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# Introduction to this issue

## Re-Launch Paper Back Monthly & Website

Winter 2024

**Exciting News: The Re-Launch of Angling News and Match Fishing News**  
by Clive Branson

Dear fellow Anglers and Matchmen

We are thrilled to announce the highly anticipated re-launch of Angling News and Match Fishing News by Clive Branson! After much anticipation and hard work, we are excited to bring you a renewed and improved platform that aims to enhance your angling experience and keep you updated with the latest in the world of match fishing.

### **What's New?**

#### **Fresh Design and User-Friendly Interface:**

Our website and publication have undergone a facelift, featuring a modern design for easy navigation and a seamless user experience. [www.angling-news.com](http://www.angling-news.com)

#### **Exclusive Content by Clive Branson:**

Clive Branson, former World Champion angler and a name synonymous with the angling community, is back to share his expertise, insights, and passion for fishing. Look forward to exclusive articles, tips, and stories penned by the man himself, and other top anglers in their field

#### **Comprehensive Match Fishing Coverage:**

Stay in the loop with comprehensive coverage of match fishing events, results, and strategies. Whether you're a seasoned competitor or a casual observer, our coverage aims to keep you engaged and informed.

#### **Community Engagement:**

We believe in fostering a strong angling community. Our platform will feature forums, discussions, and opportunities for anglers to connect, share experiences, and learn from one another.

#### **Join Us in the Celebration:**

To mark this momentous occasion, we invite you to explore the revamped Angling News and Match Fishing News. Join us in celebrating the passion for angling, the thrill of the competition, and the camaraderie that defines our community.

#### **Stay Connected:**

Follow us on social media to stay updated on the latest articles, announcements, and community events. Your feedback is crucial to us, so feel free to share your thoughts and suggestions as we continue to evolve and grow.

Thank you for being a part of the Angling News and Match Fishing News community. We can't wait to embark on this exciting journey with you!

Tight lines and happy fishing!

***Clive Branson***

Angling News and Match Fishing News



# My Monthly Blog By Clive Branson

Greetings and Welcome to my monthly blog.  
As you may know I produce a regular fishing Vlog on youtube.  
The name Vlog was derived from members of the youjtube platform whenever they filmed an event or a short video. Instead of it a blog they renamed it a Vlog



The term "vlog" is a combination of the words "video" and "blog."  
Vlogging emerged as a natural evolution of traditional blogging, which primarily involved written content. The rise of digital technology, particularly the availability of affordable video recording devices and platforms for sharing videos online, paved the way for the development of vlogs.

Being sponsored by an angling company, writing a blog became a good tool for advertising and promoting yourself and your sponsor, However, a couple of years it became a little time consuming and sometimes I would forget what happened during the match. I thought of the idea to film myself and then write the blog afterwards. Then is dawned on my why not just record and load it up on the youtube platforms, warts and all, it would at least save me the time in writing.

Creating a Vlog became easy using just a hand held phone camera, and placing it on a stand behind when fishing. Over the years I have learnt a few things about filming, but the problem is sometimes I would forget about the positioning of the camera when I was concentrating on the fishing. And other times it would cost me time and a few fish when filming.  
As I was one of the first to introduce fishing vlogs, they became very popular soon after and now I have nearly 4,000 subscribers.

My latest Vlog was the 4th round of the Wye Winter league at Hereford on the Belmont stretch. Renowned for its huge bags of fish at this time of the year. It is believed that the fish migrate to this deeper section of the Wye for winter.

Having drawn the section below the footbridge (The old Railway l.line bridge) in the section known as the boat section and now the Rugby club section. Named after our headquarters I drew peg 58 which for some reason seems shallower than the other pegs below. I also know that this used to be a great draw for the dace and often would figure in the frame. However, the chub were now making a presence and with that in minds I opted to start on the bread flake this side of the middle. (See result sheet)

Knowing that the opposite side of the river was more prolific due to it being a little deeper the migration of fish gathered. This was evident in the final weigh in where all the big weights came. Using a 10 gram boly float I started to catch almost immediately this side of the middle. Catching 8-12oz for most of the match until they slowed down in the last hour. I was pleasantly surprised to weigh in 77lb that was spread between my two keep-nets. Winning the boat side of the river with the section win and coming 7th overall. You can view my Video Vlog on <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9m-BI0WYKaQ&t=3469s>



