



The New Season Kicks Off On The Crane... Again

It's been a long wait since the last club newsletter but semi-retirement is a busy pastime with extra fishing to be had and a blog to write every week. Nevertheless, I started this newsletter a long time ago, long before Facebook, and I'm happy to carry on writing it as long as members still want to read it. Hmm... I think I wrote that very same headline and intro last year but very little changes around here. So, strap in and let's catch up on the close season match results, the annual presentation evening and the first couple of matches of the new season. Here we go...

Kev Plunders The K&A Skimbos On Peg 1 For An Easy Victory – 14th April 2024

During the official close season months of April and May, we have matches on canals and lakes. This year we selected to fish on the Kennet & Avon canal at Bradford-on-Avon for both matches. This venue now has the added advantage of being able to drive along the road, adjacent to the river, and park up by the sewage works. We can do the same for our river matches too. The first canal match was held on the 14th April, with just 8 Legionnaires competing. We had the usual stream of wailing walkers passing behind us plus quite a few bikes. Thankfully, the boat traffic was minimal today. We opted to go to the right of the footbridge where everyone had plenty of room. Weather wise, it was a pleasantly warm day. Fishing wise, the weights were a little disappointing with only Kev Murch reaching double figures. His total of 16-6-0 gave him a comfortable win over his nearest rival, which happened to be me with 9-3-0. In third place was Alan Maggs who put 6-9-0 on the scales, beating Jason by 9 ounces.

A Ghostly Silence Descends On The Canal At Bradford – 19th May 2024

What a strange match this turned out to be. After the draw, we made our way to the canal to be greeted with a very sullen-looking sight. There were no fish topping or moving about anywhere and it pretty much stayed that way all through the match. It was as if the whole canal was devoid of life. I've never experienced anything like it before and was at a loss as to the reason why. About halfway through the match I somehow managed to get a bite from a lonesome and hungry 2oz roach, so I was winning at this point. Then Jason had to go and spoil my glorious moment by catching a bigger one at 5oz. Then Tony had to go and steal what was left of my diminishing limelight by catching 4 Tommy Ruffles, which beat my total weight by an ounce. So, Jason won with one roach for 5 ounces. Tony was second with 4 ruffle for 3 ounces and I was a close third with one roach for 2 ounces. Phew! You couldn't make it up!

What Do Points Make?.. A Presentation Evening!

It was that time of year again with oodles of awesomeness befitting those that had excelled at their chosen sport over the previous season. However, there were no gold medals in sight, just some cheap and cheerful tokens of plastic silverware. Well, just like the taking part, it's the thought that counts. Here are some pics of those who measured up.

The Opening Ceremony...



"The Boss" and Clive prepare to give away the silverware

More images of the Jason Pitman show and other worthy winners...



Well done to everyone!

There were fewer trophies up for grabs this year as we have had to make some cost savings but this annual ceremony is likely to continue into the foreseeable future.

Swanny Gets Off To A Flying Start In The Fred Isaac's Cup – 16th June 2024

Ian Swanborough started the new river fishing season in style by winning our first match on The Crane stretch of the Bristol Avon. A total of 9 anglers showed up for this one, which is a lower than average turnout when compared to previous years. A usual, everyone wanted to draw a high number to be in with a chance of catching a few bream. Ian drew peg 10, which was in the little ashtip field and a known bream area. He managed to find 3 good bream on bread and together with chublets weighed in a total of 15-8-0 for a comfortable victory. In second place was Alan Maggs, who also drew in the same area on peg 8. Alan put a total of 8-14-0 on the scales. On the next peg was Kev Murch who finished in third place with 7-10-0. Plenty of small fish were caught throughout but the bigger chub failed to put in an appearance.

Jason's Sweetcorn Approach Pays Dividends At Staverton – 7th July 2024

Our second match of the season was the Pairs held at Staverton with parking behind you peg and easy access to the bank. We all know that big chub live in this stretch but locating them and catching them is a real challenge. However, Jason Pitman managed to coax a few smaller specimens with corn to finish the match with 5-13-0, ahead of Tony Humphries who weighed in 3-6-0 for second place. That 'man of the moment', Ian Swanborough was also in the mix finishing third with 2-15-0. I spent some 10-15 minutes attached to a big pike that took a worm. Once I managed to get it to the surface, I tried netting it but soon realised it was never going to fit in my landing net and so I pulled for a break. It must have been between 15lb and 20lb and defo one of the biggest pike I have ever tangled with. Scary! Once again, we only had 9 anglers turn up for this one, which is a shame given the location and beautifully quiet surroundings. The winning pair on the day was Jason and myself, who are also paired for the rest of the season in the Pairs Challenge. We'll be back again in September for the QE2/RBL charity match.

Interclub Match With Alcove AC At Whitehouse Farm – 4th August 2024

The Legion always struggle to put the numbers together for this annual interclub match with our friends at Alcove Angling Club. This year, like last year, we had only 6 representatives. Alcove agreed to limit their team to their top 6 individuals to make it fairer and to give us a chance. However, despite our best efforts we still fell short of the mark finishing in second place with just over 187lbs to their 194lbs. I drew peg 6 on Margaret's Lake and should have done much better than my 9-12-0 but the chub failed to show and I didn't see a carp all day. Overall winner and top weight on George's Lake fell to Kev Murch with a whopping 71-12-0. Jason Pitman finished in second place on the lake with 31-11-0. Top bender on Margaret's Lake was Alcove's Andy Brookman with 68-11-0. Our top angler on this lake was Alan Maggs with 18-12-0. Well done to all the Legion lads for their valiant effort.

Forthcoming Events...

Our next match, on 18th August, will be the Away Day at Stathe Drain and I have been informed that the weed has not yet been cut so although it will be weedy in places with mostly blanket weed, the tench should be up for it! Remember that bream and carp live in this drain too but if you would prefer a nice steady day then target the roach, skimmers and rudd. I hope you all have a great day!

On 8th September, we will be back at Barton Farm for the next round of the individual points and Pairs Challenge aggregate matches. We haven't fished this venue for a while due to the ridiculous parking charges but now someone at the council has finally had their head examined. Not that it matters now as we can drive up to the sewage works and walk off from there.

New member...

We have a new member named Dale Harvey, who has recently joined the club mainly to pleasure fish the Crane stretch.

All for now River Warriors!