



NEWSLETTER
2008

June/July

Wide Variation in Conditions but Fishing still Good

Editorial

Some of you will have read, or heard of, an article in the Telegraph of 1/6/08 entitled **YOBs with BLOBs**.

One criticism was the very concept of the Blob. Chris Ogbourne said they were tantamount to cheating! The following are flies from Bob Church's book **'Guide to the Champions' Fly Patterns'** published in 1998. There wasn't too much criticism of many successful anglers using these patterns then (although I wonder how many of the owners would acknowledge them today?)



In comparison we can confidently regard this criticism as prejudiced rubbish.

There were, however, two other criticisms both which deserve serious consideration.

I consider the most serious that too many anglers, and in particular young anglers, regard pulling blobs as the **ONLY** way to fish. Their knowledge of entomology is

disgraceful and their ability to use other methods like nymphing and the dry fly is non-existent. *I believe that Charles Jardine was so concerned about this that on one England Youth Team training day he made them all fish nymphs on floating lines.*

Pulling blobs etc. on sinking lines is ultimately boring and too many of our youngsters leave fly fishing without appreciating the wonderful variety in fly design and fishing techniques.

The third criticism was of the effectiveness of the method to take fish quickly and so gain the maximum time bonus. I have dealt with every result in the Association and there is no doubt that time bonus is usually the deciding factor. Indeed in the last match I dealt with the winning team had two fish less than the second team, but a better time bonus.

The AMFC **introduced** the concept of the **time bonus** and should be proud of the fact. Unless the competition is catch and release and results based on length it is now the usual method of calculating the results. I shall come back to this in the next issue when there is more space, but perhaps the time bonus is too dominant!



Name No Weight

Bewl Bridge F.C. 'A'

Dave Withers	8	17lbs
Steve Collins	8	17lbs 15oz
John Hancock	4	8lbs 6oz
Bill Rankin	8	16lbs 3oz
Mick Dwyer	7	15lbs 9oz
Joel Beoney	8	22lbs 12oz
TOTAL 97lbs 13oz		

Bristol Reservoirs F.A.

Martin Burgess	7	18lbs 3oz
Tony Baldwin	8	21lbs 8oz
Andrew Hedger	8	23lbs 6oz
Glyn Holmes	8	18lbs 12oz
Tony George	8	19lbs 13oz

TOTAL 101lbs 10oz		

Fish Hawks 'A'

Al Gamble	7	16lbs
Lee Ratcliffe	4	9lbs 8oz
Mal Bruce	7	17lbs 14oz

TOTAL 43lbs 6oz		

Hanningfield F.A.

John Stevenson	6	13lbs 8oz
Lloyd Pallett	8	15lbs 12oz
Vince Howley	8	21lbs 5oz
Mark Rooney	8	19lbs
Garry Morris	8	21lbs 2oz
Alan Stern	8	17lbs
TOTAL 117lbs 11oz		

Rutland Water F.F.

Sean Cutting	8	21lbs
Ron Gent	8	20lbs 9oz
David Lang	8	18lbs 12oz
Mike Gunnell	4	7lbs 4oz
Paul Sissons	8	18lbs 13oz
TOTAL 106lbs 11oz		

Soldier Palmers 'A'

Andy Everett	8	20lbs 4oz
Dick Turpin	8	20lbs 20oz
Tony Hoggart	8	22lbs 14oz
Jim Douglas	8	20lbs
Del Spry	8	20lbs 12oz
Tony Hill	8	18lbs 11oz
TOTAL 122lbs 11oz		

Best Bag 25lbs 12oz
Lloyd Pallett (Hanningfield)

Best Bag 4lbs 4oz
Lloyd Pallett (Hanningfield)

Group One

Soldier Palmers achieve perfect score to take First place in Round Two on Hanningfield on Sunday 29th. June

With an average of 7.4 fish Hanningfield fished brilliantly for Goup One on Sunday 29th. June.

There had been an improvement in the weather from the previous day, with lighter winds and cloud cover which meant the fish were higher in the water. Sadly nymphs which had worked in Lodge and School Bay the day before did not work for very long. As one angler said the fish were hyped on Daphnia and bright orange was the effective colour. By lunchtime almost everyone was pulling bright lures.

Soldier Palmers fished across the middle of the reservoir using DI7's but not waiting for them to sink. They used a

combination of Blobs and boobies. Their first angler to finish was Tony Hoggart just before 1,00pm and they had all finished by 4.00pm.