## ABC Baits River Wye Winter League 2023/24

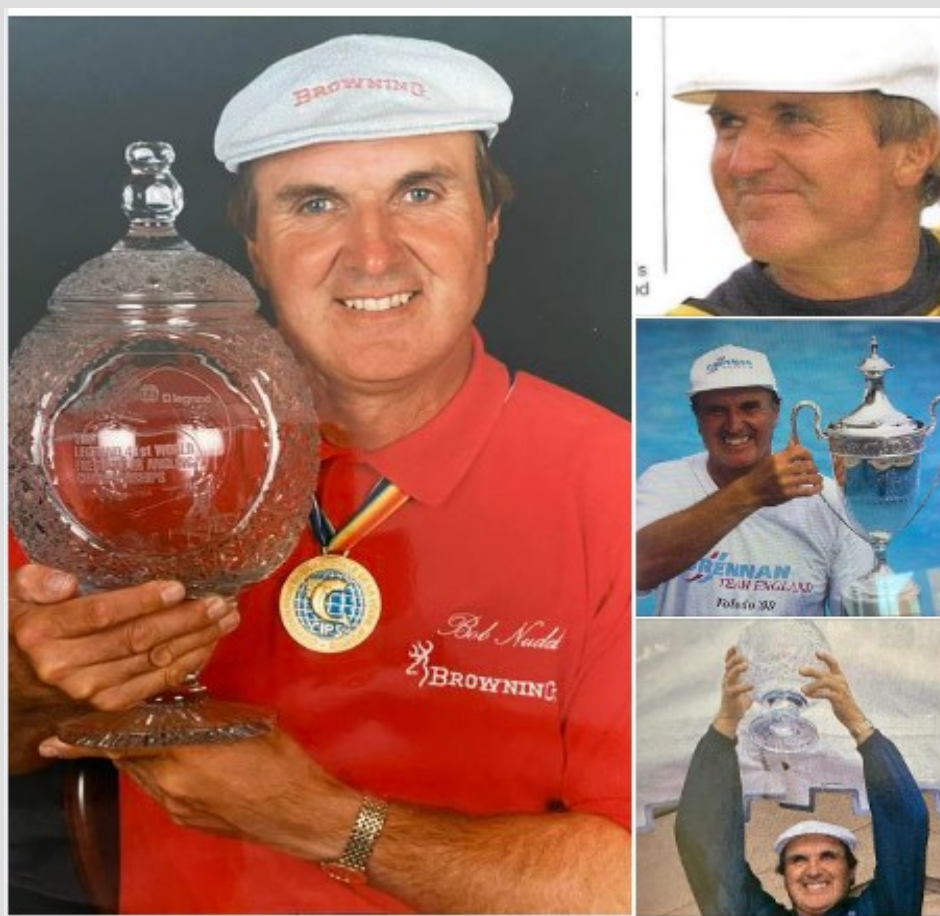
Round : 4 Date : 17/12/2023

	SECTION A	SECTION B	SECTION C	SECTION D	SECTION E	SECTION F	TOTAL
DH ANGLING	S HARFORD 1-10-0	J HOLLOWAY 12-11-0	P BICK 25-4-0	D HARRELL 49-12-0	D FOXALL 35-0-0	D ASHINGTON 49-8-0	33
CADENCE SUPERTeam	J ROBBINS 18-4-0	D FROST 5-8-0	B RIGBY 27-3-0	M BEDDING 69-8-0	L HARRIES 30-0-0	A MURPHY 151-2-0	44
WOODY'S	L EDWARDS 4-13-0	H WHITTLE 30-4-0	S GREENS 37-4-0	D ROBERTS 60-0-0	R JONES 70-0-0	R BRENNAN 91-4-0	53
ABC BAITS	I WARD 0-0-0	D THORPE 3-3-0	M DOHERTY 12-11-0	J EDWARDS 29-0-0	D WEBB 66-8-0	D NOTT 56-0-0	24
WIZARDS	C HAUFF 1-8-0	T NIX 2-5-0	P JOHNSON 47-4-0	I CHALK 63-0-0	T BOULTON 141-13-0	C HARVEY 38-4-0	41
WOODY'S BAIT-TECH	A NEAL 7-8-0	J HINGLEY 12-7-0	C JONES (WALES) 51-15-0	C JONES (WALES) 35-4-0	R OULES 105-8-0	N EVANS 140-5-0	51
STOREY'S MG	T BIRT 9-4-0	C CURTIS 14-12-0	N GARRETT 26-4-0	M HALLIOWS 36-4-0	R FLUDE 40-9-0	B THOMAS 12-3-0	36
NOMADS A	M CHALLENGER 3-15-0	J JONES 15-12-0	K ELLABY 37-4-0	C BRANSON 77-0-0	K DICKS 53-13-0	C SMITH 0-0-0	42
ALANS TACKLE	A GRIFFIN 12-8-0	P PEMBRIDGE 3-0-0	A TAYLOR 40-4-0	S DAVIES 24-12-0	S HARVEY 77-10-0	T NORE 7-6-0	26
LUDLOW	D WALLACE 2-12-0	A TIMMER 8-6-0	S JEFFRIES 29-8-0	S METCALFE 71-4-0	D AVERY 34-4-0	R CLEARY 2-14-0	32
NOMADS B	R RANNISON 3-0-0	A CRANSTON 15-2-0	R MILLWARD 15-6-0	L GREGORY 27-4-0	C ROBERTS 34-4-0	B RENDALL 6-4-0	28
COTSWOLDS	G BRIERLEY 21-8-0	J BEAN 44-12-0	P AMOS 87-10-0	C NICHOLSON 40-4-0	T HOBBS 75-8-0	P KAYE 16-4-0	58





## END OF A GREAT SPONSORSHIP—Bob Nudd



### Bob's Statement

For those of you who haven't heard Browning will finish in Europe sometime in February 2024 and my long journey of 33 years with this wonderful company comes to an end on December 31st, they are not going broke it's just a commercial decision by the owners Rather Outdoors as Royalties have to be paid on every Browning product.

My thanks must go to Peter Delwes and Frerk Petersen who supported and supplied me with the equipment which helped me win 4 Individual World Championships. Thanks also to the loyal Browning Anglers and teams that I've fished with all over Europe far too many for me to mention individually but you will all remember the good times we had fishing together, I know you will also be very sad at this time, but as they say life goes on and we must look to the future. My Kindest regards and best wishes to you all.

Bob Nudd

*(As a footnote Bob has been offered a new sponsorship deal with 3 co sponsors, Preston Innovations, Fox/Matrex and Sonubaits)*

# Bob Nudd Match Reports



Today was one of the best matches of the year

The Christmas open on the Old Nene at March 90 pegs , you obviously can't win off every peg but you still get a great all action day well done to my team mate Rob Hubbard for winning the match with from the culvert peg above Wigstons bridge with 55 lbs I drew peg 76 the river was running hard so I opted to fish a 2 gram DT Nevis at 6 mts with 4.5 mts of line on my Sphere Silverlite take apart whip with number 6 slip elastic 16 hook to .12 line overshotted the float with 2 number 9 's to slow it down cupped in really rich with pinkies and casters caught well all through the match finishing with 318 fish for 24lbs 8 ozs only good enough for 3 rd in section as I had to compete with the long turning bay pegs. Credit must go to Bob Fitzjohn for running a well organised perfect match



## Local Coach Dave Roberts Shows you the methods for Fishing the Mighty Wye In Flood conditions



**I**t doesn't matter what time of year it comes, if a flood happens it usually puts paid to any ideas of a trip to the river. However, instead of heading for the local stillwater, canal, or even not bothering at all, why not get out and have a look, because no matter how much extra water is in there will always be somewhere to fish.

Every river, especially wild, uncontrolled ones, has slack areas and it is usually around particularly bendy rivers that many slacker areas can be found. These will usually be on the inside of a bend, because as the main flow passes across the river to the far bank it will leave a piece of calmer flat water, where the flow will either be a

lot steadier, or in some cases flowing in the opposite direction.

These genuine backwater areas are, as you'd expect, a perfect holding spot for the fish to take sanctuary until the river drops, and the flow returns to normal. These fish will be happy to feed in these sanctuaries provided you go about it in the right way, and just because the river is flooded doesn't mean you automatically have to reach for the feeder rod. If the flow allows, normal float and pole tactics will score just as well, if not better.

### THE MIGHTY RIVER WYE

Today I'm on the prolific River Wye at Hereford and as is so typical through the

autumn/winter we've recently had a lot of rain, causing the river to burst its banks on a couple of occasions.

Today the river is dropping steadily, but still carrying a lot of extra water. A check of the Environment Agency river level gauges this morning showed the river is running at 2.55 metres, which is just under two metres above normal summer level. It sounds a lot but once you get to the water and have a look, you realise that the usual calm areas are not the raging torrent you imagined.

I've settled on a peg at the top of the tennis courts section. This is a classic backwater swim on the inside of a bend, which naturally holds the flow up. It also has a nice bush in the water upstream,





You'll catch these beauties at close range in flood conditions.



There's no better bait on a flooded river.



Get that bait down!

*"One of the big things for choosing a swim in flood conditions is which way the river is heading."*

which holds the flow back even further. Although I've settled on this peg, a walk along the bank revealed at least five or six other swims that would have been fishable. One of the big things for choosing a swim in flood conditions is which way the river is heading. If it is rising, fishing will be a whole lot trickier with the flow changing constantly. A swim will change as the session progresses, which will affect the way the fish feed. The much more favourable scenario is when we have a river like today where it is gently dropping, making the swims better as the day progresses.

### SLACK WATER SUCCESS

As much as I know that feeder fishing would score well today, and maybe give a chance of some bigger fish like barbel, that would be a real sit-and-wait job and I expect I'll keep busy by fishing with pole and whip tactics. The peg looks so good and I've got a number of options available.

Firstly, right in front of me at about four metres the water is virtually still and eight feet deep, so I'm setting up a 4m whip with



No place for light hooklengths here.

Dave got away with a 1g rig in the slack water down the peg.



a 2g float down to 0.11mm Reflo Power and a size 14 Kamasan B611 hook. This is really robust and gives me the option of slipping two, maybe three maggots on at a time while leaving plenty of hook point showing for a good hook-hold. This would actually be dry land on a low summer river, but I also know that it's pretty clear and snag free.

