

Year End 2011 Peregrine Express.

Calling all Peregrines!

Well how can I sum up this year's performance from the Peregrines? Fan- bloody-tastic springs to mind! Great team performance all round and two England caps for 2012 in the ranks! Firstly, I would like to thank Dave Coleman and the Esthwaite crew for their continued support through 2011. Secondly, I would like to thank and praise the whole Peregrine team for their 100% commitment and performance on the competition circuit during hard times! Financially, it shows real dedication to keep funding competitions off their own backs for the love of the sport.

The season proved to be a difficult one all round, with many fisheries suffering from algal blooms that made the fishing tricky to say the least. The weather had a lot to do with the difficult fishing conditions, a warm spring and wet summer meant that the algae got well established on the major reservoirs. I have never fished Rutland water in such bad conditions where you couldn't see more than two inch into the water because it was so brown from the algal bloom. This subsequently put the fish off the feed and rod averages plummeted!

However it was not all doom and gloom, the team started the year with an unchanged team from 2010 and some new additions gave depth to the squad of ten. Since the last news letter, the Peregrines have taken part in numerous competitions all over the country with success at both team and individual levels. I will endeavor to give an accurate account of the season but if I do miss any important details - I make my apologies now!

Anglian Water Airflo International northern qualifier at Rutland water

This particular competition is turning out to be a bogie for the Peregrines who always seem to just miss out on qualification to the Northern final and this year turned out to be no different. Practice day turned up some good areas to work on, with Belgrano being the favored starting point and a back up of Dickinson's road end in the north arm. Spirits were high as we headed to the pub to prepare for match day! The boat draw produced some interesting pairings who were keeping information close to their chests and for good reason. The game plan was set and the boys headed off to their preferred starting points. As the shotgun sounded the start of the match, there was a real split of boats, the main pack headed towards the dam and fantasy and the rest headed to Belgrano including Dave, Benny, John, Adam and myself. As the match progressed, Belgrano didn't produce like the previous day and the backup plan was required so it was off to Dickinson's. Most of the boats stayed up at the dam and as the day unfolded, the Peregrines had overlooked one area, the dam. At the weigh in, the Peregrines had managed 45 fish for the team, 3 fish short of a full house. Although this was an impressive haul, other teams had all caught their limits with time bonus as well to fill the qualifying places. Once again we had just missed out! DAM

Lexus European Qualifier at Stocks Reservoir 16th July

Stocks Reservoir had been fishing well up until the day of the match where we were greeted with wet and windy conditions and it looked set to be a difficult day for the 8 teams fishing the competition for the top 5 qualification places to progress through to the international final at Rutland in September. The Peregrines do this match without a practice day as generally you know what to expect when fishing a match at Stocks. It turned out to be a tricky day where some rods did very well and other struggled. Taking top individual place was our very own Adam Larbalestier who managed 8 fish for 19lb 12oz. Adam fished up at the dam and found the winning method was to roly poly boobies and cormorants on a midge tip. This was a very impressive performance and was complemented with another impressive performance from Ben Bayliss.

Although this was a team event, between the two of them, they ensured a place in the European final for the second year running. Well done boys!

1. Ospreys 31 fish for 63lb 15oz
2. Stocks Falcons 26 fish for 53lb 4oz
3. Chatton Trout Fishers 24 fish for 52lb 11oz
4. Peregrine Team Esthwaite 22 fish for 48lb 9oz
5. Stocks Hawks 24 fish for 47lb 9oz

Help the Heroes pairs match at Rutland water 13th August

Last year this match was very well represented but I think the effects of the recession had kicked in, plus the water quality had put a lot of people off from taking part. Dave Morris and myself were ever present to raise money for the forces. The match is run to fishery rules so we armed ourselves with the big guns (excuse the pun!) and headed into the main basin in search of 16 fish between the pair of us. It proved rather difficult to find fish in the murky water. We managed to locate a pocket of fish and made the most of it bagging 15 fish in a short period of time including a fish of just over 6lb but it wasn't enough to the win the match being beaten into 2nd place by two England internationals. It was a good day never the less.

