

The Kingswood Legionnaires' Newsletter

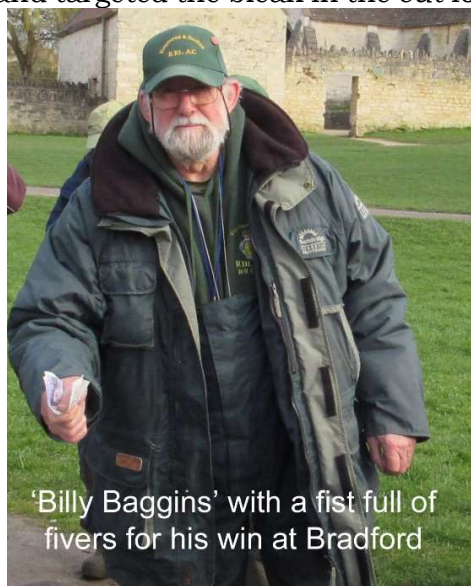
A Brief History of the Club Neck Tie

If you are ever fortunate enough to win the individual aggregate then you will be presented with, amongst other things, an old neck tie. This old grey relic is simply known as 'the club tie'. It has an embroidered fish of the front, which looks something like a hybrid between a bream and a carp and apparently it is the only tie like it in existence. So one evening, many moons ago, our club members and their families were enjoying one of our spectacular presentation events at what was then the Kingswood & Hanham, RBL club in Kingswood. At the time, our match secretary was one William 'Rich' Watts, who I would affectionately describe as one of those 'Marmite' characters. I'm sure you know what I mean. Anyway, there had always been some friendly rivalry between myself and Rich, which didn't go unnoticed in the club newsletter. On this particular presentation evening, Rich was wearing a very nice tie, which I took a liking to. I suppose I badgered him most of the night about it, saying how much I liked it. Then later in the evening, and to my total amazement, he took it off, handed it to me and said, "well if you like it that much you can have it." He had told me earlier that it was made especially for him and so I began to feel a tad guilty. However, I told him if he wanted it back then he would have to win the individual aggregate the following season. He must have really loved that tie because he fished his socks off and did win back the tie the very next season. It has been passed to the aggregate winner ever since. Sadly Rich is no longer with us but he has left us a legacy and strangely, we have not had a full-time match secretary since. Does anyone want the job?

Billy Baggins Bags Up at Bradford

March 10th Barton Farm. This was the last river match of the season and our invitation match with Airsprung, who usually send one or two anglers to represent them. However, with no other matches on the day, Airsprung anglers turned up in force. As is always the case on this venue and especially when the river is up a little and coloured, a draw just inside the gate to the field is heavily favoured. The bream all live within 2 or 3 pegs here and let's face it, at around 5-6lb a piece you don't need many to quickly build a good weight. That's exactly what Billy Croom found when he drew one of the plum pegs. His day didn't start too well though with a few heavy specimens being lost early on in the match. The losses were soon forgotten when Bill latched into and landed 2 good bream, one going 6-13-0, which is also a heaviest river fish of the season contender. Finally winning convincingly with a total 14-4-0, Bill picked up some welcome folding stuff ahead

of a strong field of contestants, including Hippy Whitmarsh. It's not often Brian gets into the news for all the right reasons but today he drew peg one and targeted the bleak in the cut for a nice 3lb plus



'Billy Baggins' with a fist full of fivers for his win at Bradford

section win. Other highlights of the day included the individual aggregate stakes and the Pairs Challenge Trophy, all to be decided on the results of this contest. It

was squeaky bum time going into this final match for the top two individuals, Bill Knight and Adrian Dennis, with just one point separating them, and with Paul Pitt and Alan Maggs both snapping at their maggot boxes. However, as far as the pairs aggregate was concerned the top two 'megastars' pretty much had it all sewn up just after the Christmas match results. So that just left the individual title up for grabs, which was won by Bill (me ☺) who finished 4 points clear of his nearest rival and pairs partner, Adrian.



One very happy section winning bunny!

Diem Horribilem at Harescombe

The headline simply translates as 'a horrible day at Harescombe' and at least it was for me and a few others. So, we met up at Michaelwood Services on the M5 at around 7.30am on April 14th for what was meant to be the start of a memorable day, which I suppose it was. We were advised we would need 3 keepnets, which on reflection, should have raised alarm bells. After a short hop up the motorway we made our journey across country until my satnav told me we had arrived. In fact we were still half a mile away so had to ask directions. Then as we approached, it became increasingly clear that we were going to be spending the next 6 hours in what I would best describe as "The shithole from hell" Okay, so maybe a little over dramatic but personally I didn't find the canal-like clay pit, divided by wooden pilings, at Harescome Fishery one little bit appealing. Even a duck had decided to commit suicide by hanging itself in a small gap between 2 of the upright logs. Not a good omen! Before the match started, I asked regular visitor Nigel Vigus for his prediction of a winning weight so that I had some idea about what we could expect. Nigel said

it would probably be around 45lb. Winner on the day was Nigel with 26-4-0 from a nice end peg. Second place went to Ian Swanborough with 24-12-0 and in third place was another regular and end-pegger, Jason Pitman with 23-13-0. Kev Murch had 2 ducks. I'm not sure what drugs he's on these days but he's obviously a bit confused.

Next match... May Trophy

Our next match will be held at Farleigh Wood on May 12th. Please note that the owners have now confirmed that this is a barbless hook only venue and day tickets have been increased to £6.

AGM NEWS...

Another season starts all over again in June commencing with our AGM, which as usual will be held at the Kingswood Social Club (Formerly the RBL Club) the evening will start at 8pm with our usual monthly meeting, followed by the AGM at 8.30pm. All proposals to the secretary in advance please. We will also be distributing well-earned trophies to members on the following list, so if your name is on it please make an effort to come along and collect your just rewards. It's also time for tab renewals, which will remain at the exceedingly low price of just £20 with £10 concessions.

**John Treasure - Clive Purshouse - Jason Pitman
Kevin Murch - Adrian Dennis - Paul Pitt - Bill Croom and me** (just in case I forget)

Forthcoming events...

There will not be another newsletter until July or August so a reminder that our first river match will, as usual be on the Crane at Keynsham on June 16th. Please ensure you let either Brian or me know if you intend to fish so that I know how many pegs to put out. We may need a couple of swim clearing volunteers beforehand so again, let Brian know if you are available to help out. Our July match is the Pairs to be held at Barton Farm, Bradford-on-Avon on July 14th.

August Away Day News...

Our away day outing this year will be at Walters Lake, South Cerney. Walter's lake is a purpose built match lake. It is approx. 3 acres in size and divided into 4 lanes. We have one 18 peg lane booked for the day. The lake holds many carp in the 5-8lb size plus tench to over 7lb and bream to over 8lb. There are also many smaller silvers, so everyone will catch something. The lake match record is 446lb, with many match weights topping 300lb and it's also possible to catch 30-40lbs of silvers. There is a very nice modern cafe on site, which serve breakfasts should anyone want to get there early. More details can be found here: www.lakepochard.co.uk

All for now river warriors!