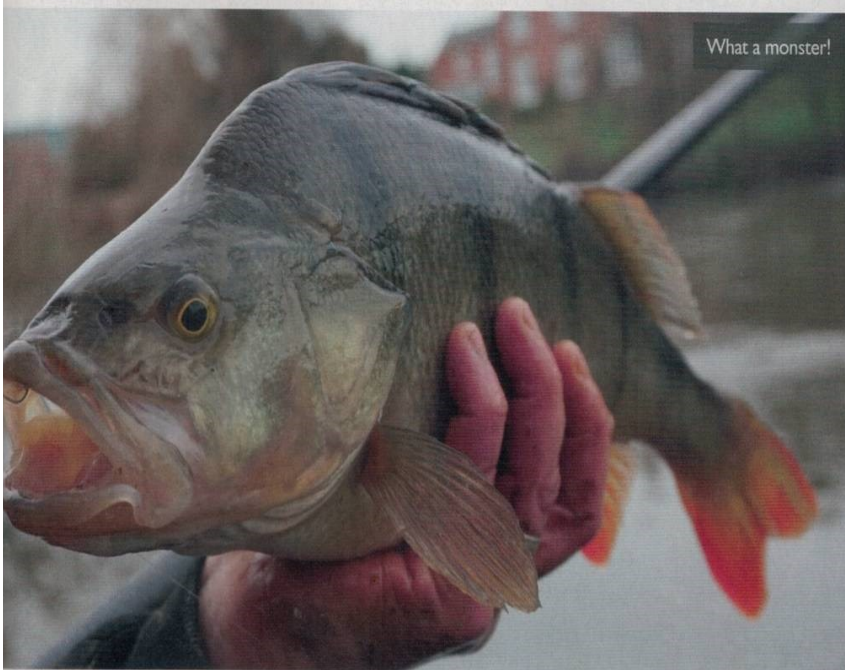
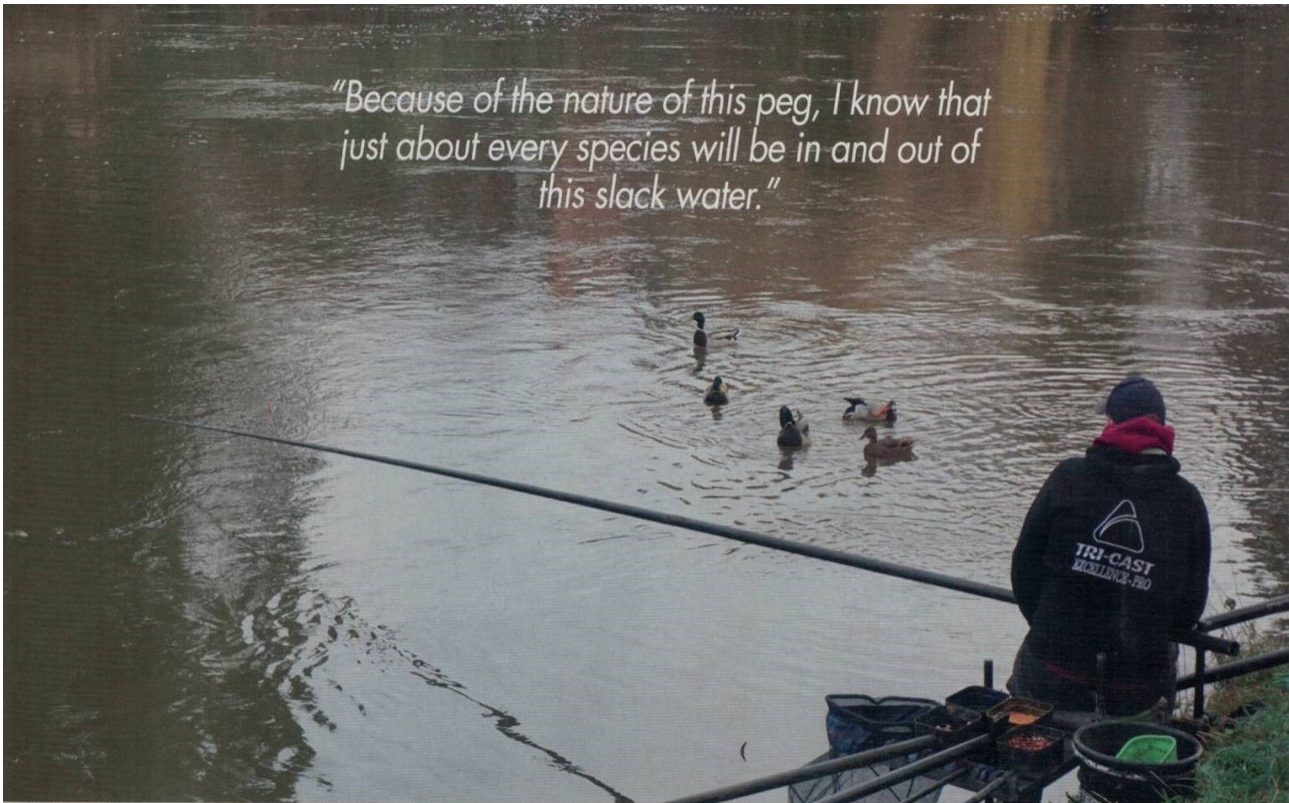
I intend to feed hemp and maggots here and maybe groundbait if the flow increases. It's so slack though, that I can get away with a strung-out shooting pattern to accompany

the loose feed. I'm expecting that the dace and roach that live here will like this part of the peg.

A little further out off the end of the bush the natural flow increases. Although it's not going to be ideal presentation, I believe it's always worth trying out in the flow as the bigger fish will regularly drop in and out of it to collect natural food being washed down with the extra water. To cope with the extra flow I've set up a 15g flat float. I have this set about 12 inches overdepth and on this line I'm



*"Because of the nature of this peg, I know that just about every species will be in and out of this slack water."*



What a monster!

Dave started in the main flow, but the changing conditions made it awkward.

going to cup in heavy balls of groundbait, packed with chopped worms, casters, hemp and even an odd piece of meat. This will require a very accurate and tight approach.

When setting up I noticed an area of the peg downstream where the water was very slack against the bank. On plumbing up I found it was the same 8ft depth as the whip line and I really fancy this for a bonus fish. Because it's so slack, all I set up for this is a 1g pole float with a spread bulk. Despite the calmness of the water, this is a very light float for these conditions but I like to keep

my bait moving as I feel the fish in these conditions are very reactive to a moving bait. Being able to lift and drop or letting the current lift the bait off the bottom can get the fishes' attention. I'm feeding this line with cups of hemp, meat, casters and a bit of chopped worms. I also have the option to baitdropper it if the flow changes.

#### LOBBIES RULE

Because of the nature of this peg, I know that just about every species will be in and out of this slack water. As such my bait list

is quite varied. The introduction of meat will give me a chance of a chub or even a barbel. Ultimately though, if I were to have one bait in flood conditions it would be worms, in particular lobworms. I'm sure it's as simple as when the river floods it washes more natural food off the banks, but worms just work.

Today has been a stunning day considering conditions. Starting on the flat float over the food-rich groundbait – a 50/50 mix of Bait-Tech Pro Natural Dark and Pro Natural Extra – saw some early roach but the way the flow was changing and pushing the rig about it didn't really feel right. I have a general rule of thumb with flat floats: If it requires more than 15g to achieve an acceptable form of presentation, then the feeder comes out of the bag.

A switch to the short whip line saw, as expected, bites from dace and roach every cast. This would have been an enjoyable day on its own and I was able to catch a nice dace of between 4oz and 6oz every drop in here, with the occasional roach mixed in – excellent sport but that long



line down my peg was just too appealing.

Persevering with meat for a while I was sure a chub would appear, or maybe a barbel. However, after a couple of fruitless hours a switch to worms was made. As if turning on a switch the change brought with it instant bites, a huge perch being the first fish from this line at well over 3lb. With the expectation of big fish I have set up accordingly and a 13 rated Hollo elastic sets the hook nicely and is plenty powerful enough to tame these hard-fighting fish, even with the help of the flow behind them. A 0.15mm diameter Reflo Power hooklength tied to a size 11 Kamasan B711 hook is the security you need when faced with such a peg and allows me to pull back a bit, especially if the hooked fish starts heading towards the snags.

