



Man Down... But Not Out!

Welcome everyone to the June edition newsletter heralding a brand new river fishing season. No doubt this one will be filled with hopes and dreams but as usual will end in tears, tantrums and nightmares. Well, whatever happens over the next 12 months I wish you all tight lines and stiff rods. Okay, now a bit of serious and sad news. As most of you know, John Thompson has been the victim of some incredibly bad luck and remains in the Intensive Care Unit at Southmead Hospital. We all know that John is a fighter and a true soldier and I'm sure you'll all join me in wishing him well. The state of his condition is ongoing but if anyone wants an update, please let me know and I'll do my best to provide the very latest information.

Match Results

Barton Farm, Bradford-on-Avon, March 8th Quite a good turnout for this one despite several anglers being away on their early holibobs. However, it turned out to be very disappointing (here we go again!) in terms of weights and nobody really knew why, unless the fish had moved to shallow waters to spawn. This could have been the case because the lower peg numbers are shallower than the rest of the river and the top weights came from those lower pegs. Well, that's what I think anyway. So, our top rod on the day was Johnny Mack (peg 2) with a handsome bag of chub, roach and perch for 10lb-4oz, followed from a long distance away by me with a paltry 11lb-12.5 oz. Now I don't care what anyone says, it's not about the taking part bol*cks it's about the winning! Moving swiftly on...

Farleigh Wood, April 12th

It was always going to be about drawing peg one on this cute little watering hole, as many a previously enthralled winner will duly testify. And who should draw the Holy Grail? Only "Postman Pat", Leigh Wakefield, who must be the most luckiest, spawniest, jammiest peg puller since Peggy the peg-maker last sold a wooden peg! Phew! However, he was in for a big surprise, because little did he expect Johnny Thompson to successfully hatch his carefully calculated cunning plan, which helped him pull off a decisive victory. John fished down

the edge with worm and corn to amass a haul of carp weighing 35lb-11.5oz. Lucky Leigh still managed second place though with 18lb-9oz, followed very closely by sapper Clive Purshouse on 17lb-4oz. Well done Clive! They don't like it up 'em!

Cuckoo's Rest, May 10th

This match was unduly delayed as a result of the secretary, (Tommy Ruffe) oversleeping after a heavy night on the "Irish Mist" in his caravan hideaway. After several frantic phone calls from myself he finally navigated his way to the venue and the match got under way. Well, we invited a couple of the PO boys as per usual and guess wat? Wot? What? Leigh Wakefield, the phantom peg puller of old Chippenham Town, was at it again! Top peg on this small venue is peg 6. Last time we were here Leigh drew peg 6 and won. The Post Office AC had a match here the week before our match this year and Leigh drew peg 6 again... and won.

Well, his draw this time round was again peg 6 and again he won. Now, I'm not a superstitious type and I don't believe in all that supernatural hocus pocus mullarkey. But hey! 666 – There's got to be something devilishly spooky going on here. I'm sure I saw his eyes flash red when he collected the pools cash for his 23lb-9.5oz winning net. His co-conspirator Paul Pitt was second with 7lb-6.5oz. Third on the day and best improved angler of the last quarter was Clive Purshouse with 6lb-2oz.

Next Match – Crane, Keynsham, June 21st

All for now river warriors ☺