

# INVICTA FFC

[WWW.INVICTAFFC.ORG.UK](http://WWW.INVICTAFFC.ORG.UK)

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NEWSLETTER 162

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Affiliated to the **Angling Trust** and the **Federation of Midland Fly Fishers (Anglia)**.



The successful Invicta team with the Llanilar/Leslie/Invicta Pilgrimage trophies at the post match celebrations held at The Racehorse, Catworth.

A delighted Bob Ayres led his Invicta team to a momentous win in the annual pilgrimage with our friends from Wales and Scotland. The first time for many years our men topped the table and earned bragging rights until next May at least.

Results:

Invicta 50 fish for 118lbs  
Llanilar 37 fish for 90lbs  
Leslie AC 28 fish for 70lbs

Our top rods with 8 fish each were John Brownbridge and Clive Turner at 17.6lbs and 16.25lbs respectively and Paul Stevens took best fish for Invicta at 3.8lbs.

Full results for this and all competitions can be seen on our website.

The association with Llanilar AC, from the Aberystwyth area of Wales, began in 1985 when Mike Dawnay introduced the clubs at a meeting on Chew Lake. Mike owned a tackle shop in Milton Road, Cambridge at that time under the name C.S.S.T. Cambridge Angling Specialist Tackle. This arrangement flourished over the next few years to become known as the Pilgrimage. Regrettably during the late 1990's the fishing at Chew declined and a decision was made to, firstly, transfer to Lake Brenig and then to the Anglian Waters.

In the latter part of our time at Chew Valley we were joined by a contingent of anglers from the Leslie AC from Fife in Scotland.

Invicta has always aimed for close associations within the angling world and, to this end, were also founder members of the Association of Major Fishing Clubs which has survived as a fairly laid-back competition since the late 1980's.

### **Association of Major Clubs**

Invicta A is doing us proud with two first places at Chew Valley and Bewl Water and a third at Eyebrook so far this year in Group 3 of the Competition.

Invicta B has not fared so well in Group 4 having been placed fourth at Both Chew and Pitsford.

For any prospective competition members the AMFC is a friendly series of events offering a gentle introduction to competition fishing. Anyone wishing to learn more before committing to next years programme should talk to our

Chairman and AMFC team captain, Graham Williams.

### **Tuesday Evening League**

This popular event continues during the summer months. The routine is to turn up at Grafham Lodge at 5pm each Tuesday and a draw will take place for boat partners. The evening concludes with refreshments and announcement of the results.

Your Committee is considering a similar series of bank meetings on Sunday mornings after the conclusion of the Tuesday evening event. This could possibly be held at local small water venue or Grafham.

It would be appreciated if indications of support for this proposal could be forwarded to Lawson Wight, our Gen. Secretary.

### **The Carr Cup**

This is awarded over a series of venues during the summer season. Points are earned at the rate of 10 points for attendance and 5 points for number of fish caught up to the particular fishery limit, usually 8. To allow for holidays etc. one venue may be discarded at the end of the season.

Standings after two venues, Pitsford and Rutland, are:

Gary How	100 points
Chris McLeod	85
Graham Williams	70
Mark Searle	70
Bob Ayres	65
Mick Facey	65

Twenty members have taken part so far.

### **Club Trophies**

In addition to awards for the winners of the Evening League and Carr Cup there are trophies at separate venues for the

Presidents Cup and the Carl Hunter Bowl (see Club Summer programme). It is intended to conclude the Presidents Cup day with a barbecue

Attention is drawn to the need to submit witnessed claims for the heaviest Brown and heaviest Rainbow taken from a public day-ticket water during the fishing season.

### **England Qualifiers**

Both Kieran Caulfield and Chris McLeod Managed a top ten finish in this, the Odds and Sods event, with Kieran taking top rod.

### **Fenland Fair**

Held at Quay Park, just off the A14 at the Bottisham junction on Late Summer Bank Holiday Sunday/Monday 26/27<sup>th</sup> August. A really good day out for the whole family with practically all country pursuits represented. From ferrets to flyfishing, plants/food/clothing stalls, parade rings featuring horse and dog shows, vintage cars and machinery.

Not to forget our very own Invicta tent and casting displays. What more could you want for a Bank Holiday.

Volunteers are required to assist for a few hours on either or both days, nothing too onerous, an odd hour to allow others to go for a comfort/food break or an extended spell to answer questions from the public, demonstrate fly tying etc.

Please let Lawson Wight know of your availability.

### **Summer Programme**

**Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> June - Eyebrook**

**Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> July - Grafham  
(President's Cup)**

**Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> August-Pitsford  
(Carl Hunter Bowl)**

**Saturday 1st September -  
Ravensthorpe**

**Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> October  
Hanningfield  
(to be confirmed)**

**Elinor Fur & Feather event  
Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> November.**

**Tuesday Evening League  
8<sup>th</sup> May to 14<sup>th</sup> August**

### **Acknowledgements**

Somewhat belatedly we wish to thank all who donated to the Annual Dinner raffle. They are much appreciated as the income from the raffle helps keep the headline price of the dinner down and ensures that the event remains solvent and doesn't impinge on Club funds.

