

## Paddle Boarders – The Scourge Of Our Waterways? Angler's Worst Enemy? Or Just A F\*\*king Nuisance?

There was a time when I used to get well pi\*sed off with motorboats cruising up and down the river, churning up the water, especially during matches, and then I got around to accepting them. I also used to get quite irate about canoeists, rowing boats and those stupid dragon boats but eventually and reluctantly, I came around to accepting those ar\*eholes too. However, I cannot and will not ever get used to or willingly accept pedalos and paddle boarders on the river. They seem to have little or no respect for other river users and anglers in particular. They have absolutely no accurate means of steering their "craft", which often leads to them being "all over the river". Now, I'm not ranting on about them just because they cost me the match on the Bridgwater & Taunton canal recently, causing me to lose a very large match winning tench, it's because of their total ignorance and apathy to fishing and anglers. People who show no respect for others deserve exactly the same in return and so from now on they'll be getting sprayed with a pouchful of maggots every time one comes within range of me, whatever the venue, and assuming I've got enough maggots of course. So, in answer to the above questions: Yes to all 3. What ever happened to a quiet day's fishing? *(Mr Angry of Stockwood, Bristol)*

### Shy Boy Shay Leads The Way At Staverton. September 12th

Well as you all know, I absolutely love Staverton. No, it's not because of the big nets of chub and roach to be had (allegedly), or even the unanticipated, if somewhat unlikely chance, of snagging a big bream or perhaps a big perch. It's quite simply the parking! Being able to park right behind your peg wins it for me every time. That said, the fishing is normally pretty poor and our latest interclub engagement with Golden Valley proved no different from the usual expectations. Shay Gillman of GV stumped up 3-9-0 of roach, perch, chublets and bleak to win a closely contested field with Bob Hole and Alan Maggs being inseparable for second position with 2-12-0 apiece. Bizarrely, there were 4 joint contenders for third position, all with 2-9-0. They were Ian B, Killy Willy, Jason & Adrian. This match was also a continuation of the Pairs Aggregate, which is steadily gaining momentum. (See leaderboard).

### Mayhem On The "Paddle Boarders" Canal. Bridgwater, September 26<sup>th</sup>

This is still listed as an invitation match but we don't invite anyone and it's probably just as well. The Bridgwater & Taunton canal is a great venue with the possibility of some big tench, bream and perch, which can come off any peg.

However, it seems to have been taken over by... "Paddle Boarders". (Oh don't get me started). As I've already voiced my opinion, let's get straight down to the nitty gritty. The day started well with just one PB passing by. Fish were being caught from every peg and the day was going swimmingly. Then more PBs turned up followed by some tiny canoes with equally tiny-brained operators and some guy in a rowing boat who couldn't keep his oars in the water. Instead, he thrashed around for a few minutes before deciding to give it up and go back, much to the embarrassment of his wife or girlfriend. Next came the guy with his wife and son on PBs. She decided to mess around with her phone and dropped it in the canal. She then changed from a serene and elegant lady to a woman possessed, firing colourful expletives in all directions, as she got off her board and fumbled around in the muddy water. Then "hero" hubby steps up to the challenge and goes into the water kicking up more crap and hailing loudly till... hallelujah! He finds the phone, she's eternally grateful, he's on a promise and they bugger off home. Meanwhile, the match is still in progress during my encounter with 4 PBs. So, I've hooked into a big tench and one PB decides to go over my pole elastic, while the other comes inside and tries to go over my dipped pole. Now I have to lift my pole quickly to try and manoeuvre the fish away

from both of them. As they go by, another 2 PBs come charging down the canal. At this point I tried to get the fish out much too quickly by lifting the pole high and piling on the pressure. The inevitable then happened with the hook pulling out, followed by an almighty eruption on the surface of the water. I saw the fish briefly and I would say it was probably close to 5lb. A few other tench were lost during the day by other anglers and a few were caught. I managed to land a smaller one earlier but really needed the biggie for



the win. Well, sh\*t happens! Final results on the day: 1<sup>st</sup>. Kev Murch with 9-10-0 including some quality perch (well done mate). 2<sup>nd</sup>. Jason Pitman - 9-5-0. Section 1, Bill Knight with 7-5-0 and section 2, Ian

Swanborough with 8-8-0. Ian liked the venue so much he decided to go in for an early dip ☺

