

The Axminster Cup & Isle/Parrett Challenge Shield

This eagerly awaited match against Ilminster A A also doubling up for Stoke members competing for the Axminster Cup took place on 5 September 2021.

As a lot of our match goers were members of both clubs friendly banter had been going on for weeks previous about this match. Both legs of the Challenge Shield were won in 2020 by Ilminster so Stoke were hoping to change the tide.

It was an important day for the club as not only was the Axminster Cup up for grabs but it was the final deciding match in the summer river series for the Memorial Shield (best 5 of 6). There were two main contenders for the river series; Russell Hilton and Terence Morgan separated only by the smallest of margins, but if both were to have a bad day old David Hilton was lurking in the wings ready to pounce on their unfortunate outcome should he get top spot on the day.

Due to a higher than expected turnout it was decided to hold the match at two venues; Parrett Works (PW) and Kingsbury Drove (KD) both downstream sections. As it happened both clubs were represented equally with eleven anglers. The Challenge Shield was to be decided by counting the best 10 weights from each team.

The weather was a bit misty but a warm day was in prospect so how would the fishing go??

The Results:-

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| 1. Russell Hilton | peg 32 (PW) | 10lbs 5ozs - 15pts |
| 2. Chris White | peg 33 (KD) | 6lbs 10ozs – 14pts |
| 3. David Hilton | peg 34 (KD) | 5lbs 13ozs – 13pts |
| 4. Neil Purchase IAA | peg 36 (KD) | 5lbs 0ozs |
| 5. Terence Morgan IAA | peg 7 (PW) | 4lbs 9ozs – 12pts |
| 6. Bob Newbery | peg 9 (PW) | 3lbs 12ozs – 11pts |
| 7. Cliff Gaylard | peg 29 (PW) | 3lbs 9ozs – 10pts |
| 8. Danny Blunn | peg 40 (KD) | 3lbs 4ozs – 9pts |
| 9. Ian Burton IAA | peg 41 (KD) | 3lbs 3ozs |
| 10. Jake Woodard IAA | peg 45 (KD) | 2lbs 10ozs |

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| 11. Matt Adams IAA | peg 22 (PW) | 2lbs 9ozs – 8pts |
| 12. Nick Payne IAA | peg 31 (PW) | 2lbs 9ozs – 8pts |
| 13. Jamie Rich IAA | peg 36 (KD) | 2lb 7ozs – 6pts |
| 14. Frank Woodard IAA | peg 17 (PW) | 2lbs 1oz |
| 15. Chris Norton | peg 46 (KD) | 2lbs 0ozs – 5pts |
| 16. Jenny Payne | peg 15 (PW) | 1lb 15ozs – 4pts |
| 17. Paul Adams IAA | peg 37 (KD) | 1lb 13ozs – 3pts |
| 18. Tony Coborough IAA | peg 10 (PW) | 1lb 13ozs |
| 19. Steve Parker IAA | peg 24 (PW) | 1lb 10ozs – 2pts |
| 20. Derek Goad | peg 25 (PW) | 1lb 8ozs – 1pt |
| 21. Mark Dibble | peg 44 (KD) | 1lb 2ozs – 1pt |
| 22. Kevin Reynolds | peg 43 (KD) | 6ozs – 1pt |

Stoke AA - 40lbs 4ozs

Ilminster AA – 30lbs 4ozs

Axminster Cup winner – Russell Hilton

River Champion winner of Memorial Shield – Russell Hilton

Russell fishing tight to the bramble bushes took a splendid 10lbs 5oz bag of chub, a risky strategy having lost a few, but paying off well streaks ahead of the rest. Chris White took a worthy 6lbs 10oz bag of quality roach, chublets and lots of gudgeon and minnows in the favoured first peg at Kingsbury for the runner up spot. With his consistency throughout the river series Russell's securing of the Memorial Shield was well deserved but a mention must also go to Terence who fished well in all the matches and it was touch and go right to the end.

As for the Isle/Parrett Challenge Shield? It didn't really matter who won. The coming together of two great clubs was the most important thing, so all who took part were winners. Without exception everyone had a great day and we all look forward to the

return leg in October. Thanks must go to Bob Newbery and Dave Pope for a well organised day which took a lot of time and effort on their part.

For those interested in the detail of the points table these can be viewed on the Stoke AA website. Attention will now be concentrated on the Rose Bowl (Lakes champion, best 5 of 6) and overall Club Champion (River/lake best 9 of 12); leading contenders Dave Pope and Terence Morgan. Tightlines.