Of course, after this initial fish my concentration was then firmly set on worms, just cupping loose chopped worms and casters, and later on as the flow moved around a bit I've used a baitdropper.



sure I'd have caught them that big. Having caught one early, I've neglected the dace and roach that were obviously enjoying the slacker water. If it were a match situation I would have faced some tough choices on which species to target, but my decision is soon rewarded as another four perch take a fancy to my presented lobworm – two more over 2lb and two a little short of 1lb (although they look tiny sat next to the real monsters).

In between topping up I keep dropping back in on the whip where lashings of maggots and hemp are thrown by hand, picking off dace and roach to fill in any gaps in the action.

All in all it just goes to prove that these flood conditions should not be a barrier to stop us fishing. A bit of local knowledge helps when choosing a peg, and knowing the riverbed by walking the banks in the low conditions of summer really aids the choice. As long as it's safe and it looks like the flow will allow reasonable presentation then

there's no reason not to carry on catching in less than ideal conditions, and today's catch really demonstrates just how rewarding a day in these conditions can be.

Next time you think the conditions won't allow it, head down to the river, find a suitable spot and fish the slack water – you may just be surprised what makes an appearance! ■

### RIVER MONSTERS

I've had two perch over 3lb, which are dream fish. If I'd been targeting specimen perch in perfect conditions, I'm not





## Julian P Cundiff

Every year I see / hear of new items of tackle released / rehashed into the market claiming to be game changers ' .... whatever a ' game changer ' is

For my angling in later years it's been Spombs , sharpened hooks , The Key and more recently the Bushwhacker . My description is that it's made a measurable impact to my fishing . I mainly use it in winter for accurate placement of minimal feed but maximum attraction precisely where I want it to be . For crumbed Test Bait , chopped worm , Wormcell , liquidised sweetcorn , mini pellet it's such an edge and one that I feel comfortable using for MY angling . Definitely one for your Christmas list if you've not got one. Happy with these images and had quite a few more since

More of Julian P Cundiff on [www.facebook.com/juliancundiff](https://www.facebook.com/juliancundiff)

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## BBC Panorama exposes cheating on pollution reporting and a toothless regulator that does nothing

The BBC Panorama programme, *The Water Pollution Cover-Up*, highlights the complete failure of both United Utilities and the Environment Agency to protect our rivers, lakes, and sea from pollution.

This is not simply a case of poor management, incompetence, or lack of funding. What the programme exposes is what seems to be a deliberate attempt by United Utilities to cover up pollution incidents, and a regulator, the Environment Agency, complicit in that cover up.

United Utilities supplies water and treats wastewater for customers in the northwest of England. It is meant to be one of the best performing water companies when it comes to pollution. Yet, last year it spilled untreated sewage for 425,000 hours. – across all water companies, a total of 1.7 million hours of spills took place.

*So why is United Utilities meant to be so good?*

One reason is the way the Environment Agency assess compliance of sewage works. They only require the water companies to produce data on the treated water they discharge, and should there be no flow of treated water from the sewage works at the time of monitoring, that is recorded as a pass. United Utilities recorded 197 tests as being “no flow”.

*But should these be recorded as a pass?*

We don't think so. We believe they should be recorded as “no result” and it shows that allowing water companies to “*mark their own homework*” is a complete failure.

Where pollution incidents do occur, Panorama showed the scale of those incidents, but their impact was downgraded by the water company and ignored by the Environment Agency.





In the past three years, the Environment Agency has only attended five per cent of the incidents recorded nationally. Of the 931 incidents in the United Utilities region, they only attended six incidents; just 0.64%. It appears it is the water company who decided whether the Environment Agency attended or not.

Many of the incidents reported by the programmer appear to have been deliberately downgraded to a category four level. This should mean there is no impact and the Environment Agency do not attend. But the evidence uncovered by Panorama showed many of these incidents were categorized as being level three or two, showing there was an impact, before being subsequently downgraded to a category four.

**In response Stuart Singleton-White, Head of Campaigns, said:**

“Sadly, I’m not surprised. We have over 620 anglers regularly monitoring over 180 rivers through our Water Quality Monitoring Network and can see what is happening on our waters. We cannot trust what water companies and the Environment Agency tell us. This isn’t just a few mistakes caused by a lack of resources and overstretched staff. This is a systematic and arguably, deliberate system of falsifying reporting and cheating, with a regulator happy to go along with it. We know this because of the bravery of many passionate and dedicated staff who have blown the whistle on what is happening inside the agency.

“Regulation of the water sector is completely broken. It is time to sweep away the current system, with the EA regulating the environment and OFWAT the economic aspects, and start again. We need a regulator that is truly independent, has strong leadership, and is prepared to act. We must put an end to this madness.”





# South & South West

Email your Venue Profile to [clive@angling-news.co.uk](mailto:clive@angling-news.co.uk)

## Tactical Briefing

To Glastonbury



To Walton and Ashcroft

### WALTON POND, WALTON, STREET, SOMERSET

**DESCRIPTION.** Controlled by Taunton AA this venue was dug from peat workings. It's three acres and set on the edge of the Somerset Levels. This venue fishes well for carp from 7 lb to 29 lb, bream to 11 lb, perch to 3 lb and roach to 1 lb 8 oz. There are some tench but they're difficult to catch.

**TACTICS.** Leger halibut pellets or spicy flavoured boilies, over just a few free offerings, for the carp. The carp will also accept floating crust or a dog

biscuit. Use a conventional feeder for bream with chopped worm and caster or maggot. Float fish maggot, caster, soft pellet, punched bread or chopped worm for mixed catches.

**GOOD SWIMS.** The island is a good holding place for the carp, they also show in the margins.

**TICKETS.** Taunton AA day tickets are: adults £6, under-16s £4, in advance from the local tackle shops. Members only can night fish this venue with the appropriate permit. Taunton AA season permits cover lots of venues and cost: adults £39, OAPs, registered disabled £22, under-16s £17.50, under-12s £5. Weekly permits: £20, under-16s £10.

Fishing dawn until dusk. All nets must be dipped. Disabled access. Micro barbed hooks are allowed. Food outlets nearby. Tel: 01823 664388. Wessex byelaws. Open all year.

**LOCAL TACKLE SHOP.** Street Angling Centre, Street, BA16 0ER. Tel: 01458 447830.

**LOCATION.** From Taunton take the A361 towards Walton. Turn right at the Pipers Inn and as you enter Walton turn sharp left at the Pike and Musket Inn. Keep bearing right to the bridge over the South Drain. The pond is on the right. Note there is no parking allowed on the sides of the road.

**SAT NAV.** BA16 9QU (Pike and Musket Inn nearby).

### TOP TIP

Fish the deeper 'half' of this lake in the colder weather.



## Tactical Briefing

### SAWMILLS LAKE, KINGSTEIGNTON, NEWTON ABBOT, DEVON

**DESCRIPTION.** Newton Abbot FA control this three-acre lake. Fishing is from the bank, as indicated, for carp to 20 lb, bream to 7 lb, tench to 6 lb, perch to 3 lb and lots of roach to 12 oz. There's also a real good head of skimmers.

**TACTICS.** Leger halibut pellets or boilies for the bigger carp. For tench and bream try a crumb feeder at distance with corn, bread, redworms or maggots. Tench are generally caught at distance but they can show to pole fished corn. Plenty of roach and skimmers to soft pellet or maggot close in.

