

JANUARY 2012



PHEASANT TALKS

Wishing all The Pheasants a very Happy New Year and Tight Lines for 2012

JANUARY MEETING

Please note that in accordance with the calendar the January meeting will be on **Tuesday 10th**. This is due to most people returning to work on the third. The meeting will be at 8.00 in The Lysely Arms where we aim to present the calendar for 2012.

PIE TRIP

The ever popular Pie Trip will be to Mill Farm has been moved to **Saturday 14th January** (originally Sunday 15th). Will all those who wish to participate in Barbara's gastronomic delights please contact either myself or Alan J with their menu choices from the list below:

- Steak and Kidney Pie
- Chicken and Mushroom Pie
- Minced Beef and Onion Pie
- Cornish Pasty

I believe that Private Pike will be bringing his patented temperature probe with him to ensure our safety!

CHRISTMAS MEAL

The Christmas meal at The Bell was well attended by the members and their wives. Unfortunately, although the meal was of a reasonable standard, the woodburner looked good but was somewhat lacking in its heat output! Apologies to all those who were cold. The trophies were largely hogged by Alan J who also gained the dubious honour of becoming the first person to regain the title of Stupid Boy Pike! Other highlights were Ivor retaining the Biggest Brown trophy and Tony winning the Graham Walker Trophy.



Ivor receives the Biggest Brown trophy



Ian presents the Challenge Cup to Alan



Tony accepts the Graham Walker Trophy



Alan (AKA Private Pike) displays his impressive collection of silverware.

The full list of this year's winners is:

Heaviest Rainbow	Bruce Low
Heaviest Brown	Ivor Rose
River Trophy	Richard Shaw
Bank Competition	Winner - Richard Shaw, Runner-up - Alan Judd, Third - Iain Mackay
Boat Competition	Winner - Alan Judd, Runner-up - Richard Shaw, Third - Chris Bevan
Chairman's Trophy	Mervyn Clarke
Bank Masters 3 Waters	Alan Judd
Challenge Cup	Alan Judd
Stupid Boy Pike	Alan Judd
Graham Walker Cup	Tony Hill

GRAYLING TRIP – ALAN J

This year we decided that we would fish Hampshire’s famous River Test proper and not just the carriers as we have done in the past, so thanks to some organising from Bruce we headed off to Timsbury Fishing just north of Romsey.

Six of us made the trip and Roland and I met up with Richard and Ivor for breakfast before heading off to the fishery. I’m not sure whether Richard was trying to put Ivor off or was just keen to get there but his driving made Ivor rather ill as he emerged from the car looking decidedly green!! However, after a couple of gasps of the fresh Hampshire air, he soon turned a better colour as we met up with Paul and Graham at the fishery. We had about a mile of the Test to fish plus a carrier, so it wasn’t long before we were all fishing. Most of us headed up-stream apart from Ivor who preferred to try his luck further down. I had a reasonable sized fish take my pink shrimp after just a few casts but sadly it came off just as it reached the surface. I then decided to make my way along the carrier and finally caught a small grayling just before lunch. The others (apart from Ivor as it turned out) were struggling but then with a change to dry flies, suddenly started to catch fish. Most of them were small so decided to persevere with the nymphs. At lunchtime, with the exception of Richard, we had all caught fish with Ivor doing rather better than the rest of us down-stream. He had also seen a pike angler land a very large brown trout on a dead bait.

Therefore, after lunch, I followed Ivor down-stream but again stuck to the nymphs as most of the fish caught on dries were small. This proved to be the wrong decision as everyone else were now catching fish on dries with Paul and Ivor well into double figures. Richard had also started to catch and a late change to a “klink and dink” (a nymph suspended under a Klinkhammer) saw him land the best two fish of the day. So I ended the day with just one small fish with everyone else catching several – more practice on rivers is obviously called for!!



Cobweb Trip

With Tony and Alan J being unable to make the Cobweb Trip I collected Ivor and we headed to Devizes for an intimate breakfast on a table for two, fearing that it could be a lonely trip! When we reached Manningford, Graham was already there waiting for us and we were soon joined by Iain, Alan T, Mervyn, Paul, Dave L, Jonathan, Chris P, Larry, Chris B and Dave C. Having tackled up and walked around the lake it quickly became obvious that there were a large number of fish in the lake and that fishing shouldn't be too hard!

I set up behind the islands and cast a cat's whisker into the middle of a large pod of fish. To my surprise this was treated with disdain by the fish and they studiously ignored it as I pulled it in front of them. Undaunted I changed to a damsel which brought instant results on the first cast and, having dropped a fish on my second cast with the fly I quickly removed it before I finished too early! After a few cups of coffee and a very agreeable whiskey with Mervyn, I put a larger cat's whisker on which immediately succeeded in annoying a fish which was quickly landed and dispatched. Again I removed the fly and, like Dave C to my left, experimented with dries which the fish were swirling and nipping at but I could not make contact with.

To my right Graham got smashed up by a large fish but undeterred quickly caught his final fish of the day. As he moved off Dave Lee took his spot and soon hooked a good fish which he landed without incident. When this was weighed in it tipped the scales at 7lb 2oz, making it a worthy early leader in this season's biggest rainbow competition. Unfortunately for Graham, Dave was unable to find his missing fly in the fish's mouth leaving him unable to claim a share in the catch!

As lunch approached I hung a black buzzer eighteen inches under a bung and caught my remaining two fish with successive casts. As we all met for a very civilised lunch in the much extended and improved lodge it was evident that most of us had already bagged up with only a few people having fish to catch after lunch. One of Larry's was a 3lb 0oz brown to head up the biggest brown list – a good early start to the season for both big fish competitions. As I departed the fishery after lunch, those with fish still to catch returned to the lake while Paul took a client for some tuition. Paul informs me that everyone bagged up during the afternoon making it a very successful and well attended trip.



Dave Lee with his 7lb 2 oz specimen.



Iain in action.