

Alright then! So where were we?

Hi everyone and welcome to the new-look newsletter. Do you know it's been six months since the last newsletter but then there really wasn't much to report during that time anyway... but hey! All that's about to change big time. It's as you were, back on the match fishing scene, and our first one kicks off on 20th June on the "lubbly jubbly" Crane. I don't know about you guys but personally, I can't wait to get back on the river. Now, just to bring you all up to speed, our points matches will continue as normal and will include all the points that you have accrued during the previous points matches. The same goes for the pairs aggregate weights. So basically, nothing has been lost and everything still counts except the knockout, which will have to be started from scratch but will not be charged for as we have already paid our entrance fees for this contest last year. Also, as mentioned previously on our Facebook page, the cost to fish each match will now be £15 all-in for river matches and £20 all-in for lake matches, except the AwayDay, which will be a tenner to cover the pools only. We will now be reverting back to cash on the day for all matches unless otherwise advised. If you have any questions whatsoever then direct them to the secretary who will be only too pleased to put you right. Alright?

End Peg Produces The Goods For Jason At Landsend Fisheries. 11th April



Well this match was originally booked to be fished the previous year but due to Covid, it had to be postponed. 12 regulars plus one guest (Tony Welsby) turned up for this one and nobody really knew what to expect. On reflection it was okay but not brilliant

compared to the previous week's results, which produced a winning weight of 160lb for Tony Rixon, who mugged all his fish on pellet. However, it was a pleasant day out apart from the walk to the lake and back, which was quite some distance. From my side of the lake, Ian Swanborough kicked off with an early carp but then struggled for the rest of the day. Adrian managed a solitary carp, as did Brian. Glynn was catching regularly on the feeder although they were all small fish and Tony Welsby had some nice silvers. Alan was putting his new kit to the test and lost a few good fish during the process. After 4 hours all I had in my net was a tiny roach so I had to change tactics. I could see Jason was catching well, down the end of the lake and there was no way anyone was going

to catch him. I started to fish really tight to the far bank at 14 metres and finally landed a good carp of around 12lb on a 12mm pellet. I then lost another one soon after. Two more carp were to follow in the last hour. Jason was romping away with it and managed to put 62-10-0 on the scales for a convincing win. My 3 carp pulled the scales round to 36-10-0, which was enough for second place. Alan was third with 26-3-0 for a section win and Adrian took the other section with 7-3-0. Glynn not only won top silvers, he walked off with the lucky peg prize too... WTF???

Glynn Sage Gives The Opposition A Good Stuffing At Ivy House. 9th May



Well it was all a bit of a fiasco to say the least. This match had originally been booked for Landsend but with just a week to go, we got a call from the fishery to say there was a double booking and they had to cancel our match. That left Brian and myself

frantically ringing around all the fisheries in the area to try and find somewhere to go, and the only one that could accommodate us was Ivy House.

So, we were given the old match lake, which wasn't exactly a picture postcard, especially as the owners had decided to cut the island up into sections. That meant instead of having one long island down the middle, there is now 4 smaller islands and they are all out of reach of a 16 metre pole. However, within an hour everyone was catching fish on and off but they wouldn't stay in the swim for long, at least not in my swim they didn't. I had a small carp early at around 13 metres and then lost a big double a few minutes later. Meanwhile, Glynn, who definitely knows his onions when it comes to feeder fishing, was casting in the gap between two islands and was getting a fish a chuck. I could sense the match was slipping away from me so I decided to target an inside line and began catching some good size skimmers. I could see Jason, Paul and Kev all catching down to my left so I had to do something to try and get some weight in the net. It was then I decided to do what I should have done from the start. I chucked out a method feeder to a small island in front and to my right and began catching straight away. However, it was a case of net one lose one right up to the end and I finished up with 36-10-0... again. Glynn won the match easily with a massive 90-04-0 net of mainly carp and Jason was in the money again with another 60lb+ bag. Ian Brice took section one with 46-14-0 and Paul won section two with 57-8-0. Our Alcove guest, Tony Welsby walked off with the silvers pot, putting 26-12-0 of skimmers on the scales.

What else has been happening?

Well you don't need me to tell you it's been a very strange 15 months and so I won't bother. However, lockdown and other restrictions has meant we have been unable to have our monthly meetings and AGM, which has left some of us in the dark and so I have tried to keep everyone informed via our new Facebook page, which seems to have worked very well. All matches for this season have been booked with the exception of April and May 2022, so suggestions for those 2 dates please. Highlights for this year will be the AwayDay, which takes us to the Sedgemoor Drain on 15th August and we're back on the Bridgwater and Taunton canal on 26th September. Our Christmas match is booked at Farleigh Wood but we have yet to book a meal at the Red Lion and we're not sure about this as the pub hasn't opened yet. Staverton lovers will be pleased to know we have 3 matches booked on this very desirable, albeit popular stretch of the Bristol Avon. Back closer to home, our swim clearing teams, directed by Brian, have been busy preparing your pegs for the first match of the season. Well done to everyone who has helped out and if anyone moans about their peg they can expect a ducking followed

by 2 hours of square bashing and 3 months on jankers. Look forward to seeing you all at the Crane. ☺

Club clothing anyone???

Now that the customised clothing shop has reopened, is anyone interested in getting kitted out with some new threads? Hoodies, sweat shirts, T-shirts, polo shirts, jodhpurs and caps can be made to order but I'll only take orders if there are enough people interested. In the meantime, I'll check out the prices of each item and get back to you on that one.

Other news...

The Environment Agency have said that sales of fishing licences are up by an additional 200,000 since lockdown and it's not surprising. Angling was deemed a safe sport by the government, which prompted an upsurge in interest, as it allowed people to get out and "exercise" within some scenic and healthy outdoor surroundings. There has definitely been an uptake in match fishing too, with most of our local commercials cashing in on the opportunity. Local fishing clubs have noticed an increase in memberships and tackle dealers are delighted to see their products flying off the shelves. However, this sudden demand for fishing gear and bait has led to shortages and the inevitable price increases as many of you will experience when you next visit your tackle shop to buy some bait.



Whether this influx of new interest in our sport will continue beyond the winter months is anyone's guess but either way it has helped to propel Angling into the limelight and brought in some welcome revenue for the AT as a result.

During lockdown and amongst all this renewed interest and activity, the Angling Trust seems to have risen like a phoenix from the ashes and taken a leading role in not only promoting our sport but has also taken the position as an ambassador at a national level. It's thanks to Chief Executive, Jamie Cook that Angling made it onto the government's agenda when they were considering the easing of lockdown. In fact, the Angling Trust has now positioned itself as the official voice of angling at every level and in my view, our beloved sport is now in good hands. Angling by its very nature has always been fragmented and has desperately needed an organisation to take the lead. For many years we looked to the Environment Agency to protect and represent us but as a government body, the grass roots concern was always lacking. So with all that said, I personally think the Angling Trust has come to our rescue at a time when we desperately needed help and support in getting back out on the bank. If you are not already a member then don't hesitate to join as an individual. We are stronger together and all funds are used for the purpose of protecting our sport now and into the future. You can join by visiting their website at: www.anglingtrust.net

Well that just about raps it up so take care and I look forward to seeing you all again very soon.

Bye for now River Warriors!