**GOOD SWIMS.** The two ends tend to give you more of the lake to go at.

**TICKETS.** Day tickets, in advance only from local tackle shops including the listed ones are: adults £6, under-16s £2, 24 hours £10. Full NAFA permits, (residing within 20 miles of Newton Abbot) are £75, OAPs and registered disabled £30, under-16s £15. Associate membership (residing elsewhere) is £50/£25. Membership from January 1. Fishing dawn until dusk only on day ticket. Venue keys £2. Barbless hooks. Food outlets nearby. Enquiries: Ian

Donaldson on 07764 340268. South West byelaws. Open all year. Check out: [www.newtonfishing.com](http://www.newtonfishing.com)

**LOCAL TACKLE SHOPS.** Tackle Trader, Newton Abbot, TQ12 2DA. Tel: 01626 331613. Newton Tackle and Gun Centre, Kingsteignton, TQ12 3PS. Tel: 01626 367097.

**LOCATION.** Sawmills Lake can be found by driving through Kingsteignton towards Chudleigh on the B3193. Pass the toll house roundabout and the fishery is some 300 yards further down on the right, park in the lay-by.

### TOP TIP

Owing to the colour of the water the carp rely a lot on scent, try using well flavoured baits.



To Chudleigh

B3193

Lay-by

To Kingsteignton





# Midlands & East Anglia

Email your Venue Profile to [clive@angling-news.co.uk](mailto:clive@angling-news.co.uk)

## Real lumps at Riddings

OVER the years avid *Angler's Mail* reader Richard Forde has sent me pictures of all sorts of top quality fish he has caught from a variety of venues.

This time the Alrewas, Staffordshire-based angler has sent me a great picture of himself with a stunning 30 lb 13 oz carp from the **Riddings Fishery** in Grendon, Atherstone, Warwickshire.

Richard was fishing the Specimen Carp Pool that has produced a 39 lb 14 oz fish in the past. As well as this pool the fishery offers quality fishing on Riddings, Folly and Crucian Pools at a slightly cheaper rate.

On Crucian, Folly and Riddings, adults are charged £7 for one rod while OAPs and under-16s are charged £4.50; two rod costs are £8/£5. Evenings, after 4pm, adults are £4.50/£3 for one rod or £5/£4.50 two rods.

On the Specimen Carp Lake it is best to pre-book for weekends and Bank Holidays and the cost is £12 for up to three rods for the day, or £6 after 4pm. A day ticket runs from 6am to dusk. To book the Specimen Carp lake or for further info call 01827 713244.

I know from many readers' calls that small pools offer a fascination to anglers, myself included - trips on the old bike to far away Ordnance Survey mapped pond holes were my thing in the summer holidays and at weekends.

The one in the spotlight this week is **Graham's Pond**, at Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire. I am led to believe that Graham Marsh has done marvels to

make it a lovely safe place for all to fish. It is a genuine mixed fishery with carp plus roach, rudd, bream, tench and other species to tangle with.

It is a nice place to teach a youngster the rudiments of the sport and it wouldn't be long before he would get the hang of things at this attractive little venue. There are features to fish to on every peg and you can catch on various baits from maggots to pellets.

To fish at Graham's Pond your best bet is to give him a call

before you go and reserve a spot - that will cost you £4 - if you turn up and fish without pre-booking you will have to part with £5. The phone number is 01484 351034, I hope I've got it right this time!

From a small pool to a mighty big river and the **Newark Dyke** section off the River Trent,

Nottinghamshire, is a section of water well worth spending time on. This venue has been producing magical catches for quite a while now. It is day fishing only on this Newark Federation section.

If there is any cold water in the Dyke the roach do go a bit quieter and bream seem to respond more and this 'arrangement' suits both the feeder and float angler. The waggler is scoring for roach but a few are doing really well on the pole and hemp. As to the feeder the pegs around 40

on the Upper Dyke appear to be doing the business. Winterton, North Lincolnshire-based Keith Mumby won the latest match with over 40 lb. He had ten bream to crumb feeder with worm and caster to win a 25-entry event. A few barbel are also showing here and there. It is £6 a day and, just to repeat, there is NO night fishing. Newark Angling Centre is a hop, step and a jump from the venue; call 01636 686212

### JIM'S WEEK

“Along with a family of four otters I have just spent three evenings chub and barbel fishing on my local River Wensum. I suspect the otters had more success than I did. Down this three-mile stretch of river there are two separate otter holts each with its own family. Devastating!”



Richard Forde banked this cracking 30 lb 13 oz common carp at the Riddings Fishery in Warwickshire.

Email your Venue Profile to [clive@angling-news.co.uk](mailto:clive@angling-news.co.uk)



### ASK Tony Keeling

#### The dark side

**Q** I noticed in Matchmail there was an evening match result at a venue in Cambridgeshire. Was this an error? **Robbie Gregg, Glasgow.**

#### Tony says...

Thanks for the question, Robbie - it is always pleasing to hear from a reader in Scotland. The match you speak of would probably have been at a venue called Buttonhole Lake, near Wisbech. The Buttonhole Angling Club runs quite a few matches on this prolific lake. The venue is also one of a few fisheries that have lights strong enough to allow match fishing well into the evening.

### EAST ANGLIA

THE opener this week is **Bargate Drain**, Boston, Lincolnshire (01205 353436). The venue gave Sleaford angler Danny Pryce a fine net of roach when he pole fished hemp and tares down the track. Feeding a few grains of hemp every put-in Danny had redfins to a little over 1 lb in a catch topping two 'stone'.

After dragging a swim higher up the drain, holiday rod Eddie King found a couple of fine 4 lb tench willing to accept his sweetcorn bait when he fished close to a bed of reeds.

Venue number two is the **River Yare**, Surlingham, Norfolk (01603 516773). This is a hotspot for a few bream at this time of year, especially for the angler willing to fish through the night.

Local angler Colin David tried his luck fishing sweetcorn and Bag-Up's brown and white crumb groundbait mixed in a large swimfeeder. Several skimmers were the first to be attracted to the table before a brace of much larger slabs homed in on his bait.

Finally, **The Cider Lakes**, Bungay, Suffolk (01986 781353) is where schoolchildren and dads can bag up on smallish carp, up to 10 lb. There are some super looking ghost carp here. I saw one youthful carper taking fine fish off the top using small sections of floating bread tight into the soft weed.

There are two small ponds here and stocks are similar in both with perhaps a few larger samples in the smallest. Open 7.30am until dusk and boilies are not allowed.

## The History of Angling

THE HISTORY OF BRITISH ANGLING  
Thesis on Modern-day Angling

Clive Branson



#### Drummonds Dub Lake, Upton Bishop, Herefordshire.

**Dave Williams** landed this 20 lb 2 oz common carp on a Kent Particles Fishmeal Credit Crunch Boilie fished over half a kilo of freebies tight to a far margin on Drummonds Dub Lake. He had to wait 24 hours on his first trip for his first fish but it was well worth it. **Venue latest:** 01989 563723.



#### Sherwood Forest Fishery, near Mansfield, Nottinghamshire.

**Aidan Kemp** went fishing with his dad at Sherwood Forest Fishery where the seven-year-old managed to catch his biggest ever mirror carp at 8 lb 12 oz. He used a Method feeder with Special G groundbait with micro Betaine pellets and a 6 mm halibut pellet hook bait. **Venue latest:** 07721 316334.



#### River Trent, Clifton Grove, Nottinghamshire.

**Graham Sanders** had this cracking 24 lb 7 oz mirror carp out of the weir pool on the River Trent at Clifton Grove. He snaffled it using a sweetcorn hook bait. **Venue latest:** 0115 978 1695.





# North & Wales

Email your Venue Profile to [clive@angling-news.co.uk](mailto:clive@angling-news.co.uk)

## Tactical Briefing

### DENHALL LANE FISHERIES, BURTON, CHESHIRE

**DESCRIPTION.** Set in very peaceful countryside overlooking the River Dee these two lakes, Kingfisher and Woodlands, offer carp from to 30 lb, tench to 9 lb 8 oz, bream to 8 lb 8 oz, chub to 4 lb 8 oz, barbel to 3 lb 8 oz, a real good head of crucians to 2 lb 8 oz, roach and rudd to 2 lb plus some blue ide. A further three-acre specimen pool is in the pipeline.

