

SEPTEMBER 2011



# PHEASANT TALES

## WEEKEND AWAY

Please will all those who wish to go on the weekend away (21<sup>st</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> October) please give Alan J a £30 deposit at the September meeting.

## SEPTEMBER MEETING

Dave Lee will be in charge of the September meeting on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> where he will give details of the saltwater trip which is on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> September.

## QUAD MATCH

Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> August saw the four teams heading towards Blagdon for the annual Quadrangular Match. Having collected Kate's paper en route I met Alan at his house and began sorting the boat pairings as Alan drove. At this point Alan mentioned that Paul was on his way which caused immediate alarm as he wasn't on my team sheet! I phoned Paul who was showed great stoicism in his calm acceptance of this news with a phrase along the lines of "never mind, I'll have a nice day's fishing anyway"! Within minutes of this conversation Iain Mackay called me to say that he wasn't feeling well and so would be unable to fish. Suddenly a Private Pike moment became an inspired decision to travel with a substitute and Paul was in the team!

Following the traditional breakfast at the Seymour Arms we all converged on the lake where following the team brief we met with our boat partners and proceeded to our boats.



With the sun out and the surface mirror flat my hopes were not high but fish could be seen moving on the surface. My rod was set up with a team of nymphs on a floater so I changed my point fly for an unweighted pheasant tail and began retrieving them just under the surface. With no pulls I quickly concluded that this was not the correct fly selection and changed to a copolymer leader with dries, as I was doing this Tony got off to a flying start and helped himself to three fish! Sadly as my flies landed on the first cast the wind picked up and the fish moved down in the water. I quickly put a team of nymphs back on but had no luck and so began to change flies, lines etc in search of a fish. The rest of the morning was spent continuing this pattern of changing between nymphs and lures on floating, intermediate and sinking lines none of which attracted even a pull. My boat partner George Williams did manage to tempt one fish late in the morning so at least we didn't return to the boat dock at lunchtime with an empty boat!

Over lunch it was clear that the match was wide open with a number of people only having one or two fish. I picked up a number of tips from various people which I immediately put into practice when we took to the water after lunch unfortunately none of them worked for me! Eventually George began to get a few takes which unfortunately resulted in one lost fish. I changed to the same set up but was unable to emulate George's success despite using the same retrieve etc. George eventually managed to bring his second fish to the boat whilst I had a thoroughly pleasant day thanks to Georges company!

At the weigh in Tony took the biggest bag with eight fish for 14lb 1oz (see picture below) and Dave Drake had the largest fish – a lovely rainbow of 4lb 12oz. Kingsbridge won the overall competition with the Pheasants in a very commendable second place – congratulations to all those who caught fish, I am happy to bask in their reflected glory! The full results are shown in the table below.



Position	Name	No. Of Fish	Lbs	Oz	
1	Tony Hill	8	14	1	14.0625
2	Steve Preston	8	13	15	13.9375
3	Alan Judd	6	11	4	11.25
4	Andy Miles	4	9	10	9.625
5	Dave Drake	4	9	8	9.5
6	Bill Pugh	5	8	8	8.5
7	Malcolm Price	4	8	7	8.4375
8	Dave Wortley	4	7	10	7.625
9	Chris Peaston	3	7	5	7.3125
10	Richard Wood	3	6	7	6.4375
11	Steve Federer	3	6	0	6
12	Keith Brown	2	4	13	4.8125
13	Ron Tutt	3	4	12	4.75
14	Tony Cosens	3	4	8	4.5
15	Rob Norris	3	4	4	4.25
16	John Gumbleton	2	4	1	4.0625
17	Alan Tonge	2	3	15	3.9375
18	Stephen Millington	2	3	13	3.8125
19	George Williams	2	3	8	3.5
20	Dave Corless	2	3	4	3.25
21	Jay Curry	2	3	0	3
22	Ivor Rose	1	3	0	3
23	Mat Grady	2	2	15	2.9375
24	Les Cooke	1	1	14	1.875
25	Ray Hyde	1	1	14	1.875
26	Paul Maslin	1	1	13	1.8125
27	Mike Stone	1	1	13	1.8125
28	Richard Shaw	1	1	10	1.625
29	Nick Parish	1	1	9	1.5625
30	Tim Balding	0	0	0	0
31	Richard V Wood	0	0	0	0
32	Bruce Low	0	0	0	0
33	Tony Buckland	0	0	0	0
34	Simon Lucas	0	0	0	0
35	Bob White	0	0	0	0
	Pheasant Fly Fishers				
	Southern Federation				
	Ringwood Fly Dressers Guild				
	Kingsbridge Heavyweights				