Catching your fish early was the secret as it become more difficult as the day progressed.

**Best Fish - Lloyd Pallett
Hanningfield F.A.**



Soldier Palmers 'A Team - Winners

Photos by Jane Howley

Team	Rd1	Rd2	Rd3	Rd4	Rd5	Rd6	TOTAL	POSITION
Bewl Bridge 'A'	6	2					8	2=
Bristol Reservoirs F.A.	1	3					4	6
Fish Hawks 'A'	5	1					6	5
Hanningfield F.A.	4	5					9	1
Rutland Water F.F.	3	4					7	4
Soldier Palmers 'A'	2	6					8	2=



Weather turns Venomous for Group Three – Round Three On Rutland on Sunday 29th. June

Name No Weight

Crawley F.C.

Baz Reece	8	21lbs 3.75oz
Bob Birchall	1	3lbs 7.5oz
Bob Sanger	3	5lbs

TOTAL	30	lbs 8oz

Invicta F.C. 'A'

John Caldwell	2	4lbs 6.5oz
Mark Searle	8	18lbs 14.5oz
John Mees	6	15lbs
Alan Taylor	7	17lbs 9.74oz
Mike Smith	1	2lbs 2.5oz
John Brownbridge	8	17lbs 1.5oz
TOTAL	76	lbs 0.5oz

Invicta F.C. 'B'

Paul Stevens	1	3lbs 12oz
Ian Wilson	3	7lbs 10oz
Alan Prevost		
Kieran Caulfield	3	6lbs 4oz
Peter Reeves	4	8lbs 13oz
Oscar Boatfield		
TOTAL	26	lbs 7oz

Royal Navy/Marines

Mark Glass	8	20lbs 7oz
Dave Mynall	8	20lbs 2.75oz
Dave Morton	4	8lbs 6oz
Paul Vine	3	5lbs 9.5oz
Al Mundy	4	9lbs 1.5oz
Max Thompson	1	2lbs 10oz
TOTAL	67	lbs 2.5oz

Soldier Palmers 'B'

Graham Lumsdon	4	9lbs 0.5oz
Pete Munford	4	9lbs 2.5oz
Kev McGloughlin	4	5lbs 12oz
Dave Froggat	2	3lbs 11.5oz
Rob Jackson	5	11lbs 9.5oz
Tug Lawson		
TOTAL	39	lbs 4oz



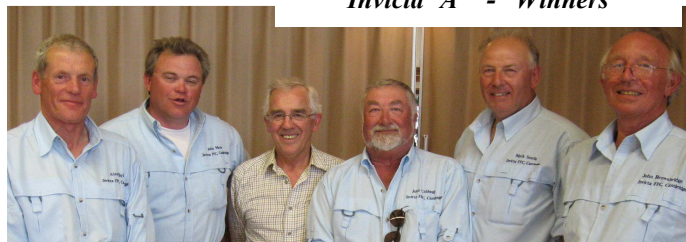
The day started well, with a gentle wind from the West and intermittent cloud cover. All changed in mid afternoon when the wind strengthened and conditions became VERY unpleasant. Pictured bottom left is John Mees battling back against the wind, spray and rain. Getting the line to make a back cast was almost impossible. It was fortunate that the match was fished an hour earlier than usual because most had given up before the 5.00 pm finish!

shore rather than close to the Dam.

For the second consecutive match Baz Reece of Crawley had best bag which helped them, *with only half a team*, to evade last place.

Invicta 'A' had their first win of the season with nearly 10 lbs more than the Navy/Marines in second place. With half the matches fished the Navy/Marines have a two point margin over their nearest

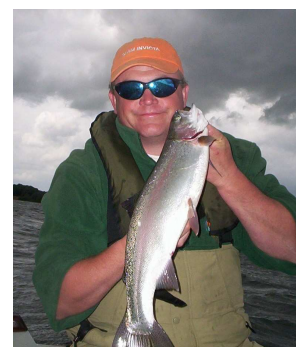
Invicta 'A' - Winners



Practice day had shown the fish along the Normanton Shore and in particular Fantasy Island and that is where most boats headed. Most fish were feeding on daphnia and slow/medium sinkers with blobs/boobies and sparklers were the combinations used by those who finished early. Nymphs did provide some reasonable bags of three or four fish particularly along the

rivals.

