



# Peregrine



## Team Esthwaite

### *Merry Christmas Peregrine's*

It been a while since I have attempted another pile of drivels, but it's about time I made an effort - so here goes! Welcome to the Peregrine Team Esthwaite news letter 2012! I will attempt to cover the whole year to inform everyone on our progression with the highs and lows of another match calendar in 2012. It was also a special year for two of our Esthwaite team as Dave Morris and myself had been selected to fish the autumn international at Llyn Brenig! Full run down to follow. The team had a mixed season reaching a major final yet again but an new scoring system made it a very difficult final to do well. 2012 was a good year for pairs matches as the boys march on through the season! I must mention a special thanks to Dave Coleman and the Esthwaite crew for their continued support thorough the season and many thanks to Hardy Greys for their support for the team. My Hardy Sintrix is the best rod I have ever used. It's a total animal for the competition angler!

### *Bob Church Open, Grafham Water - 15th April 2012*

The Peregrines descended en masse on Grafham Water for the opening competition of the year, the Bob Church Open. A cold stiff northerly wind sent everyone for the



shelter of the north shore, but nonetheless Grafham's silver bullets obliged and rods were bending quickly

on both pulling and buzzing tactics, and we managed 5 bag limits between the 6 of us. In the final reckoning Al, Dave and Adam

finished in very credible 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> places – a good start to the season.

## *Anglian Water Qualifier, Rutland*

Rutland the following month though was a whole different kettle of fish. The water level had been very low because of a very dry winter, so they pumped like heck to get the levels up and avoid possible summer water shortages – a sure fire way to make it rain for the rest of the summer! The pumped water was very murky, not the typical clear cool early season conditions that we'd expect. So the fish weren't too obliging, and twiddling boobies close to the bottom was the tactic of choice – not that easy on a windy day! Unfortunately again, our hard work wasn't enough to get us through this qualifier although we had a respectable number of fish for the team. We were outdone by the dreaded time bonus, so we're left to hope for better conditions next season. One thing's for sure, we won't be faced with an early season water shortage after this miserable year of constant rain – that should bode well for better sport, fingers crossed. - Reported by Brian.

## *Draycote Rio pairs 1st July 2012*

Craig Barr the fishery manager of Draycote water invited the Peregrines to enter the well represented pairs match sponsored by Rio with a top prize of over £1000 worth of tackle prizes. At short notice, Benny and myself decided to give it a go and made the decision not to practise and just give it our all on the day! We left Lancaster at 5.30 and had a 2.5hr journey to Rugby, which gave us plenty of time to formulate a game plan for the day! We knew that Draycote had been tricky over the previous weeks but this never deters a Peregrine, as we know if you work at it you can always whittle a few fish out! On arrival, we were greeted by a very strong field of anglers who all had practised and were keeping their cards close to their chests so it was obvious to us that it was "shit or bust"! We had decided in the car that we would start the match on an area of Draycote known as Farnborough spit. It holds fish all year round but really didn't know what to expect. Benny opted for a midge tip and nymphs and I chose the tried and tested DI5 and blob route. Our game plan was to work together and see which method was the better and chop and change to suit.

As the shotgun went off the rules were simple, international rules and 8 fish per man, note the time you finish and back to the boat jetty! What we hadn't accounted for was when Craig announced at the briefing that we would all be fishing the same area as it was the only place that was fishing well! OMG. As we set off from the jetty, every boat except two headed to an area called Rainbow corner armed with floating lines and nymphs meanwhile Benny and myself headed off to our decided location looking at all the boats going in the other direction wondering if we had got it totally wrong! So off we went, on arrival at Farnborough spit, it was rough to say the least so I was growing in confidence with the pulling tactic ready to pounce! We lined up a drift and set the drogue and only time would tell. After only a few casts, Benny had tangled up in the wind and I unleashed the DI5, it only took two casts before I had brought a fish to the boat, at this point a few obscenities were made which spurred Benny on to make a change! He loaded up the DI5 and two blobs similar to my set up 15ft

apart and the rest is history! Benny immediately latched into some proper lunkers with fish after fish following the flies back to the boat. We worked hard at it and caught fish steadily with long slow pulls back to the boat. Benny caught his eight fish by 1.15pm and I managed mine by 2.00pm. We had some good fish as well but we didn't know if we would be in contention as we hadn't seen another boat all day! As we arrived back at the jetty, Craig informed us that we were the first boat back in and others were finding it tough! Things were looking good! Just then we noticed the next boat coming in but only time would tell.