- 1st Rob Edmunds and Adam Worker 16 fish for 42lb 2½oz
2nd Alistair Beaumont and Dave Morris 15 fish for 36lb 2½oz
3rd Graham Pearson and John Finn 15 fish for 36lb 4oz



They don't come much better than this! 6lb 4onz Rutland cracker

Anglian Water Loch style 4 man team at Rutland Water 13August

With the water quality at Rutland getting progressively worse, the main basin was the only place where fish could be caught and even then it was only a small amount coming out as to what had been stocked. Benny, Adam, Paul and Myself gave it our best shot to try and catch fish in the pea soup. It was a long day's fishing and take's were at a premium and at the end of the day we had battled our way into the prizes with another team performance. I'm not sure there was much more we could have done to improve our haul, it was purely down to luck on the day!

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|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1st Tightlines | 24 fish for 54lb 13½oz |
| 2nd Greenwell Persauders | 20 fish for 45lb 8 5/8oz |
| 3rd Esthwaite | 16 fish for 33lb 2½oz |
| 4th Rio Masters | 15 fish for 31lb 2 5/8oz |
| 5th Team Anglia | 14 fish for 30lb 7 1/8oz |

English National final 2011 at Grafham Water (Two Peregrines make the England team)

During the course of the year, qualifiers take place on various venues for individuals to try and qualify for the national final with the chance to represent England in the following years international competitions. Dave Morris and myself managed to reach the national final qualifying on different venues earlier in the year. Dave made it to the final qualifying at Blithfield and I made it through in the two day qualifier at Stocks. The national final is a one day event fished to international rules, where the top 120 anglers battle for a top 20 place to gain an England cap.

Dave and myself practised together and quickly worked out that the fish were high in the water but were quite tricky to tempt to the fly. Having said this, we both caught well and in a number of different areas. Dave used a DI7 with boobies and I used a DI5 with small lures. Both of us counted the lines down then pulled them fast to the hang! The game plan was set! On returning to the boat dock, most boats coming in weren't showing much confidence as if their practice day hadn't gone as well as ours which gave us both a warm feeling, it was all down to the boat draw as to which area we would be starting the day in.

Match day arrived and we were greeted with rather strong winds, both Dave and myself were happy with this as it suited pulling method more than the people who had used nymphs the day before. The only danger was being taken by your boat partner into these quieter areas to nymph fish. Dave was lucky as he got drawn on the engine but I was not so fortunate as I was put on the front of the boat. Having said this, my boat partner had not done so well over the practice days so I managed to convince him to go to the areas I had caught in. Happy days!

As the shot gun sounded, both Dave and myself headed off to our areas found on practice day only to find they had colored up due to the high winds. A couple of drifts in these areas told us that the fish had moved into the clearer water further out and further down the shore line than on practice day. As a result, we virtually ended up on the same drift. Using our trusted pulling techniques, we plugged away pulling fish after fish to the boat but a real reluctance to take the flies! A slight adjustment to our drifting boats to drift into the colored water did the trick as the fish were lying just in the murky water, if you cast your flies into the dirty water and pulled them out into the clean water, the fish would follow and nail the flies with confidence! Due to the windy conditions, we had both opted for our DI7's and Dave's fly patterns (boobies) came into their own! The big silver Grafham torpedoes took the flies with such confidence, they nearly ripped the rod out of your hand and strong fluorocarbon was required to stay in contact with the 'zoo creatures'!



At the weigh in, it became apparent that the field of anglers had somewhat struggled in the breezy conditions, Dave had managed a very respectable seven fish and I was lucky enough to bag my eight fish by 2.30pm gaining time bonus as well. Things were looking promising for our first England call up, but you never know until your name is read out at the presentation.



The Peregrines showing the strain at the weight in. Had we done enough?

After a brief wait for the weights to be calculated, the presentation began and nerves were running high. There was no need to worry, we had made it and in pretty good style as well! Dave had managed to finish 13th overall and I had clinched 6th out of 120 of England's top anglers in 2011. A proud day for both of us and we have been rewarded with an England place for 2012 on Lynn Brenig in Wales.