John Mees (Invicta 'A') Best fish of season (Group 3) 4lbs 3.25oz



Team	Rd1	Rd2	Rd3	TOTAL	POSITION
Crawley F.C.	2	3	2	7	3=
Invicta 'A'	3	4	5	12	2
Invicta F.C. 'B'	4	2	1	7	3=
Royal Navy Marines	5	5	4	14	1
Soldier Palmers'B'	0	1	3	4	5



Best Fish of Season in the Rain at Grafham Navy/Marines back to Winning Ways for Group 3 Round 4

Name No Weight

Crawley F.C.

Bob Sanger	6	13lbs 14oz
Bob Burchall	3	7lbs 14oz
Del Fell	4	7lbs 10oz
Ian Sharpe	2	6lbs 3oz
Alan Hall	3	8lbs 6oz
Chas Beal	1	3lbs
TOTAL	46lbs	15oz

Invicta F.C. 'A'

Mark Searle	6	12lbs 8oz
Carl Hunter	2	5lbs 11oz
John Mees	8	19lbs 7oz
Chris McLeod	8	24lbs 14oz
John Caldwell	4	9lbs 2oz
Lawson Wight	6	12lbs
TOTAL	83lbs	10oz

Invicta F.C. 'B'

Andy Newman	3	7lbs 9oz
Mick Facey	4	12lbs 8oz
John Andrew	1	2lbs 7oz
Bob Ayres	4	10lbs 8oz
John Brown	2	3lbs 5oz

TOTAL	36lbs	5oz

Royal Navy/Marines

Nigel Evans	7	17lbs
Dave Minnall	8	20lbs 4oz
Ron Tutt	6	13lbs 14oz
Mike Barfoot-Franks	6	13lbs 9oz
Grant Maxwell	7	17lbs 3oz
Tudor Batewood	5	11lbs 1oz
TOTAL	92lbs	15oz

Soldier Palmers 'A'

John Gamon	4	11lbs 13oz
John McLaughlin	2	5lbs
Tug Lawson	3	6lbs 6oz
Dave Froggat	8	19lbs 11oz
Jock Bending	2	8lbs 11oz
Peter Harrup	4	11lbs 9oz
TOTAL	63lbs	2oz

Best Bag 24lbs 14oz

Chris McLeod (Invicta 'A')

Best Fish 6lbs 6oz

Jock Benning (Soldier Palmers 'B')

**Left behind in Pub
Touchstone Fishing Jacket
Either
Soldier Palmers 'B' or
Crawley
Contact John Caldwell
Mobile 07956-275485**

Jock Benning (Soldier Palmers 'B') caught the best fish of the season so far at 6lbs 6oz in the Group Three Match on Grafham on 9th. July.



With an average of 6.5 fish the Navy/Marines (pictured above) achieved a comfortable win over Invicta 'A' and have put themselves into a good position with only two rounds left.

The day started with the wind in the S.W but turned in the afternoon to the S.E which also brought even heavier rain. This is the second consecutive match when Group Three have had a wet day. In the previous match on Rutland it was Slop/Spray and Rain, for this match just RAIN!

Most fish were caught in the middle of the reservoir between I Buoy and G. Buoy. I Buoy is near the Sludge Lagoon and G. Buoy on the North Shore not far from the Pleasure Boat Landing Stage.

Not surprisingly with the cloud and rain, the fish were very high in the water, certainly in the top three feet, although there

were no reports of anglers catching on dries.

Lines were slow sinkers and floaters, with combinations of flies. A bright fly on the point, blob or booby, with either one or two nymphs in the middle and for those using four points sparkler type flies on the top dropper.

Analyses of the results suggest that this was a very fair match. Nobody blanked (which is quite unusual). Four anglers finished, one at 2.00pm one at 3.00pm and the other two at 4.00pm and the overall average was 4.5 fish per angler. The average size of the fish at 2lbs 5oz was excellent.

Jock Benning



Team	Rd1	Rd2	Rd3	Rd4	Rd5	Rd6	TOTAL	POSITION
Crawley F.C.	2	3	2	2			9	3
Invicta 'A'	3	4	5	4			16	2
Invicta F.C. 'B'	4	2	1	1			8	4
Royal Navy Marines	5	5	4	5			19	1
Soldier Palmers 'B'	0	1	3	3			7	5