### **Flytying Evening**

David Jones

A poorly attended evening but I would be surprised if nobody actually learned something. Alan Prevost took the seat and spent some time showing newbie Peter King how to construct a Diawl Bach,



Fig.1

There was some light hearted discussion as to how accurate the interpretation but that is the point of tying patterns yourself. How often do you find yourself short of specific materials and have to improvise only to end up with a pattern which appears, on the bench at least, to be a more effective derivative?



Fig.2

I have discovered that some members shared my experience that an aluminium boat seat is a heavy beast and were able to advise where to obtain wheels which can be easily fitted to one end. Of course dear reader, you may well have purchased a de luxe version which is already so equipped!

Some make out that it was a secret art requiring specialist kit. Certainly in my youth, the limitations of photography meant that some books had paintings of flies presumably to avoid colour casts. The advent of digital photography and improved printing processes has meant that truly amazing images can be created in your own den. Many basic compact digital cameras have a facility whereby it is possible to engage macro focussing so that items just a few cm,s from the lens can be sharply imaged. The normal auto focus is usually adequate but it is frequently possible to impose a measure of selective focussing and concentrate on a specific part, preferably the core of the fly. The depth of focus is very shallow and it is vital to present the axis's of the fly parallel to the face of the lens. Avoid the AWB setting and select the light balance to match the surroundings: this may be daylight, shadow, tungsten light or, if the

illumination is provided from LED's, try a white striplight setting. Set a shutter delay (usually 10 seconds) to avoid camera shake: alternatively use a remote control device to fire the shutter. Flash is not recommended; rather use either natural light or some external lights. The advantage of the latter lies in their constant colour temperature and the possibility of adjusting the lighting from the front or the rear of the fly. This has important implications for how the fish is viewing the fly – in silhouette or reflected light. Outdoor photography is not recommended as the slightest breeze causes the feather/fur to flutter.

Fig.5 shows my personal device which I usually bring along to meeting in order to covertly photograph flies passed around by some speakers.

a, The camera is a Pentax Optio 750Z. It features an articulating screen, b, which is invaluable for comfortable viewing of the subject. I have used this camera extensively for almost 10 years but, to their shame, Pentax no longer make a comparable model. The camera is mounted on a quick release facility available from Jessops for about a tenner.



Fig.5

The lamps, c. each have 24 LED's which require a light balance setting of W on the striplight symbol. Unlike some other illuminators these emit cold light which cannot damage the flies. The lamps have a magnetic base and can easily be moved around. They are sold by Tesco and other outlets at about £5 a piece. Note that the lights are equipped with diffusers, home made from pebble dash sections from a milk carton, again courtesy of Tesco's.

The fly, d. is held in a miniature probe clip sold by Maplins (N60BY) at twice the price of the same product from [www.carrilon.com](http://www.carrilon.com) providing you buy 10 or more.

The background, e. can be easily changed. Black is quite useful but always select material which is completely matt. Try laminating with a matt pouch.

The bits were housed in a 1.1litre Klip fast food container, f. (20x13x5cm internal dimensions), from you-know-where! The remainder of the unit was made from bits and pieces I had lying around and arranged so that the camera and the fly were in good alignment yet adjustable. It is all a bit Heath Robinson but it might give readers a few ideas. I happen to like these particular boxes for storage purposes. A simple device could be assembled on a bit of wood. Alternatively it is possible to purchase a ready made item but considerably larger, for about £30. (Google "portable photo studio" but read customer reviews).

Fibres can be seen in a photo which are not readily visible to the naked eye. Fig.3 shows a hand held shot of a wasp which appeared in the bathroom a few weeks ago. Note the fine hairs which are clearly revealed. Fig. 4 shows a fly I found in a boat on my recent trip to Rutland. I think this is a Sparkler but you really have to look at this picture on a screen to appreciate just how much it sparkles.



Fig.3

## **Peter McLeod of Aardvark McLeod**

By David Jones

Peter, proprietor of Aardvark McLeod, visited the Club to lift our spirits out of the winter gloom. With International fishing experience gained over 16 years, his outfit loos after 80 destinations in 40 countries. He asked that we imagined that we had won the lottery and were intent upon spending one month of the year in the best possible fishing location anywhere in the world. He then went on to show 80 slides of his choices in order to whet our appetites. When I came to write up this exercise I soon got to 4 pages so I have condensed it into a calendar format with a few of the comments made by Peter. Further information can be gained from an excellent newsletter, photos and videos on <http://www.aardvarkmcleod.com>.

