

The Kingswood Legionnaires' Newsletter

The Fat Lady's Singing... all the right notes but not necessarily in the right order...

Well, another river season over and it wasn't without its usual ups and downs, especially the on-off-on river matches including the last one held at Barton Farm in March. However, by the time this newsletter gets to you it will be mid-May with only a month to go before the river beckons once more. I know it can be unpredictable and a little peggy but I do like Barton Farm for a number of reasons. I think it's capable of throwing up a few surprises when the mood is right, and then there are the kingfishers and herons... and the other birds. On the last match a young Japanese lady stood behind me for quite some time taking photos of the opposite bank. Next, a kingfisher flew by and she was ecstatic. I told her I see them all the time and we struck up a conversation. She said she was a horny olygist, or something like that, and frankly I had to agree... that she was for sure! Then she bid me Sayōnara and wandered off in the direction of Avoncliffe never to be seen again that day. Minutes later, along came Billy Croom with his snazzy camera, bringing me promptly back down to earth.

Match Results

Bream Hole Bobby Bags A Big Bream Bonanza At Barton Farm

March 13th was the date for the last river match of the season and pegging enthusiast, Leigh Wakefield, hatched a cunning plan. By starting the pegging at around permanent peg 20, we had to walk about a mile before we even got to the draw. I guess Leigh was hoping the long, tiring walk would affect some of us old 'uns and put us to sleep half way through the contest, rather than offer any serious resistance to his legendary fishing prowess.

However his plan backfired when he drew a duff peg well away from the hungry bream shoals. It was down to Bobby Hole to get all fired up and deliver a last match result to obliterate the field and walk off with the spoils. His 25-12-0 net, consisting of 5 quality bream and 2 roach was more than enough to propel the Kingswood Legionnaire into pole position leaving his nearest rival, Paul Pitt, scrambling for the leftovers. Paul's 10-4-0 bag included a bream and mainly roach, while much improved angler, Clive Purshouse, managed third

position with a total of 5-3-0.

The Pair's Challenge Trophy was still up for grabs and going into this last match were 3 teams in contention. With just 11oz separating them it was anyone's guess who would claim it. Well, despite Bob Hole's valiant effort, it was Paul Pitt's catch that made the difference come the end. You can see the full and final results of the Pairs Challenge results later in this newsletter.

Some 'Wobbly' Weights At Woeful Westerleigh

April 10th saw us at one of our old haunts, Westerleigh lakes, but there was no reminiscing about old times when the very welcome final whistle was blown. Ice cold rain the day before and a sharp frost in the morning put paid to all expectations of having a bumper day. Instead it turned out to be a cold, damp and thoroughly miserable day's outing for most of the 11 anglers that made an appearance. Despite the conditions, Alcove's Steve Dawson still managed to work his usual magic and charmed an incredible 15lb 9oz of carp and silvers into his well-used net. Steve's impressive bag left the rest of the competitors in

awe, and he won the pools by a country mile.

In second place was the most luckiest, jammiest, spawniest angler I've ever known. Yes old 'Lucky Legs Leigh' did it again by fishnapping an unusual grass carp of 5lb to get amongst the remains of the lolly. Now, Leigh's luck is uncanny so I decided to hold a poll to see who could come up with the most appropriate name for an angler who attracted so much good fortune... and the results are just in. From now on Leigh will be affectionately known as 'Fishy McFishface', the only angler who could prise a fish out of a dew drop! Alcove member, Tony Welsby was third with 3lb odd of bits.

Next match – Farleigh Wood. Watch this space.

The first river match will be at the Crane on June 19th. What a great Father's Day treat!

The Knight's Crusade Ends With Victory

Well, what can I say... the Individual Aggregate and club champion trophy looks to be coming my way again, but I feel it could be for the last time. My money is on one of the new recruits to take the crown this coming season, and it will most likely fall to one of the renegade Postmen. So where did you finish? Here are the final positions:

B.Knight	55
B.Croom	49
P.Pitt	49
L.Wakefield	49
C.Purshouse	46
A.Maggs	38
B.Hole	33
B.Lloyd	24
I.Brice	21
E.Davis	20
J.Mack	15
S.Jefferies	15

Pitt-fall Hits The Pairs Challenge Trophy

Bob Hole's last gasp challenge was to be commended but even his 25lb weight from Barton Farm was not enough to hold the Chippenham Chuckle Brothers at bay. As already mentioned, this was a very close tie but Paul Pitt's 10lb plus haul was more than enough to tip the scales in the deadly duo's favour, finishing almost 3lb clear of their nearest rivals. The Pairs Challenge Trophy continues to be just that - challenging. It's a very

fair competition though, and as history has proved, it can be won by any random pairing. Where did you and your partner finish? Here are the results:

I.Wakefield & P.Pitt	60.06.0
C.Purshouse & B.Knight	57.09.8
B.Croom & B.Lloyd	53.04.0
B.Hole & A.Maggs	45.13.8

Who Will Clean Up At The Awards Ceremony?

Whether it's down to elaborate preparation, hard work or just good luck, winners do win awards, and as usual they'll be dished out to the awardees at our AGM on Monday 6th June. Please make every effort to attend, especially if you have some silverware to collect. The trophy winners are: Bill Knight, Bob Hole, Leigh Wakefield, Paul Pitt, Clive Purshouse and Bill Croom. Well done chaps.

Charlie Coombs RIP

On a more sombre note... it's goodbye from him. Brian and I attended the funeral service of one of our longest serving members last week, where we finally said goodbye to Charlie Coombs. Charlie held the post of chairman for many years and later went on to become president and a life member. He will always be remembered for his wicked sense of humour, and only joined the club for the sake of his son Graham, who gave up the sport some time ago. The club made a small financial donation to a designated charity at the request of his family.

Official Notice of the AGM

Our Annual General Meeting will be held at the Kingswood Social Club, formerly known as the Kingswood & Hanham Royal British Legion Social Club, in Kingswood on Monday 6th June. Our normal monthly meeting will be held first at 8pm sharp, followed by the AGM at around 8.30pm. If you have any proposals please put them in writing and get them to Brian as soon as possible, BEFORE the meeting. Please make every effort to attend.

Want to fish? Then PLEASE let us know!

All members have received a club calendar and everyone who joins our club will receive a club tab. In both the calendar and the tab are printed all the match dates and venues. So, is there any reason why Brian has to keep phoning and texting you to remind you of forthcoming matches? No! Please, please, please... if you intend to fish or do NOT intend to fish, any match just let Brian know. It also helps with planning if we know in advance how many pegs we have to put out. Cheers!

Johnny Thompson status update - John says hi to everyone and expects to be mobile within 6-8 weeks.

All for now river warriors!