In better shape than our current England football team! LOL

Lexus European team Final 2011

After our first attempt at the Lexus final last year, the Peregrines knew a little more what to expect from the competition this year. Rutland water was the venue for the final and had not been fishing at all well all season so we knew it was going to be hard work to grind out any form of result. To make matters worse, our usual accommodation that we have used for years, had been stolen by a rival team so a mad panic started to find anywhere at short notice proved a challenge in itself. We found a very nice B&B about 10 miles from Rutland (I won't give the name of it as we may need to use it in the future) with a pub just up the street. Happy days!

Practice day proved to be very difficult, we covered vast areas of Rutland only to find very small pockets of fish. If you were lucky, you may just get a half hearted pull from a fish that was not really interested. Both of the Rutland arms had been colored up for most of the season so we concentrated our efforts in the main basin. It was just a matter of selecting the right flies at the right depth. We established that the fish weren't very deep and the best lines were from a midge tip down to a fast glass with a steady retrieve to give the fish a chance to see the flies in the murky water. There was not a vast amount of fish netted on practice day so we would have to attack the areas on match day with very little information other than a couple of fly patterns.

Benny Bayliss had an interesting practice day, getting a thumping take from what he thought was a large fish. It eventually snapped him and the fish was not seen. During the match day 1 when the officials came around to perform fly checks in the rescue boat, they noticed a fish in distress. On investigation it turned out to be a 3lb trout on the point fly towing around a Zander on the top dropper. John Seaton of Rutland Water managed to unhook and release the trout but the zander was dead so he kept it for the pot! John also retrieved all three flies to show people back at the lodge. Word got around of this amazing find and it transpires that the cast of flies belonged to Benny who promptly claimed them back. (Thank god they were all comp legal! LOL)



Lexus match day 1

After a good night's sleep and a hearty breakfast we were all prepared for match day part one. We were greeted by very still conditions and low lying mist. This was due to get brighter and a slight breeze forecast of later in the day. All of the team opted for either the midge tip or slow glass and it was off into the main basin to try and connect with a few fish. As the shot gun cracked, most people headed to Normanton Church right the way down to the blue pipes and beyond. Surprisingly, rods started to bend pretty much straight away, the fish had come right up in the water so it was all change again! My boat partner hooked into an early fish on a floating line so I decided to change from a slow glass to a midge tip with a black booby on the point and immediately had a solid pull. One fish in the boat and a few other pulls signalled to me that I was amongst a few fish, it was just a matter of building a decent score.



Mr Consistent Benny Bayliss up the front concentrating at W buoy.

Benny was fishing very close to me at W buoy and I could see him getting a few fish so things were looking promising. I was unsure where the rest of the team were but was confident they would be getting amongst some fish. As the day progressed, the fishing dried up and takes were very hard to come by, people were going long periods of time without a fish. Anglers that had scored well early on made the most of what was left and anglers who struggled earlier in the day were still struggling.

At the end of match day one, the usual discussions about numbers of fish and weights were going on between teams prior to the weigh in. Initial feedback was positive, it appeared the Peregrines had done well and would be in the running for the title but nothing was official at this point. The team had a mixed day with some decent scores but the main thing was we had all caught and we all knew what flies we needed to fish and what areas to go on day two. The Peregrines had managed to finish day one in 4th in and amongst the big players, we just needed to keep it up on day two!

Result Day One:

1. Blagdon FF 30 fish for 65lb 14oz
2. Rio Masters 28 fish for 64lb 9oz
3. Orvis Alba FF 29 fish for 65lb 7oz
4. Periegrine Team Esthwaite 27 fish for 57lb 3oz
5. Seighford Sharks 23 fish for 51lb 13oz
6. Team Snowbee 25 fish for 48lb 12oz
7. Nymph 'o' maniac 23 fish for 48lb 4oz
8. Anglo Welsh 21 fish for 47lb 6oz

Statistics:

Anglers: 126
Fish caught: 421
Average weight of fish: 2lb 3oz
Rod Average: 3.34

Lexus match day 2 All to play for!

