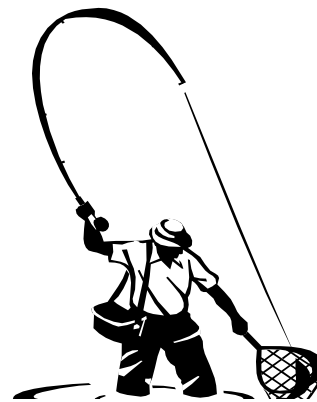


Kingswood Legionnaires

Newsletter

October 2003



The Royal British Legion Annual Poppy Match is almost upon us and there is much to do. If you haven't managed to put in some time swim clearing then you can still help by volunteering to assist with any of the organisational tasks required on the day. If you don't intend to fish the match but can spare some time on Sunday morning (9th), then give Brian a call. With very little rainfall over the last few months and not much forecast for the coming weeks, it's almost certain the match will go ahead on the river. Tickets are available from your local tackle shop or contact Brian for further details. See you all on the big day.

Match Results

Interclub – Airsprung AA - Swineford

Unfortunately I had to miss this event due to last minute preparations for the annual Ireland pilgrimage. The river was low and clear with very little flow but despite the conditions some chub and roach were willing to sample a few tasty morsels. Top tasty morsel dangler of the day was the magnificent Mark Summerhayes with 8-3-0 followed very closely by the gregarious Glen Welsh with 7-15-0. Team weights were roughly, Legion 33lb – Airsprung 28lb.

W Milton Cup - Chippenham

I don't think anyone, least of all me, wanted to draw peg 1. Maybe it was the downstream wind, ripping up the surface or perhaps it was the two bicycles and a shopping trolley, which were embedded in the silt, just feet from the bank. Oh! How we all laughed and pitied the poor beggar that was to draw the wretched number and spend 5 hours in the scrap hole. Okay, so as I set about removing the ironmongery and levelling the bank to accommodate my seat box, I somehow managed to put aside thoughts of returning to my warm bed and set about the task in hand. A waggler to the far side brought a couple of pounds of very welcome roach but a lost chub of around 3lbs in the dying minutes sealed my fate and deprived me of having 'the last laugh'.

The man who was laughing all the way from the bank was Alan 'Golden B**locks' Maggs, who not only won the match with 4-4-0 but also picked up a tidy sum for drawing the 'golden peg'. In second place was 'golden boy' Steve Cooke with 3-12-0 of mostly quality perch. Next year this match will be held on the Huntspill. Can't wait!

Forthcoming Matches

Poppy Open, November 9th. Saltford to Chequers.

Interclub – Airsprung, November 16th. Bradford-on-Avon.

Christmas Match, December 14th. Swineford.

Ireland 2003

For many years we have stayed and fished in the Cavan area of Ireland. In many ways, this year was different. We stayed at a guesthouse, owned and run by an English couple, situated in a tiny area called 'Kilclare'. The nearest town was Carrick-on-Shannon, about 30 minutes drive from Kilclare. Kilclare consists of 4 houses and 1 pub, so there was no real social scene. The fishing was below expectations except for Mike Teakle and Ted Bethel who

both managed to 'do the ton' on a lake called Lough Kinale (pronounced 'kin'ell). To get to the swims, we had to transport ourselves and tackle up a river, into the lake and onto a secluded shore, by boat. We also spent 4 days fishing from a secluded island called Harry's Island. Interesting, different but didn't fish any better than anywhere else in Ireland! The highs and lows of the holiday however, will always be remembered for one particular incident. On returning from a 'baiting up' session on Lough Kinale, our boat grounded rendering the outboard motor useless. It was around 9.30 pm, dark and we were at the mercy of the wind and undertow. Four men in a boat with only 2 oars, no life jackets and no way of raising the alarm, we were left drifting out into the middle of this large expanse of water. Scary! Eventually, we landed on a distant shore, got out of the boat and waded all the way back to the river inlet dragging the boat with us. Almost 4 hours after we became grounded, we reached the inlet. Once in the river, we were able to use the oars to row back to the mooring point. This episode was a disaster and could have ended with tragic consequences. Thankfully it didn't. On a humorous note, I'll always remember it as 'Mike and Ted's' bogus journey.

Other News

- The Kingswood Legion welcomes 2 new members to the club. Dean Thompson and Steve Cannock. I like people with a sense of humour!
- Legion branch memberships are now due for renewal. The cost for all able bodied men between the ages of 18 and 65 is £13.50. For old sea dogs and the like, cough up £11.50. Money to Brian ASAP!
- The two Star & Garter matches held at Westerliegh raised £150.00. Well done to Ted for his efforts.
- Bill Croom continues to make a full recovery after his operation and is gagging to get back into action.
- Currently there is no parking for anglers at Chequers.

All for now!

Editor: Bill Knight, 182 Sturminster Road, Stockwood, Bristol, BS14 8AR. Tel: 01275 837577.