**TACTICS.** Boilies or large pellets will take the bigger carp, on a warm evening floaters score. Conventional feeder fishing will score the bream, with combos of redworm and caster on the hook. Float fish corn close-in for the tench. Try bread

based baits for the crucian carp. Soft pellet will catch a mix of species.

**GOOD SWIMS.** Margin fishing works very well for the big carp, they show all the way round these lakes.

**TICKETS.** £10 for the day, evening permits after 5pm are £5. Costs are for up to two rods and apply from dawn until dusk only. Disabled access. Large landing nets and unhooking mats are essential when carp fishing. Barbless hooks only. No keepnets. Food available at weekends. Toilets. All enquiries: 07983 988703. North West byelaws. Open all year.

**LOCAL TACKLE SHOP.** Eastham Angling Centre, Wirral, Merseyside, CH62 9DL. Tel: 0151 327 8366.

**LOCATION.** From Chester take the A540 north west. Pass the M56 and the A550 keeping on the A540. Turn left to Burton, then take the Neston Road. The fishery is behind the Ness Botanic Gardens.

**SAT NAV.** CH64 0TG.

#### TOP TIP

■ Maggots are probably best avoided, unless you like catching loads of small fish!



## Tactical Briefing

### HIGHFIELD FISHERY, GARFORTH, WEST YORKSHIRE

**DESCRIPTION.** This privately owned fishery is well sheltered from the elements by trees and has two feature islands, one at each end. This 35-peg water is a genuine mixed fishery with a terrific head of silver fish including chub to 3 lb plus roach and rudd to 2 lb. Also carp to 20 lb, some tench to 4 lb and perch to 1 lb 8 oz.

**TACTICS.** For some excellent silver fish sport, where 30 to 40 lb catches are not at all uncommon, float fish caster shallow over regular caster feed. Expect roach, rudd and chub. Float fish soft 4-6 mm pellets or bits of luncheon meat

for good bags of mixed sizes of carp. The better carp can show to floating crust or dog biscuit, especially during a warm evening. Scale down in the winter and fish red maggot for a mixed bag.

**GOOD SWIMS.** All round the lake at the moment, try the slightly deeper pegs in the winter.

**TICKETS.** £5, from the local tackle shop listed or from the barn on the way in. Fishing dawn until dusk only. Disabled access. Barbless hooks only. No keepnets. No groundbait. Food outlets nearby. Enquiries: 0771 1740197 (evenings).

North East byelaws. Open all year.

**LOCAL TACKLE SHOP.** Bob's Tackle Garforth, LS25 2HG. Tel: 0113 286 7112.

**LOCATION.** From J47, M1 take the A642 to Garforth. Go over the rail bridge and turn right at the traffic lights (crossroads) onto Barrowby Road then turn immediately right again into Barwick Road. Go down here, over the motorway, merging into Long Lane. The fishery is signed on the right after you have passed the Golf Club.

**SAT NAV.** LS25 2DS (nearby farm).

#### TOP TIP

■ For silver fish bags stick to caster at the moment.



To Barwick In Elmet and A64

High Field Farm

To Garforth and M1







# London & South East

## Tare up the Thames

THE Reading DAA stretch of the **River Thames** has been fishing exceptionally well to hemp and tares.

A recent match at Wallingford in Oxfordshire was won with 22 lb 1 oz and the second place only 2 oz less at 21 lb 15 oz. The stamp of fish on the hemp and tare tends to be far better than those caught on maggot. Pike are fairly active on this section.

Day tickets in advance at £8 from Reading Angling Centre on 0118 9872216 and more local shops including Acorn Angling in Didcot. Free fishing for members of Reading DAA. Details of membership from [www.rdaa.co.uk](http://www.rdaa.co.uk) or phone 01189 867430.

I have been hearing good reports about **Pondwood Fisheries** at White Waltham in Berkshire. Lake 1 is giving plenty of catfish on meat baits or sea deadbaits but the best fishing is at night.

Remember to use an abrasion resistant trace. During the day it's mainly carp with some cracking large doubles on hair-rigged halibut pellets and meat.

Lake 2 is fishing its head off for carp with all tactics and virtually all baits working. Although most of the carp are under 7 lb there are lumps to over 20 lb.

The 800 m long Snake River is giving lots of carp with a good number of big doubles. Pole fishing tight to far bank features with pellet or paste is working very well with sweetcorn a great alternative. There is



### ASK Bill Rushmer

#### Grand Union tactics

**Q** I am thinking of fishing the Grand Union Canal around Tring in Hertfordshire using chopped worm and caster on the pole to the far bank. Is this the best approach?

**Charlie McCormack, via e-mail.**

#### Bill says...

Some years ago my answer would have been 'yes', but it has changed. There are lots of carp anglers legering boilies or large halibut pellets. In my opinion, so much pellet has gone in that the fish are beginning to accept them as a natural bait. Therefore I feel you would be foolish to ignore the pellet and paste approach. To date it has worked on every section of canal we have fished in the area, accounting for carp to upper doubles and bream to about 5 lb with some good roach.



A lump of paste tempted this lump of carp at Twyners Fishery.

some great roach sport to be had fishing the track on hemp and caster.

Day tickets are £10. Breakfasts from on-site café. Mick Holdaway is in charge on 01189 345299.

We walked part of the Wendover Arm of the **Grand Union Canal** around Tring, Hertfordshire. The factory section at Heygates looked great and we could see a good number of carp, much of which were big singles or low doubles with the odd much bigger fish in view.

No doubt these would fall later in the day to legered pellet or boilie with a float fishing approach with paste in the margin a strong possibility.

There were also some good shoals of roach including fish well over 12 oz that I understand were being caught over the weekend on hemp.

Moving further down the canal to where it terminates at the Little Tring Turning Basin we saw anglers catching bream over 3 lb with skimmers and roach on the pole with sweetcorn and pellet. This section is well known for bream over 5 lb, and we have witnessed some big bags of proper bream from here.

Both sections are on a £5 day ticket with concessions. Get more from Dick Pilkinton on 01582 841985 or 07796 178313.

When we visited CALPAC's **Yalding 1 Fishery** at Yalding in Kent we walked the 1,200 yards of River Medway and were most

### BILL'S WEEK

**Bill** I had an evening session on Pit 1 at Twyners Fishery at Chertsey, Surrey, fishing close in with lumps of paste under a small pole float over a small bed of pellets. The fish were certainly feeding well with nine carp to mid doubles and a tench. The water and surroundings looked a treat. And their breakfast is a must. Day tickets are £15 and the fishery contact number is 01932 570156. **Bill**

impressed with the far bank features where an angler was feeder fishing with bread tight in just inches short of an overhanging tree.

He was catching some cracking roach to well over 1 lb with a few bream topping 5 lb with a solitary chub of 4 lb 6 oz.

I was told legered cheese or cheese paste was favoured by many locals as it tends to sort out some of the better chub. The section also fishes well on the waggler with maggots for roach, but not as big a stamp as those caught on bread or cheese.

On the section of the River Teise at the start of the fishery chub were visible with better ones to 4 lb.

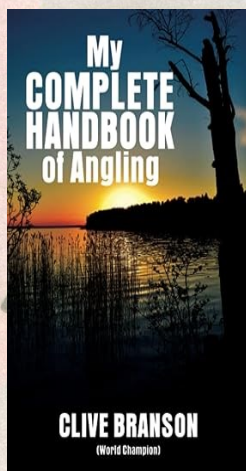
The lower section Yalding 2 is below the weir with the water much faster flowing making it ideal for trotting a balsa or big stick. Again, the same baits as the upper stretch work best.