### The Knight Finds Some Hidden Treasure Under A Tree On The Crane. October 10<sup>th</sup>

It was back on the Crane stretch for the W.Milton Cup and our interclub with Alcove who turned up with 3 hopefuls against a platoon of 12 hardened river rod benders. No contest! Well, as usual everyone wanted to draw a high number, especially on this one as the river definitely looked quite breamy. Steve, Clive and Jason drew the hot favourite pegs but unfortunately the bream didn't put in an appearance. Steve "silvers" Dawson drew a peg with a wasp nest and so moved, only to find another wasp nest. Finally he gave up and went home. Alcove, now having lost their star player were up against it. I drew peg 7, which has a willow tree protruding from the left-hand side, and which takes up a fair area of the swim. At first I moaned a bit and then when I hooked into the tree I moaned a lot but when I got myself sorted and started fishing close in with a Crowquill at 10 feet deep and just off the edge of the tree branches I started catching. Then when I began feeding quite heavily, I started catching quality fish, mainly roach and perch. Every now and again a pike would swirl around and unsettle the fish but I just left it alone for a few minutes and then resumed catching. So, it seemed the fish were all hiding under the tree branches and would come out to grab a few maggots and then dart back again. I'm so glad that tree was there because it served up a winning weight of 10-2-0 for me. Tony Humphries, who is definitely the most improved angler of the season, put 9-13-0 on the scales for a convincing second place. His catch included a specimen chub but he didn't get it weighed. Paul Wyatt also had a decent chub in his catch, which weighed a total of 7-11-0, for third place. Section wins went to Alcove's Tony Welsby with 5-12-0 and Jason Pitman

with 6-3-0. It was a frightfully nice day all round I'd say

### The Brazen Bradford Rod Slinger Rides Again! September 12<sup>th</sup>

What was once an interclub event with Airsprung AC has now become a friendly club match. 10 anglers showed up for this one, making it 2 sections of 5 and pay-outs for the top 2. So, the river looked almost perfect after some heavy rain except perhaps there was a little too much colour and a little too much pace and maybe a few too many leaves came drifting by. And that was just the start of our problems. The rowing boats were really going for it right from the off and a few PBs also got in on the act. Then the dog walkers descended in great numbers with dogs diving in and sniffing around baits and sandwiches etc. On top of that some crazy crusty up on a canal boat decided to wake the dead by using a chainsaw to cut up his winter fuel stocks. And the fishing? I don't know... you'll have to



ask Paul Wyatt who quietly put together a top winning weight of 8-2-0. I wish I knew how he did it with all the distractions going on but fair play as we say and well done Paul. Next in line was that

man Tony again with 4-12-0. Just what is this man's secret? Sections wins went to Jason and myself with 3-4-0 and 2-0-0 respectively. Goodbye Barton Farm ☺

### What's happening and where are you?

Here are the latest top 10 individual aggregate positions plus the pairs aggregate table, as provided by Jason. Note that last season's points and weights are also included. Way to go yet lads ☺

Individual Aggregate		Pairs Aggregate	
B. Knight	56.5	P.Wyatt & I.Swanborough	35-14-0
A.Maggs	48.5	K.Murch & B.Knight	26-10-0
I.Swanborough	43.5	J.Pitman & A.Dennis	25-12-0
K.Murch	43	i.Brice & J.Treasure	12-14.0
P.Wyatt	41	A.Maggs & B.Lloyd	12-02-0
J.Pitman	38.5	S.Jeffries & G.Sage	01-08-0
B.Hole	35.5		
A.Dennis	34		
I.Brice	32		
J.Treasure	31		

### Forthcoming events and other news...

The Alcove Poppy match is on 7<sup>th</sup> November and the main Poppy Appeal match will be held on the 14<sup>th</sup>. It's the centenary of the RBL so everyone involved is hoping for a sell-out and a good day of fund-raising, which I'm sure it will be. Then we're at Monkton Park, Chippenham on the 28<sup>th</sup>. We just need to confirm the parking arrangements for this one so watch our Facebook page for updates. And don't forget everyone, we have a trophy for the heaviest fish and the heaviest roach. Get them weighed separately and noted on a weigh sheet to qualify. Congratulations to Steve Jeffries on becoming a granddad again ☺

**All for now river warriors.**