By the end of the match, there were at least nine boats that had managed to get 16 fish so it was all down to the weigh in. We had done it! As we spoke to the rest of the field, a comment was made to us, "How did you know about them fish on Farnborough spit?" We replied "We didn't, we just didn't feel the need to practise!" LMFAO!

- 1 )Ben Bayliss - Alistair Beaumont 16 fish 59lb 11oz
- 2) Ed Foster - Iain Barr - 16 fish 57lb 10oz
- 3) Sean Cutting - Guido Vinct 16 fish 55lb

### *Lexus Team Heat Date 29 July 2012*

Location Stocks Reservoir                      Team Al, Dave, Adam, Ben, Brian and Jon

The team arrived at Stocks to be met with rain, wind and a reservoir brimming full of tea stained water. The team was up against it from the start as it became apparent that the other 4 teams in the competition we all Stocks teams and to come 3<sup>rd</sup> would be a tall order, especially as the water had been fished very hard for the previous 4 days. Different tactics were to be employed by the team with the objective of each catching 1 fish as this would give the team the best chance of qualifying as new rules had been introduced. Meaning that each angler would be ranked according to their position across the entire field, these scores totalled up and the team with the lowest aggregate score would win.

Jon set off to Currys Cast and Backhouse Bay and quickly missed 2 good pulls but then made one of them stick. Fish were encountered all the way to the Causeway. Fellow Peregrine Mr Bayliss was in the same area and he too was picking fish up on a regular basis. Captain Alistair was plying his trade to great success around islands pulling blobs and damsels. The remainder of the team were in other areas of the reservoir. The weather dried up in the afternoon fortunately the interest from the fish remained.

As the match drew to an end, none of us knew how we had got on. We met up for the weigh in and it became apparent that the day had been better for some than for others. We had amassed 16 fish between us however with the new rules it would be the distribution of these fish around the team which would make the difference. The

results were announced we had finished 3<sup>rd</sup> with 103 points, 16 fish for a weight of 32lbs 3oz.

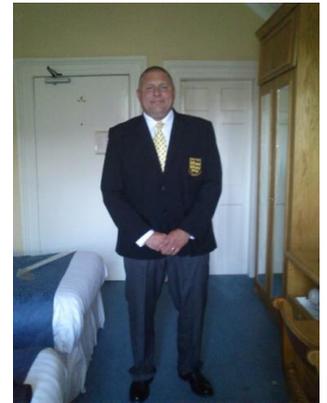
For the 3<sup>rd</sup> year running the Peregrines had qualified for the Lexus International Team Final on Rutland. - Reported by Jon

### *TEFF England international 4th - 8th September 2012*

Well what can I say, it was one of the best experiences of my life, to represent your country at any sport is a true honour and one I will never forget! Dave and myself qualified last year to represent England in 2012. Luckily, we both managed to get placed on the same international at Llyn Brenig in Wales. Our instructions were simple, make sure that we arrived at the team hotel by 6pm as we had a team photo shoot in full blazers. The only problem was both Dave and myself hadn't got our England badges yet! We arrived at 3pm and were quickly given our badges, which had to be sewn onto our blazers! I had cunningly packed a needle and thread which I proceeded to give to Dave who immediately snapped our only needle so it was off on a hunt to find a sewing kit! on our travels we stumbled across a pub so it was rude not to! 4 pints later we ended up back in our hotel room desperately trying to sew a badge on in a straight line! We managed with minutes to spare so it was off to the team photo shoot!



Official practice days were challenging to say the least. We were split up with fellow team mates to share knowledge. Llyn Brenig was fishing tough but the boys managed to get some different methods together in preparation for the big match day. Dries had scored well as did the DI3 sweep and boobies. Things were coming together! However we had overlooked going deeper than Di3 which turned out to be our downfall.



The second practice day was pretty much a waste of time due to very high winds so nobody really learn much.

