

DECEMBER 2011



PHEASANT TALKS

CHRISTMAS MEAL

As most of you know already, this year's Christmas Meal is this Friday (2nd December) at The Bell Inn, Yatton Keynell SN14 7BJ. Please arrive at 7.15 in order to be ready for the meal to be served at 7.45. As is now traditional, raffle prizes ranging from Hardy reels to bottles of wine will be gratefully received.....

GRAYLING TRIP

This year's grayling trip will be on Sunday 4th December to The River Test at Timsbury near Romsey in Hampshire where the cost is £20 per person. The postcode for those with a sat nav is SO51 0NB. Further details, including maps etc are available at www.timsburyfishing.co.uk, if anyone would like a hard copy please contact me. I think I have already contacted all members to check, if not please accept my apologies and contact me to have your name added to the list.

COBWEB TRIP

For those of you who fancy some fresh air and exercise after the excesses of Christmas, the cobweb trip will be to Manningford on Tuesday 27th December. I will contact everyone closer to the date to confirm times etc.

BANK COMPETITION

It was against a background of mixed reports that we travelled to Bushyleaze for the bank competition on Sunday 20th November. Nine existing members were joined at the fishery by new members Richard and Graham who were welcomed to the club by all present. Unfortunately for them a competition does not reflect the social side of the club in its best light and the advice usually so freely offered was not overly evident on the day! Apologies to both on that score, I'm sure we will soon redeem ourselves. Alan J was focused on winning a clean sweep of club competitions, in fact he was so focused on achieving this feat that we were the first to arrive at M^cDonalds even after he had delivered Kate's paper! Many other Pheasants were equally well focused – mainly on preventing Alan from reaching his goal so an interesting day was in store.

With a number of people heading towards the stocking point I decided to start the day with a few casts near the lodge but quickly moved round to the point near the entrance to the woods. I tried a number of flies at a variety of depths but failed to induce any interest so I moved on into the woods. Again I cast my flies into a number of promising looking spots but to no avail, not even seeing a fish move. When I eventually reached the far bank from the lodge I at last found fish moving near the surface. Anglers in adjacent swims were taking very occasional fish but there seemed to be no specific fly or technique to guarantee success – certainly not my flies or techniques! So it was that I took consolation in the fact that Alan was driving and that I could find solace in a glass of wine on the table of fishless outcasts that included Tony and Graham. Listening to everyone it became evident that a number of fish had been caught with a few people on one, two and three fish. Tony had hooked a number of fish but unfortunately had decided to use Teflon coated hooks and they had all shaken themselves free. It was however clear that the competition was finely balanced and could be taken by any one of a number of people.



Alan T and Tony display heron like concentration in the rushes.

I began the afternoon by walking round the lake in the direction of the stocking point and quickly worked my way back round to the point opposite the lodge where I again found fish but this time they were taking although very cautiously. My persistence soon paid dividends when my cat's whisker was firmly taken by a strong fish. Unfortunately I was using the same fish friendly Teflon coated hooks that Tony had been enjoying and my fish returned my fly and swam away. Alan J was most gracious in keeping the laughter out

of his voice as he consoled me! A passing float tuber informed us that a submerged daddy retrieved just under the surface was working well for him. Alan quickly used this information to bag up and I jumped into the swim adjacent to him also with a submerged daddy. Unfortunately as Alan moved away so did the ripple taking the feeding fish with it. I persisted for the remainder of the competition but despite a number of hard knocks I was unable to hook another fish and was left ruing my lost fish.



Ivor fishing near the stocking point.

When we had all gathered in the fading light by the lodge the final weigh in was as follows:

PLACE	NAME	NUMBER OF FISH	TOTAL WEIGHT
1	Richard	6	21lb 8oz
2	Alan J	6	15lb 12oz *
3	Iain	4	12lb 10oz
	Paul	4	12lb 0oz
	Alan T	4	10lb 7oz
	Ivor	3	9lb 5oz

* When Alan got home he reweighed his fish and found that, although his largest fish weighed the same as earlier, the combined weight was 19lb 0oz. This difference was possibly due to the bass bag used as a weigh sling being caught on the taps which had happened during another weighing.

The results show that Richard was a very well deserved winner so beating Alan J into an unfamiliar second place and Iain third. Iain also put in a late bid to be crowned Stupid Boy Pike when he managed to cast his hat and sunglasses into the lake! We will see if he was successful at the Christmas meal.....

JANUARY MEETING

As usual there will be no meeting in December so the next club meeting will be at 8.00pm on **Tuesday 10th January at The Lysley Arms.**

AND FINALLY

On behalf of all the committee please may I wish all members and their families a Merry Christmas and a very happy and prosperous 2012.