Yalding 1 is on a £5 day ticket or free to CALPAC members, whilst Yalding 2 is members only. For details of CALPAC membership ring John Bygrave on 02087 779489.

The Match Lake on the **A12 Cuton Lakes** at Chelmsford in Essex is giving five-hour match winning weights of between 65 lb and 80 lb made up of silvers, carp with bream averaging 7 lb plus odd tench to the pole with pellet and paste.

Anglers using maggot or caster and hemp are being rewarded with bags up to 30 lb of skimmers and roach. The Middle Lake is fishing well on fish flavoured boilies with Dynamite Baits Spicy Prawn working well for catches of up to 25 carp in a session with fish averaging between 10 lb and 15 lb.

The Specimen Lake has given carp to 26 lb 2 oz and bream to 12 lb with multiple catches common. Mainline Cell or Activ-8 boilies appear best. Day tickets are £10 for up to two rods. Scott will put you on the fish on 07946 847703 or 01245 461651.



#### Orchard Place Farm Fishing Lakes, Paddock Wood, Kent.

On only his second trip to Orchard Place Farm Fishing Lakes **Gavin Kennedy** landed this 31 lb mirror carp in the late afternoon sun. This was followed by three other carp to 17 lb. He used Mainline Cell boilies. **Venue latest:** 01892 838576.



#### Castlewood Lake, near Horsham, West Sussex.

**Gary Garman** took his three-year-old lad **Kieren** to Castlewood Lake where the youngster caught his first ever fish. Gary himself managed a lovely dark olive PB 4 lb 2 oz tench. **Venue latest:** 01403 268396.



## WATMORE FARM FISHERIES, EVERSLEY CROSS, YATELEY, HAMPSHIRE

**DESCRIPTION.** This privately owned former gravel pit is so well kept and spotlessly clean you can fish it in your slippers! Family run and set in the rural village of Eversley Cross, the 28-peg mixed fishery suits anglers of all abilities. It's a mixed fishery with carp to 15 lb, odd bream to 4 lb but mainly skimmers, tench to 3 lb, roach to 2 lb and rudd to 1 lb 8 oz. It's a Caravan Club site too.

**TACTICS.** For carp try the pellet waggler with 8 mm pellets as hook bait over slightly smaller pellet feed or the Method feeder with a pellet or corn hook bait. General mixed catches to float fished maggots, caster,

bread, paste, chopped worm, corn or smaller pellet, fished over little but often loose feed. In the cold winter months straight legered corn is well worth a try for carp.

**GOOD SWIMS.** The two end pegs, 1 and 28 will give you acres of room to fish.

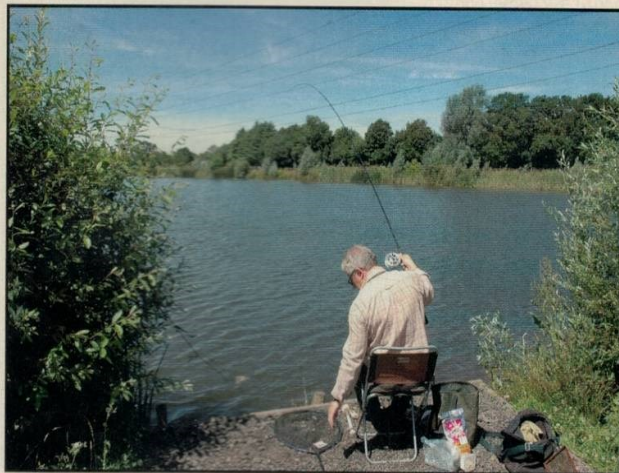
**TICKETS.** Adults £8, OAPs, registered disabled and under-16s £7. Evenings after 4pm are £4. All costs are for one rod, two rods are £10 for all categories. Under-12s must be adult accompanied. Tickets on the bank, they apply from 7am to dusk only. Disabled access. Barbless hooks only. No keepnets. Toilets.

Food outlets nearby. Tel: 07831 561155. Thames byelaws. Open all year.

**LOCAL TACKLE SHOP.** Yateley Angling Centre, Yateley, GU46 7UN. Tel: 01252 861955.

**LOCATION.** From Yateley continue on the B3272 Reading Road South to Eversley Cross. Turn right onto the B3016 Longwater Road and the fishery is on the left. Brown tourist signs are in operation.

**SAT NAV.** RG27 0NQ.



### TOP TIP

Try for fish in the margins later in the day.



## Tactical Briefing

### PUDDLEDOCK FARM FISHERY, UPMINSTER, ESSEX

**DESCRIPTION.** This well known, disabled friendly, commercial match, pleasure and specimen day ticket water boasts four waters to fish. Road Lake has carp to 17 lb, bream and tench to 4 lb, roach to 2 lb, rudd, brown goldfish and exotics. Islands Lake has carp to 18 lb. Wood Lake

has bigger carp, to 30 lb, but smaller fish as well. The Snake Lake is home to carp to 20 lb, bream and tench to 4 lb, chub to 3 lb, roach, crucians and brown goldfish to 2 lb plus rudd to 12 oz.

**TACTICS.** For the larger carp try legering boilies or any allowable carp tactic and bait on Wood Lake. On Islands bulk catches of carp to float fished pellet or corn over loose feed. It's much the same on The Snake

and Road Lake with float fished pellets or corn accounting for excellent mixed bags, again, keep feeding to keep the fish coming.

**GOOD SWIMS.** On The Snake try 1-10 or 45-51, anywhere can score well on the other lakes.

**TICKETS.** Adults £8, OAPs, registered disabled, under-16s and evening sessions are £5. Costs are for one rod, an extra rod is £3. Tickets on the bank, they apply from 7.30am to dusk. Disabled access. Barbless hooks only. No keepnets.

Café on-site. All enquiries: 07788 716837 or 07860 345693. Anglian Byelaws. Toilets. Open all year.

**LOCAL TACKLE SHOP.** Ockendon Bait and Tackle, Ockendon, RM15 5SQ. Tel: 01708 856455.

**LOCATION.** From J29, M25 take the A127 heading east. Turn left, then right, going over the A127, onto the B186 Warley Street. At the bottom turn right, still on the B186 St Mary's Lane and the fishery is on the left after 300 yards.

**SAT NAV.** RM14 3NX.



### TOP TIP

Leave your maggots and casters at home for this fishery, you will inevitably be 'bitted out'.





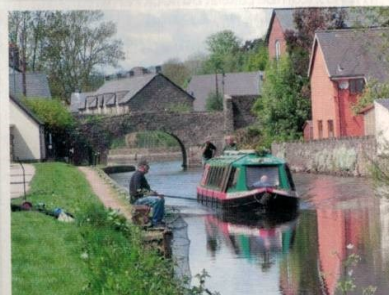


## A Tribute to Ron Cousins

This feature was one of Ron Cousins last reports  
Ron was the South Wales angling correspondence for the  
Anglers Mail and South Wales Echo. Some of the content  
may be out of date Please check with local clubs  
Ron passed away in 2012



Ron was ready for this chunky 3 lb chub after his first one gave him the slip by diving into snags.



The Dragonfly pleasure boat almost fills the canal, but the fish don't seem to mind!

# Brecon into canal sport

**T**HE Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal is absolutely full of fish. But the canal, which opened in 1799 during the Industrial Revolution, is today largely ignored by anglers.

Much of the canal runs through the Brecon Beacons National Park, following the valley of the River Usk, which supplies the water to the canal and makes it flow like the river itself.