Some of the expeditions involve the acquisition of of tackle which would be mostly unused on UK waters. Does he have a vast collection of kit? Apparently enough to stock a tackle shop! He has an advantage of being a consultant of Hardy's. He raved about the recently introduced Sintrix rods which he regarded as a step improvement comparable with the change from glass to carbon. He found it was possible to reduce line weights from

#8 to #6. Although he used the usual range of reels found in the catalogues, his prized possession was a Jack Charlton signature. Nope, not the footballer – take a look at <http://makoreels.com/index.html> for more information.

He was asked if there was anywhere else he Pacific area looks appealing. Reports of huge bonefish have come from New Caledonia. Tahiti has proved inconsistent so far. The NW areas of the Indian Ocean look a bit dodgy at the moment. However, he does have a penchant for bass fishing in the waters around Cornwall.

This was an informative presentation made all the more interesting by the fact that Peter had clearly visited all of these locations and could speak from practical experience. I did wonder if anyone has yet done a 12 month stint? I for one will keep doing the lottery in the remote hope that I could perhaps be the first.

### **Item of interest from the Rivers Discussion Evening**

I hesitate to write anything about the club forum on rivers as I am certain absent members must have felt their ears burning, if not well and truly on fire!

I notice that quite a few participants travel around the world and even for simply carrying rods in the car boot, there is something to be said for multi-section rods.

I visit Ireland from time to time and I have discovered a local Lough which is well worth fishing for wild browns. Hence I pondered buying a portable rod for some time. I was finally tempted by an offer of a Sonic 6 piece travel rod at half the normal price from Garry Evans. It was a 10ft #7. I have not caught fish on it yet but I can report that it has a steely action and casts very well. I ordered it on Friday afternoon and it arrived the next day before lunch. I

was delighted at the cost, I was delighted by the performance and I was delighted by the instant service provided by this company. An up-to-date catalogue can be ordered on [www.garryevans.co.uk](http://www.garryevans.co.uk).

A couple of Hardy rods were handed around at the meeting and very impressive they were too. They were also on offer in so far as each rod is sold with a free Hardy Marksman Reel which is claimed to be worth up to £209. This takes the pain out of buying a rod costing upwards of £500.

If you know of a better deal then let the editor know.

### **Editors note**

It is always good to hear of genuinely good deals and, perhaps as important, good service which deserves to be acknowledged so if anyone has a story to tell along these lines let's hear them.

I too can attest to the service to be expected from Garry Evans.

Several years ago I needed a rod for a trip to Northern Canada. I was aware that heavy fish were on offer and I was impressed by the write-up for the Orvis Frequent Flyer travel rod. I spoke to Tracy in Grafham Lodge on Thursday and collected the rod on Saturday. Although it is available in a range of weights this one is a 9ft #9 six piece which, complete with carry tube is just 18.5 inches/48 cm's in length. At this weight the rod is classed as a sea water rod. Not an eye watering price I recall and it dealt with a significant number of double figure fish, the heaviest, an arctic char at 20lbs.

Unfortunately now unavailable it was coupled with a Scientific Anglers disc brake reel, of which I have a collection, which will deal with anything that comes its way.

Other outlets I have had good service from include [www.johnnorris.co.uk](http://www.johnnorris.co.uk) and

[www.flytyingboutique.com](http://www.flytyingboutique.com). On the latter of these, click on the “Inspiration” box for a whole group of flytying articles.

### We are still asking for your help

What subject would you like to hear about in the Winter Programme? Do you have a particular Speaker in mind? Please help Lawson Wight, our Gen.Secretary, to compile an interesting and varied list for the Winter 2012/13 programme or for subsequent years.

### The Newsletter.

Do you have any angling anecdotes, stories, incidents or pictures which would be of interest to you fellow Club members? As long as it is clean and not libellous I will accept it for printing.

A fishing trip, at home or further afield, an incident that ought to be recorded for our mutual enlightenment or amusement. It's your Newsletter and we need good copy to make it a success! Please send to

[normanshippey@btinternet.com](mailto:normanshippey@btinternet.com)

Your Committee is actively considering extending the Tuesday League type of event by switching to Sundays at the close of the Tuesday evening programme. What do you think about that? It will only be worth pursuing if sufficient numbers are interested.

It has been suggested that members would appreciate knowing the date of the next Committee Meeting in order that your queries or suggestions can be brought to the Committees' notice at the earliest opportunity. A note, text or e-mail to the General Secretary would get the ball rolling.

The next Committee Meeting is scheduled for Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> July.

With the season now under way at all venues John Caldwell would appreciate early confirmation of your desire to fish any specific Club Trip. John has to cancel boats not required in good time to keep our friends, the Fishery Managers, on side.

On the subject of Club Trips. These are social events with a modicum of competition if you require it. Newer members are encouraged to take part. You may specify your friend as boat partner on several events or request boating with an experienced angler.

Graham Williams would also appreciate early knowledge of your wish to take part in the AMC or any competition as soon as possible after they are advertised.

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