



Rain Rain Go Away... FFS!

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. Well, on reflection it seems the weather has been getting in the way of our matches again this year with a cancellation and 2 alternative venues having to come into play. It's been a bit of a nightmare having to rearrange matches at the last minute but we do what we have to do. So, what have we been doing these past 5 months? Read on to refresh your memory...

Swanny Hits The Jackpot Again At Riverside Drive – 26th November 2023



Another grey and miserable day greeted us as we arrived for our match on a swollen river Avon at Riverside Drive, Chippenham. The river was still running through at quite a pace after recent floods and it was anyone's guess where the chub might show up. However, show up they did for a few lucky anglers that had a little slack water to fish to. The long walk

was worth the effort for Ian Swanborough who managed to find a nice net of chub, which weighed a total 15-1-0 for a comfortable win. His nearest rival was Alan Maggs, who finished in second place with 6-13-0, followed closely by Jason Pitman with 5-13-0. It was a day where, as expected, chub dominated the results but I'm sure weights would have been much more impressive if the river had fined down just a little more.

An Early Christmas Present For Jason At Bitterwell Lake – 10th December 2023

Once again we were well down on numbers for the annual Xmas event at Bitterwell Lake with only 10 anglers in attendance. We presented Fishery Manager, Paul Isaacs, with a nice bottle of red wine, which I think went some way in taking his mind off the low numbers and hopefully put us in good stead for next year. The weather was certainly cold and low weights were expected... we weren't far wrong. We had 2 DNWs and 3 anglers only returning ounces but for one angler it was like Santa Claus had paid him a visit. Well out in front with 18-12-0 was Jason Pitman, who managed to

find some big skimmers on pellet, while the rest of us had to be content with a few micro roach on pinkies. The top silvers prize went to Ian Swanborough who amassed a total weight of 4-10-0 of roach, perch and skimmers. Sections wins went to Kev Murch who found a carp for 6-12-0 and Leigh Wakefield who put together a total of 2-05-0. The best part of the day was the meal and presentation at the Mill House in Emersons Green, where we dined, drank fine ales and collected some great prizes. My prize was especially welcome... a bottle of Bushmills Whiskey... thank you very much!



More Xmas photos...



And more... The pin-up boys!



Prior to the Christmas match, there were 2 poppy matches. The Alcove Poppy Match and the Poppy Appeal. As both these matches are opens and not club matches I don't usually write up a report but I think I should mention that the Alcove Poppy Match raised £300. I was third on that one with 14-07-0. The Poppy Appeal match, also known as the Bill Milton Memorial, was well attended and this year managed to raise a record amount of money for the cause. Over £4000 was collected on behalf of the appeal. On behalf of our club, many thanks to Ray Bazeley and all the sponsors.

Our next club match should have been on the Crane stretch of the river on January 7th but had to be cancelled when the river burst its banks.

Barton Farm Match Switched To The Canal Due To Flooding - 11th February 2023

Once again the weather got the better of us, forcing us to move this match onto the canal at Moulton Drive.

10 anglers turned up for this one and we were well spread out among the narrow boats, which were moored all along Moulton Drive. The weather wasn't too bad and there weren't many boats moving around during the course of the day but all the cold rain water had put the better fish off feeding. Small roach and skimmers made up most of the weights today with Jason Pitman and Jon Amato tying for first place with 5-13-0 apiece. Jon would have won but for a small roach that he swung in, dropped off and mysteriously disappeared, only to be found much later in Jon's top pocket ☺ I was third with 4-07-0 of small skimmers and roach caught mainly on punched bread.

Feeder Canal Is Last Resort As Season Ends - 10th March 2023

Another match that should have been on the river at Keynsham had to be quickly rearranged due to the effects of floodwater. Although the river was dropping, it was still hammering through and the banks looked treacherous. So, rather than risk the possibility of someone slipping in, the Feeder Canal was the only option left to us. Only 7 anglers turned up, which made the pegging easy and parking was virtually behind your peg. We selected to fish opposite Manor Scrap and every peg looked exactly the same, with nothing more than a high brick wall on the other side. There was a nice colour in the canal and bream were the main target fish. However, they proved elusive although I did manage to find one decent one and a couple of big skimmers. I finished up with 8-04-0. The rest of the field had to settle for bleak and small roach with Ian Brice finding 1-04-0 of them for second place and Steve Jefferies finishing in third place with 1-01-0.

Final Top 10 Aggregate Positions & Pairs

Individual		Pairs	
B.Knight	47	Alan Maggs & Jason Pitman	40.11.0
J.Pitman	43		
I.Swanborough	39	Bill Knight & Clive Purhouse	33.11.5
A.Maggs	38		
I.Brice	33	Jon Amato & John Treasure	26.12.0
J.Amato	32		
J.Treasure	23	Adrian Dennis & Ian Brice	23.02.0
K.Murch	22		
L.Wakefield	18	Kev Murch & Tony Humphries	11.14.0
G.Sage	17		

Forthcoming events...

April 14th - K&A Canal, Bradford-on-Avon. This will be on the Barton Farm stretch either side of the sewage works.

May 19th - K&A Canal, Bradford-on-Avon. This one is likely to be on the Moulton Drive or Beehive stretch.

Welcome New Members

An official warm welcome to Wes Western, Kevin Beauchamp and Tony Welsby.

Other News...

This year there will be a Riverfest Qualifying match between Swineford and the Crane on Saturday, 7th September. I'm in and so is Jason... anyone else?

All for now River Warriors!