

*Kingswood Legionnaires***Another Season Over Thank Goodness!**

I don't know about you guys but I really look forward to the close season on the rivers, just for a rest. Well, all those arm-aching bagging sessions week in, week out really take their toll. I just don't know if I can handle another season of 100lb catches of prime chub and roach from Woolverton and ton-up bags of bream from the Crane. It will be nice to get on the lakes and catch 40 winks and maybe the odd carp... if we're lucky. Of course things weren't always this good. I can remember catching 30lb bags of dace on the Avon without even trying. Damn nuisance fish they were. They'd take anything you threw at them. Thank goodness we don't get annoying days like that anymore... eh?

**Match Results****Woolverton – 12<sup>th</sup> December - Xmas Match**

The river looked absolutely perfect for this match, if maybe a little too clear. However, 5 hours later and everyone was wondering where the fish had gone. It seemed even the minnows had taken the day off. Yes it was a struggle to get a bite for just about all of us. But strangely, on peg 4, someone was having a field day. The roach were queuing up and Chris Thompson was laughing all the way to the pub with his incredible haul totalling 6-12-0, guaranteed to take the top prize and pocket the loot. Way back in second place with a meagre 2-7-8 was Mick "The Mugger" Stowford, and only 1-10-0 was needed to secure third place, taken by John Thompson of the Whitchurch Mafia. Well at least the pub meal was a winner.

**Crane – 9<sup>th</sup> January 2011**

After weeks of snow and heavy frost, all melted away by hundreds of tons of rock salt, which ended up in the river along with the recent heavy rain, the fishing was never going to be great. Well, it wasn't great, nor was it good, and nor was it fair or even poor. It was pitiful. It was diabolical and it was undeniably terrible and utterly horrible. It was all those things and more. It was words I could get arrested for if I was to print them. So, all I'm going to say is... 1<sup>st</sup> Alan Maggs, 0-15-8, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed Davis 0-8-0 and 3<sup>rd</sup> John Thompson 0-7-0. Total sh\*t!

**Woolverton – 13<sup>th</sup> February**

Ever since we started fishing at Woolverton I have wanted to draw the weir and today I did. The problem today was not so much the fishing as the weather. It rained persistently all day long and many times the wind threatened to uproot my brolly and carry it off to some far away land. Well across the fields anyway. It was the kind of demoralising weather that could make even the most hardiest of men go completely insane. Personally I was glad when Tommy Ruffe blew the out all whistle, even if he did break a tooth in the process. (Well he's

getting too long in the tooth anyway). Top spot went to Rich "Hippy" Whitmarsh with 5-13-0 of roach and chub, followed by yours truly with 5-4-0 of the same. Micky Stowford sneaked up the rear with 4-12-0 of bits. I'm still trying to wash the mud off my tackle.

**• Pawlett Ponds – 13<sup>th</sup> March**

After some confusion about the number of pegs required, and even more confusion after hurriedly re-pegging, the match got under way without further ado. We'd heard that the Amalgamation had removed many of the small rudd and put in some half decent perch. And although quite a few perch were caught, I was left wondering if I might have had a better weight if I had only caught small rudd. Just can't please some people. Well it was always going to be carp that decided the outcome of this match, and Rich Whitmarsh found a couple of hefty specimens lurking in the nearside undergrowth to weigh in a very credible 34-1-0. Alan Maggs also had a date with the resident carp, only his tally was much smaller at 11-10-0. (Get over it, size doesn't matter). Thanks to these 2 weights combined, the Legion absolutely obliterated the opposition. ☺

**• Aggregate Results & Pairs 2010-11. How did you fare?**

1<sup>st</sup> Mick Stowford 54 points, 2<sup>nd</sup> Bill Knight 53 points, 3<sup>rd</sup> Bob Hole 44 points, 4<sup>th</sup> Rich Whitmarsh 34 points, joint 5<sup>th</sup> John Thompson & Bill Croom both 30 points, 7<sup>th</sup> Alan Maggs 25 points, 8<sup>th</sup> Brian Lloyd 22 points, 9<sup>th</sup> Chris Thompson 21 points, joint 10<sup>th</sup> Ed Davis & John Mack both 18 points.

• **Pairs Aggregate-** 1<sup>st</sup> Mick Stowford & John Mack with 31-15-8, 2<sup>nd</sup> Bob Hole & John Thompson with 24-5-8, 3<sup>rd</sup> Bill Knight & Brian Lloyd (handicap) with 22-1-8, 4<sup>th</sup> Alan Maggs & Bill Croom with 12-5-8, 5<sup>th</sup> Ed Davis & Clive Purshouse with 6-0-0. (Clive had to pull out early with knee problems).

• **Knockout Winner** – Bill Knight ☺

• **Next match** will be held at Chiltern Trinity (match lake) on April 17<sup>th</sup> followed by Sabre Lake on May 8<sup>th</sup>.

**All for now!**