Our second night at the B&B nearly turned into a disaster, we headed to the pub for our evening meal only to be informed that they don't serve food on a Sunday night! During discussion of what we were going to do in the middle of nowhere for food, the landlady piped up, "You can get something delivered from this and eat it in the pub if you want?". A full Indian takeaway menu! Rock and roll! We ordered a full banquet, far more than we needed but it was too good to miss out on. Great meal, a few scoops of ale then off to bed for match day 2.



As we arrived for the second match day, conditions had deteriorated from the previous day with a strong wind blowing down the arms. This now caused an additional problem for the Peregrines as the main basin was starting to color up as well. As the match started, we all headed back to the same areas as day one only to find they had changed into a murky soup! It was the same for everybody but it meant that the boats all congregated into the areas that weren't colored which wasn't a great deal. The whole fleet were jockeying for position to drift onto the dam wall. Ever consistent Benny got into an early fish as did Dave but conditions made it a lot harder to fish the same methods as the previous day. Subsequently

catch rates were a lot lower than day one for most people but others found a method that caught a few fish. Later in the day while drifting onto the dam I bumped into Jon, Brian and Adam and shouted to them for inspiration, they had all managed to catch a few and it was only myself who was still on a blank. Suddenly out of nowhere my line tightened and I was into my only take of the day, a nice rainbow that was a very welcome sight, until disaster struck, my top dropper had got caught up in the landing net, frantically trying to remove the hook I let go only to find the fish had shook itself off and that was that! Bad angling!!!!

Late on in the match as we were on our way back to the boat jetty, I sailed past Dave who had had success on our tried and tested flies but by this time it was too late, lady luck was not on my side!

We all met up at the lodge to find out how we had fared, the boys had put it in another impressive display but other teams had caught slightly better than we had but we were still unsure where we would end up overall. The weigh in finished and we headed off to the lodge for the meal and presentation

As the names and placing were read out for the overall positions, The Peregrines thought a top ten finish would be a fair result after our position the previous year. Little did we know that we had done enough to hold 4th place overall. This was a fantastic result to say the least especially when you look at the calibre of teams we had finished above!

4th team in Europe - WOW

Overall Results:

1. Alba Orvis Flyfishers 55 fish for 117lb 9oz
2. Rio Masters 47 fish for 103lb 0oz
3. Blagdon FF 44 fish for 97lb 10oz
4. Peregrine Esthwaite 38 fish for 79lb 15oz
5. Anglo Welsh FF 33 fish for 73lb 12oz
6. Team Wellbank 36 fish for 73lb 6oz
7. Margam FF 34 fish for 72lb 9oz
8. Seighford Sharks 30 fish for 70lb 9oz
9. Team Snowbee 34 fish for 68lb 15oz
10. Team Frog Hair 34 fish for 67lb 13oz
11. BRFFA Emergers 30 fish for 64lb 14oz
12. Nymph 'O' Maniacs 32 fish for 63lb 13oz
13. Clan Chiefs 32 fish for 62lb 5oz
14. Greenwell Persuaders 29 fish 62lb 5oz
15. Anglo Scots 28 fish for 58lb 12oz
16. Chatton Trout Fishers 26 fish for 54lb 15oz
17. Team Frozen North 23 fish for 53lb 6oz
18. Stocks Falcons 24 fish for 52lb 13oz
19. Ospreys 24 fish for 50lb 7oz
20. Team Airflo 27 fish for 50lb 0oz
21. Stocks Hawks 16 fish for 32lb 2oz

Statistics Overall:

Anglers: 252
Total Fish Caught: 676
Rod Average: 2.68
Average fish weight: 2lb 2oz

Let's hope 2012 is as fruitful for Peregrine Team Esthwaite and hopefully we will get over the bogie Anglian water qualifier!

Happy New Year to you all!

Best regards

Alistair Beaumont.' The Lancasterblobber'
Peregrine Team Esthwaite Captain.

Check us out on You tube, just type these links into google and enjoy!!!

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9TFp4jh0VQQ>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U1CBwZKjd54>

Come on the Peregrines!