Every night we had a team brief to discuss tactics / methods and tie flies! Oh and nail a few pints along the way! So the plan was set, three methods, assorted flies from dries to boobies, a late night before heading to bed ready for match day.

Match day arrived and we were greeted with broken cloud that was due to burn off during the day, light winds and a fished out Llyn Brenig after a week of solid hammer! It was going to be tough! Tension was running high as we marched in our teams to the boat dock. Both Dave and myself had opted for the DI3 option



and to go to our preferred areas and hope for the best, just working for the one pull! The match was a real grueler and as the day wore on it became apparent the the Scottish had opened a convincing lead using the D15 sweep and two boobies, just dropping deeper in the water than the English.

By the end of the match the Scottish had run away with it with 52 fish and we had managed a silver medal with 37 fish, the Irish got bronze with 32 fish and the Welsh on their home water ended up with the wooden spoon with 16 fish! The presentation



dinner was a blast with many many pints flowing. The whole English team were great company and I couldn't have asked for a better introduction to international fishing and I am sure I will be back in the not too distant future for another England cap. I can recommend it to anybody who is fancying a crack at an eliminator.

### *Esthwaite Pairs final 9th September 2012*

Dave Coleman has held his usual well managed qualifiers throughout the year for the chance to feature in the Esthwaite pairs grand final. This year proved to be a challenging year with the introduction of more Brown trout but a change in tactics and method still meant that it was possible to whittle a bag out! After a full year of qualifiers, The Peregrines had two and half pairs who made it into the final! Dave and Myself were ever present and Jon and Stuart qualifying in style. Baz the Brooksinator Brooks also made a guest appearance! Match day approached and the wind started to die away to an almost flat clam. Most pairs had practised the day prior to the match but due to prior engagements, we were unable to practise. Match day arrived and the lake was a flat calm with not many fish on the surface.

As the match got started, all the pairs that had practised headed up to the weather buoy and the deeper water. Jon turner headed to the beck end where there were a few fish on the surface as did myself and Dave! Luckily, this was a good move as I managed a double shooter with two brownies within a few casts! The only problem was they were few and far between and we had a game plan to look for rainbows as we knew they were of a bigger size than the brownies! This however proved difficult as the rainbows proved inconspicuous with their absence! As the day progressed, the wind died to a flat calm with only the odd boil on the surface. Dave decided to go on the hunt Hawaii five O style, and sneak up a rising fish, wait for it to rise then make a cast! As I was up the front of the boat, I usually got first chuck but the problem was you only got one shot, before the fish were spooked and gone! What did become evident was that these fish turned out to be rainbows! These were definitely a bigger stamp than the other fish being caught. We worked long and hard

to build a bag on these but they were just too few and far between! so we decided to go for plan B. On motoring up the lake, we bumped into Jon and Stuart who had only managed to get one fish but mentioned that people were catching the odd fish pulling on a DI3 up at the weather buoys so off we went! By this point we had 6 fish in the bag with another 6 to get so the pressure was on as there was only 2hrs left of the match! Dave changed to a blob and sparkler on a di3 and I followed suit! On arrival at the weather buoy we could see all then boats drifting in the light wind struggling to get the odd fish but Dave notice a wind lane opening up and decided to position the boat down the side of the lane. What a decision, the lane was full of obliging fish providing the flies came back at lightning speed! Dave got a double shooter 2nd cast and then lost another double shooter not long after! Then it was my turn to get on the action. Other boats in the area were miffed as to how we came in and caught so well! Two more drifts and we finished our bag with 12 fish 6 of which were rainbows just to top the bag up! Our only problem was getting back to the lodge in time was our motor was running out of power due to so many drifts so we ended up rowing as well as to avoid disqualification.

We had destroyed the field!

### *Lexus Team Final 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> September*

Picture the scene – buoyed by a triumphant showing in 2011 when we finished a stunning 4<sup>th</sup> from 20+ teams and now a year on and a year wiser we're back. Only this time we have two England team members sporting their silver medals won at Llyn Brenig just a few days earlier.



The scene was set to build on last year's result. The fishing was tough and had been for a few weeks, but hey – we're used to that – we've been to Stocks you know!

