silently through the surface of a river with the anticipation of it disappearing at any moment. It's a magical spectacle and it's even better when it dips out of sight followed by that instinctive reaction to strike and then the feeling of resistance as a fish responds. For me, and I'm sure for many anglers alike, this whole controlled process of presentation and expectation is what got us "hooked" on the sport in the first place. On our first river match of the season, on the Crane stretch at Keynsham, I was drawn on what we might assume to be a bream peg and so I had to fish the groundbait feeder for most of the day. However, I just couldn't resist running a Crowquill Avon float through the swim for 20 minutes, just to experience the sheer pleasure of it and I was amply rewarded with a couple of pristine roach. Now, I've said this many times, "I would much rather catch 20lb of prime redfins from a natural running river than 100lb of carp from a commercially manufactured fishery any day". That's my personal view and it will never change. Each to their own.

The Knight Carves Up The Opposition On The First Match Of The Season... But Only Just!

Our first river match of the new season was, as usual, held on the Crane section of the glorious Bristol Avon. A good turn out too with both Mark James and Scott Lawrence putting in a rare appearance. (I wonder if next time, Scott would wear a kilt so we can get a nice photo for our club calendar. He'd look great as Mr January! ☺) So, as usual everyone wanted to draw a high number. Why? Bream! And as usual Alan Maggs drew the end peg... again!!! How the heck does he do that? And also, as usual, Alan was off to his peg like a speeding bullet. One minute he was there and the next minute, gone! I drew peg 12, right next door to Alan, and Mark drew peg 11, so it was going to be a 3-way battle for the bream.

5 hours later and all was to be revealed. The scales had proved it had been a very close call and to be perfectly honest, anyone could have won it from any of these 3 pegs. As it happened, it was me with 3 bream and bits for a total of 13-15-0, closely followed by Mark with 13-13-0 and then Alan with 12-13-0, proving that it doesn't pay to be too hasty ☺.



The Staverton Swanborough Strikes Again!

It might sound like some kind of rare and exotic bird but the Staverton Swanborough is in fact swash-buckling Ian who has stamped his authority on this picturesque venue several times now. This annual Pairs match was also a continuation of the Pairs Challenge from where we left off pre Covid and lockdown plus it was our second points



accumulation match of the new season, so there was everything to go for. We all know that this stretch is home to some big chub but it's an absolute mystery as to where they are at any one time. As it happened we were not troubled by any sizeable chub of note so had to contend with small roach, perch, gudgeon and bleak. Ian drew end peg 1 (permanent peg 12), which is a known winning peg so no big surprises that he managed put together a nice mixed net weighing 5-6-0 to win convincingly. I was drawn on peg 4 (permanent peg 16) and was able to amass a grand total of 3-10-0 for second place, while Jason, who was drawn on peg 2 (permanent peg 14), was not far behind with 3-7-0. It appears you needed to draw a low number today to be in with a chance but that's not always the case.

The Legionnaires Get Spanked At A Woeful Whitehouse Whitewash! – August 1st

For years we have had it all our own way on this annual interclub event held at Whitehouse Farm but this day was very different. First, we were outnumbered by 10 to 8 so could have done with 2 more volunteers to prop up the side. Second, the sun got in our eyes and the water was too clear and the wind was in our faces and we didn't get the right draw. It really doesn't matter how many excuses we come up with, we simply got thrashed by the opposition but the good news is, we will have our revenge on the river in October... won't we lads? Okay, so the Alcove boys got lucky drawing pegs 7 and 17 on Margaret's lake, which are two of the best pegs. These 2 pegs alone produced a total combined weight of 76lb, which wasn't far off our team total of just 83-6-0. Alcove finished up with a total team weight of 218-12-0 for a very comfortable win. Overall winner on the day was Alcove's Kevin Swanston on peg 7 with 53-4-0 of carp taken close the island on pellet. I was second with 39-4-0 from peg 18 on Margaret's, a peg I've never drawn before but certainly one I'd like to draw again in the summer months. It has so many options and some very big fish. I netted a 17 pounder halfway through the match and lost one a few pounds heavier 30 minutes later. As usual, Alcove's Steve Dawson picked up the silvers prize with a tremendous catch weighing 23-8-0 from peg 17 on Margaret's, which included some big skimmers and a tench. Alcove's Andy Brookman also did well from George's 12, finishing third overall with 32-8-0. There were 2 more 32 lb weights off George's lake, both falling to Alcove anglers. Many large carp were hooked and lost from both lakes.

The Knight Shines Again On The Jolly Annual AwayDay Jaunt! – August 15th

I love our AwayDays because we get to fish somewhere where we have never fished before, which makes it anybody's guess what the outcome will be. This year, Stathe Drain, down in deepest Somerset was to be our host venue for the day. This lovely drain nestles quietly on the Somerset levels and quiet it certainly was. There were no dog walkers, runners or hikers, no boats or paddle boarders and no cyclists. Just swans and kingfishers and some lovey fish. We all arrived in good time and was able to get straight on with the draw. Dan Baldwin of Taunton AA had kindly pegged the length for us on the Saturday, giving Paul and Jason a day off. The weather was perfectly overcast and warm so all we needed now was to catch fish and make it a perfect day. According to information, pegs 1,2 and 3 would be a good draw, as these are the pegs that get fished the most but as the match unfolded, a different story began to emerge. I was

drawn on end peg number 12 and fed a 7 metre line and a 13 metre line each with a ball of groundbait at the start. I could see that there was a tow on the water so I set my rig at 6 inches over depth and held back slightly, only letting it move forward if I needed to entice a bite. On the first put-in over the 7 metre line with a single red maggot, a small skimmer soon came to hand, followed by a roach and then a few more. It was obvious to me the fish were there in numbers so I could afford to feed more confidently, which I did. Suddenly bites stopped and I thought I had killed the swim. A quick change of baits from bread to caster to pinkie and then flouro maggot and bingo! They liked the flouro and it was a fish almost every put in after that. The fish also began to get bigger with skimmers to around 12oz and some nice 8oz roach. Then a few small tench put in an appearance followed by a feisty 1.5lb carp. A quick look right over on the 13 metre line only produced a couple of small rudd so I abandoned that line and concentrated on the 7 metre line, which produced fish right up to the final whistle. Fortunately, my mixed bag of 13-12-0 was very easily enough to win the day. Ian Swanborough's valiant effort earned him second place from peg 3 with 6-13-0 and my next door neighbour for the day, Tony Humphries, finished in third place with 6-6-0. Section wins went to Adrian Dennis with 5-3-0 from peg 2 and Paul Wyatt with 5-2-0 from peg 8. All in all it was a very enjoyable day and I'm sure we'll be back again on this venue sometime next year.



Forthcoming matches...

The next match is an interclub competition with Golden Valley and will be held at Staverton (yippee!) on September 12th. This match is also a points and pairs qualifier. Then it's back to Somerset on September 26th for a thrilling fun day out on the Bridgwater & Taunton canal. On October 10th it's back on the Crane for some serious points bagging before the November Poppy matches begin. Keep up with our Facebook page for more up to date information.

NEWS FLASH!!!

Finally! Our club meetings will recommence from Monday September 6th at the old Kingswood RBL club. All fully paid up members are welcome to attend and the meeting will start at 8.30pm. Come along and tell us where you want to fish next season and talk to us about anything else as long as it's fishing related ☺.

All for now River Warriors