Position	Team	Lbs	Oz
1	Kingsbridge Heavyweights	52	2
2	Pheasant Fly Fishers	46	4
3	Southern Federation	35	10
4	Ringwood Fly Dressers Guild	24	7

# CARP TRIP – ALAN J

Just four of us made the trip down to Timsbury in Hampshire where Dave C had organised a fantastic day for us at the lake he is involved with at Southampton University. The lake is run by Warsash Maritime Academy and is a training facility for Masters of ships and Marine Pilots etc. utilising the scaled models of ships at the lake ranging from Tankers to Container carriers.

The term “fly fishing for Carp” was stretched somewhat as between us we had taken several baits ranging from, sweet corn, luncheon meat, dog biscuits, pellets, maggots, ground bait and even the bread from Ivor’s sandwich!! (just in case the Carp flies didn’t work) The only connection with fly fishing was that most of us were using fly rods. I say most of us - that is apart from Dave, who had brought along a “Carp rod” which had all the finesse and flexibility of a giant bamboo cane reminiscent of those found inside carpet rolls!!

Ivor was the first on to the water and before the rest of us had finished tackling up he came back to the cars proudly displaying a Ghost Carp (Common/Koi cross) caught within his first couple of casts. This spurred us on and soon we were all fishing at different parts of the lake.



I started with sweet corn on a Di3 on one rod and the same suspended underneath a bung with a floating line on the other. I caught a Carp with both of these methods each weighing approximately 4 -5 lbs together with numerous small Rudd which at times were coming with every cast. Meanwhile Dave, who was fishing fairly close to me, was busy losing most of the specialist Carp tackle he had bought the day before. He had a couple of Carp on but sadly they made straight for the many snags on the bottom and soon parted company. Eventually, he did manage to land one but it turned out to be an eel and was a bit resistant about handling it. I managed to grab it and after it had spun round several times in my hand, I discarded the hook with my forceps and released it back into the lake. Finally, Dave managed to land a couple of good Carp around the 7-8lb mark, both falling for the luncheon meat, which made it all worthwhile.

At lunch time Dave let us in to the brand new indoor training facility and we sat in the board room and watched a very interesting video of the extensive work carried out at the lake since the University acquired it 2 years ago.



After lunch we headed off around the lake again and finally managed to get some Carp feeding on the surface, albeit very spookily. My heart was in my mouth as a big pair of lips came up and sucked in my dear's hair dog biscuit fly. I struck, there was a huge splash but sadly the knot I had tied onto the very flexible nylon hook link gave way and the fish was gone. At this point Tony, who had been fishing on the other side of the lake, came round and showed us photos of 2 double figure Mirrors he had caught off the top on floated dog biscuits which proved to be the best fish of the day. I changed my other rod to a Di8 with just a 9 inch hook link tied to the end and fished a floating dog biscuit on the hair rig so it acted like a "pop up" bait. I hooked 3 good sized Carp with this method but unfortunately lost them all in the snags below the surface.

Meanwhile, Ivor had been pulling out fish after fish on the bung, mainly Rudd but in addition to his "Ghosty" he also had Tench, Roach and Crucian Carp and I think his final count was about 70!!

Many thanks to Dave for arranging such an enjoyable and interesting day and hopefully we will get the chance to visit this wonderful venue again.

## CTOBER MEETING

October's meeting will be a preparation for the Challenge Match which is due to be held at Haywards Farm on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> October.