

ESOX *BITES*



The official newsletter for the Cambridge Region of the Pike Anglers' Club of Great Britain

Issue 5 – Winter 2003/04

www.cambridgepac.co.uk

REGIONAL ORGANISERS UPDATE

Welcome to the latest newsletter of the Cambridge Region of the PAC. As I write this Christmas is fast approaching and no doubt many of you will be hoping to get that new rod in your stocking, or a blonde bombshell in a pair of stockings!

The season to date has been an unqualified success in terms of the speakers that have come to visit us at Bottisham, and I am grateful to each and every one of them for entertaining us in such a fine way. Equally we have some good speakers coming up between now and April, and I hope that you will find time to support us for the rest of the season.

The next meeting will be on the 14 January where Colin Brett will give a beginners guide to fly fishing for pike, and I will talk about some of my exploits with the 'Piking Plonkers'.

The *Marie Curie Predator Cup* event held on the 30 November was an unqualified success, and I would once again like to take this opportunity of thanking all those who fished the event, helped with the marshalling, or made a donation to the Marie Curie Cancer Trust. The event raised in excess of £1,850 and was without doubt the most successful of the three matches that have been held to-date. I have no doubt that we will be involved again in the 2004 event, and I know that I can rely on your support next year.

I would like to end by asking for your support to providing articles both for *Pikelines*, and of course for the Cambridge PAC website.

It only remains for me to wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy rod bending New Year.

Dick Culpin

PAC Regional Organiser, Cambridge Region.

Should you wish to contact Dick his details are:

Telephone
Email

01279 813588 (evenings)
dickandhev@hculpin.fsnet.co.uk

Address: 2 Queens Close, Stansted, Essex, CM24 8EG



Pike Anglers' Club of Great Britain

The club for ALL pike anglers since 1977

The PAC Mission Statement: The Pike Anglers' Club of Great Britain will work to establish an environment in which pike are valued, both as a sporting fish and a necessary part of the management and ecology of fresh waters

Forthcoming events at the Cambridge PAC

- **4th February 2004** A talk and slide show by the hugely successful pike angler **James Gardner**. ‘The Doc’ is recognised as *the man* when it comes to extracting huge pike from trout waters, he has been responsible for inventing a number of specialised techniques, amongst these being the ‘fledger’ method of trolling baits. James has travelled widely in his pursuit of large predators, and has caught some huge catfish from continental Europe, in addition to his impressive tally of 30-pound pike. James has a great sense of humour, and is one of the true innovators of modern predator fishing; this really is an evening not to be missed!
- **3rd March 2004** Speaker to be confirmed.
- **7th April 2004** A talk and slide show from the ‘Fen Tiger’, **Mark Phillips**. Mark will talk us through his 2003/04 season, showing both the hi’s and low’s of his pike fishing year, from vast windswept reservoirs, to rivers, pits, and Fenland drains! Mark is best known for his articles in Pike and Predator magazine, and works hard at his fishing. The Fen Tiger is a prolific catcher of pike and uses every method in the book to target his favourite species. Again, this will prove to be a very entertaining evening!

All meetings are held at the Bottisham British Legion, Downing Close, Bottisham – that’s on the first Wednesday of each month. Meetings commence at 8pm. There’s a licensed bar and a raffle offering prizes from the PAC products range. At the half time interval you can also enter the guess the weight of the pike competition and win some serious cash – well enough to buy a round of drinks anyway! If you need any further details on these or any forthcoming events, please do not hesitate to contact the Regional Organiser.

Slime and Teeth!

After what’s been a very long hot summer that continued well into what some used to call autumn, there’s now been some great fish caught by members of the Cambridge PAC. Young Mr Culpin (he paid me to say that!) got his season off to a flyer with a 25-pound fish from Chew Reservoir, the same day, but on a midlands trout water, Richard ‘Disco Dawg’ Wesley took a very well deserved 25 pounder on a lure, in my company I’m pleased to say. Shortly after, on yet another trout water, Andrew ‘Puff’ Blazey added a cracker of 24 pounds to his tally of big pike, and another Andrew, Mr. Allebone of Stretham, took a new personal best pike of 23 pounds from a private Cambridgeshire gravel pit. On a personal note, I’ve had a fair amount near misses, loosing a truly massive pike at the net on one trout water (I’m still having nightmares!) and catching 19 pounders on lures from everywhere else, much to the amusement of some people! Bearing in mind that the trout waters have fished very poorly this season, with the fishing on Blithfield Reservoir being classified as nothing short of abysmal, I think our lads have done rather well! It’s also nice to hear that a few big ones are starting to come off the Fens – at last I hear you say! With another Fenland thirty coming out recently, you’ll be in no doubt that Denis ‘Digger’ Molues will be updating his new book very soon!

The rivers have yet to come on for me this season, and the lack of rain (still) has meant a change in my original game plan for the season, this has however led to a concerted effort on the gravel pits, and the capture of a lot of good fish to over 20 pounds. For me it’s great to hear of others doing well, and I always enjoy the company of different people along my travels. The fishing has been tough this year, with the unusually warm weather having a knock on effect on waters right into the autumn. Hopefully now winter has finally arrived (as I write this I see snow flakes falling), I’ll be reporting the capture of some big ones for our members in the next issue of Esox Bites. That’s it for now, so Happy New Year to you all, and I look forward to seeing all those happy faces at our forthcoming meetings!

Mark Phillips.