So, practice day was challenging as expected, but we found fish and the mood was good – word on the street was everyone had found it tough going.

Match day came and the plan of attack was simple – avoid a blank and we're in the mix. With the 'World's' scoring system now in place the difference between 1 fish a no fish had the potential to have an enormous effect on where teams were placed.

As the shotgun fired the field split with many heading for the North Arm hoping to connect with some of the infamous late season slabs

that Rutland is famed for. Some of us headed for the South Arm around Yellowstone and Old Hall hoping to find the fish located on practice day.

After a gruelling day we returned to the dock exhausted and somewhat dejected. We'd scraped one and two's but had a blank too. We'd all worked our socks off and the difference between coming in with one and coming in with nothing was down to luck.

But the Peregrines never give up and after a skin full of Tiger Beer and a mighty fine Chinese Banquet we were all set for the next day knowing it was all to play for.

Alas Day 1 turned out to be the better of the two days for most and despite connecting with fish and bringing a couple more fish to the scales

than Day 1, we had two blanks and the writing was on the wall. Bettering last year was not to be but we'll be back, oh yes we'll be back, blobbed up and ready for action. Dave might even try a diawl bach or two. But one thing's for sure we'll have a good laugh along the way and fly the Esthwaite flag with pride! - Reported by Benny.



Brian doing a top job putting Jon Buchanan on the fish – unfortunately they didn't want Brian's offerings...!

### *Autumn pairs at Rutland water Saturday 6th October 2012*

This has been a productive match in recent years for the Peregrines and it's a really well run, relaxed competition with two divisions, loch style and rudder, fished to fishery rules, There was however a couple of problems, Rutland had been fishing hard for the last month or so and during the week previous Rutland had hosted the Airflo international final which had also fished hard so we had expected it to be a hard slog. Dave and I teamed up for this one, we had heard that the main basin fished the best in the previous match and the fish were in the middle on the dam tight in to the buoy line so we decided to start there. We had been told that fast glass and DI3 with sparklers or blobs were the order of the day so headed out to the middle of the dam. On arrival, we weren't alone so the info must have been correct but after two drifts, Dave began to become restless and was itching for a move over to Fantasy. I was also itching for a change but it wasn't an area it was to come off the sparklers and go onto the tried and tested "Black death" minkie so we went for both! While Dave motored over to Fantasy, I changed lines to go deeper and put on a Minkie. We set up our drift but we weren't confident as we hadn't had a pull between us. Within two casts, I had a cracking pull but nothing to show meanwhile Dave was

still plugging away with his confidence method. All of a sudden, BANG, I was into our first fish, it fought like a silver dart before slipping the net under a cracking 3lb slab. Once dispatched, I decided to put two minkies on which turned out to be an inspired move, fish started to come freely to the flies and I managed to get my eight fish by 1pm. While I was in the zone, Dave had changed onto the minkie as well and had started to bang fish out. He started his assault on the 8 fish target and managed to catch his 8 by 2.30pm. We had done it again! At the end of the match, we were the only pair to get 16 fish including the rudder section! The England boys had done it again! John Seaton Rutland head fishery warden even jokingly commented " You two are banned- you catch too many fish!"

### **Non Rudder**

1st Alistair Beaumont & Dave Morris 16 fish for 35lb 13oz.  
2nd Eileen & Clive Chatwin 11 fish for 24lb 11oz.  
3rd Toff Crowther & Tony Tibbert 5 fish for 22lb 1oz.

### **Rudder**

1st Lloyd Miller & John Farnsworth 9 fish for 25lb 15oz  
2nd Jim Watts & John Seaton 10 fish for 23lb 14oz  
3rd Dave Porter & Kim Jory 7 fish for 17lb 7oz

### *Health and Safety Alert*



Just a quick word or warning, fly fishing can be a dangerous activity and anybody thinking of giving it a go, please make sure to protect your eyes as you can see from the photo, I had a near miss this year and my ear took the full force of a booby on a windy day. It hurt like hell when I pulled it out but it was a good wake-up call! Play safe and get your gags on!

Peregrine Team Esthwaite wishes you all a very Happy Christmas and a prosperous New year!

Bring on the 2013 season!

Al Beaumont.