Fortunately the go-ahead South Wales club Merthyr Tydfil AA has taken control of the two miles south from the basin, and shown just how good the fishing is with match weights over 50 lb from a water little more than 10 yards wide and a couple of feet deep.

I met up with MTAA secretary Tony Rees, the club's match secretary David Thomas and Welsh Federation of Coarse Anglers chairman Bernard Farr on the towpath just out of the basin, on a day when bright sunshine and clear water was sending out 'tough day' messages, but Bernard was confident, and pointed out shoals of dace along the far bank with some hefty chub weaving among them.

Even more surprising was when he told me the fish would respond best to a lot of groundbait and loose feed and demonstrated this by firing over some casters, which resulted in swirls and underwater flashes as fish chased the offerings.

Having seen the size of the chub, I set up two rigs on 4 lb nylon, both with thick tipped three No.8 floats. There was a size 16 for maggots and casters and a size 14 on the other to fish bread.

I cupped two balls of white crumb groundbait 10 yards across to the edge of the bushes into just over 2 ft of water, fired a pouch of maggots across, put one maggot on the hook and let the float to trot with the current.

It hadn't gone far when the tip disappeared; I lifted the pole and the first fish of the day, a chunky 6 oz dace, was in my hand.

By firing maggots before each put-in I soon had bites every time; some difficult to hit, others resulting in more good dace.

Bernard, fishing to my left, was also catching dace, but at one point I glanced around to see his elastic rushing my way and after quite a scrap he had a chub on the 4 lb mark in the net.

It wasn't long before he had another, so I decided to try bread and cupped in a couple more balls of groundbait before picking up the other rig.

The first few bites on the bread also resulted in dace and then I connected with a fish that almost pulled me off the box as it shot down the canal, before veering into the bushes and leaving me with a bunch of twigs on the hook.

I was ready for the next one, pulling back hard to do battle in the middle of the canal before getting a 3 lb chub into the net.

I soon had a second chub and was really getting into my stride when I had another surprise, because the pleasure boat "Dragonfly" operating from the canal basin was on its first trip of the day and when it passed me it almost filled the canal and I thought that would kill the fishing. How wrong can you be?

While I sat pondering, Bernard was back in action with another chub and when I put my own tackle back across it was a fish straight away.

A switch to maggot saw the dace coming again and I thought I was doing well until my wife Caroline, who had been snapping David 100 yards away where the canal widened before the basin, returned to report he was fishing a stick float and maggots with his pole and bagging up with roach, dace, chub and gudgeon.

She had also met up with another club member Steve Williams who reported 45 lb of roach and dace from his morning's fishing some quarter mile along the canal.

As we packed up all I could say was, "What a great canal!" And it is brilliant fishing at a bargain price - just £3 a day. And an even bigger bargain is the MTAA canal permit at just £15 for the year!



For many of us, going on a 'social' involves catching very little – instead the focus is on chilling out with friends. But, on a trip to an East Anglia gravel pit, James Champkin managed to not only catch up with a couple of old mates, but also take a scintillating haul of roach, landing fish of 3lb 10oz, 2lb 15oz, and 2lb 13oz.



Little did he know that this 16lb zander, measuring 86cm, would smash his 13cm shad just as the light was fading. He'd cast to a spot where he'd seen some fizzing, given the lure two 'hops', before it was smashed by a powerful fish.

With his clutch set tight, Calogero was towed upstream, with the fish stripping line and his rod tip hooped over, touching the water, before finally landing the fish.

Well done  
Calogero



In an time where bolt-rigs and boilies are one of the more common tactics to use whilst targeting big chub, it's nice to see that traditional tactics can still outwit the largest of fish, as Hertfordshire angler Roy Jones proved with this 8lb chub. He was fishing the River Thames, and used a lump of breadflake as bait, which he allowed to bounce around the swim using a light link leger. For feed, he introduced mashed bread, which he introduced regularly to keep a trickle of feed going through the swim.

After fishing a little while he had one tap on his quivertip before it slowly pulled round. Hitting into the fish, it didn't put up much of a fight initially, but it suddenly woke up as it neared the bank.

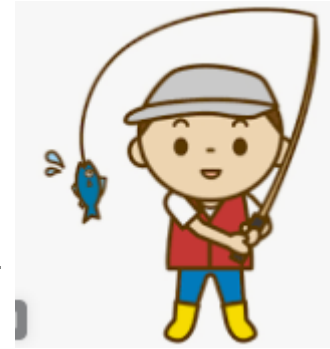
Thankfully, Roy's size 8 hook and 5lb line held, and he landed the chub that smacked his scales straight round to 8lb.

Well done Roy!

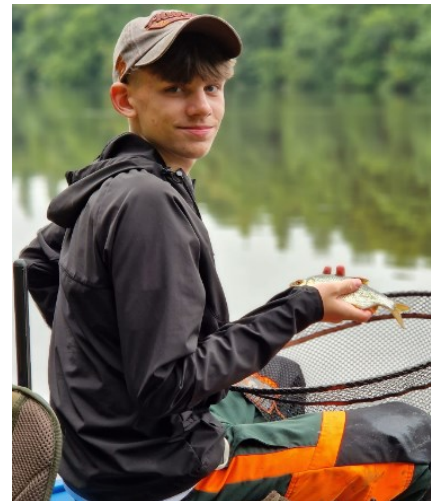




# Junior Page



**Brought to you by Top Cast Angling Junior and youth Angling Community UK Facebook group.** Some favourite photos of 2023. My Samsung takes incredible pictures that are so clear, especially in Portrait mode. I think these photos capture, not only the memory, but the joy and happiness of these young anglers and there quarry. Absolutely fantastic



# APPLICATIONS OPEN FOR GURU TEAM ENGLAND U15 TALENT PATHWAY!

Spaces are limited to just 40 anglers on the Talent Pathway this time and the successful applicants will go through three intense, full-day sessions under the watchful eye of some of the best anglers and coaches in the world.



All three sessions will take place at the prolific Makins Fishery, with the final session being the all-important assessment day where the squad for Serbia will be selected.

“Once again we’re running one pathway centrally located in the Midlands so everyone can be coached and assessed by the whole of the coaching staff,” revealed Guru England U15 coach and triple World Youth Champion Matt Godfrey.

Matt will join with England U15 Manager Joe Roberts, Angling Trust coach Danny Williamson, plus England internationals Frankie Gianoncelli and James Dent on the bank for each session, with support from other top anglers.

The coaching staff are looking for just six anglers who have that next-level attitude and ability.

More details from [Angling Trust Website](#)

“Success at World level isn’t just about being talented on the bank, it’s also about listening and learning, incredible attention to detail, practicing tactics which may be unfamiliar, and the commitment to the highest-level prep of your gear.

“English anglers can sometime be accused of a softer approach to matches when compared to our continental counterparts and we want to be able to select those anglers who have the right attitude and mentality and are prepared to be bold and go for it,” added Matt.

Are you good enough to fish for Team England? The Angling Trust and Tackle Guru are on the lookout for the nation’s best young anglers to take part in the 2024 Talent Pathway – with places in the England U15 World Champs squad up for grabs.

Applications are now open for talented boys and girls between 10 and 15 years of age keen to take their fishing to the next level and earn the right to wear the Three Lions at the World Youth Championships in Serbia next August.

## **TALENT PATHWAY 2023 DATES**

The 2024 England U15 Talent Pathway has been brought forward in the calendar to give the coaching staff more time with those anglers selected to fish for England at the World Championships in Serbia from August 4 to 12, 2024. The sessions will take place on:

Saturday March 16, 2024 – Coaching session 1 – Makins Fishery

Saturday March 30, 2024 – Coaching session 2 – Makins Fishery

Saturday April 6, 2024 – Final assessment – Makins Fishery

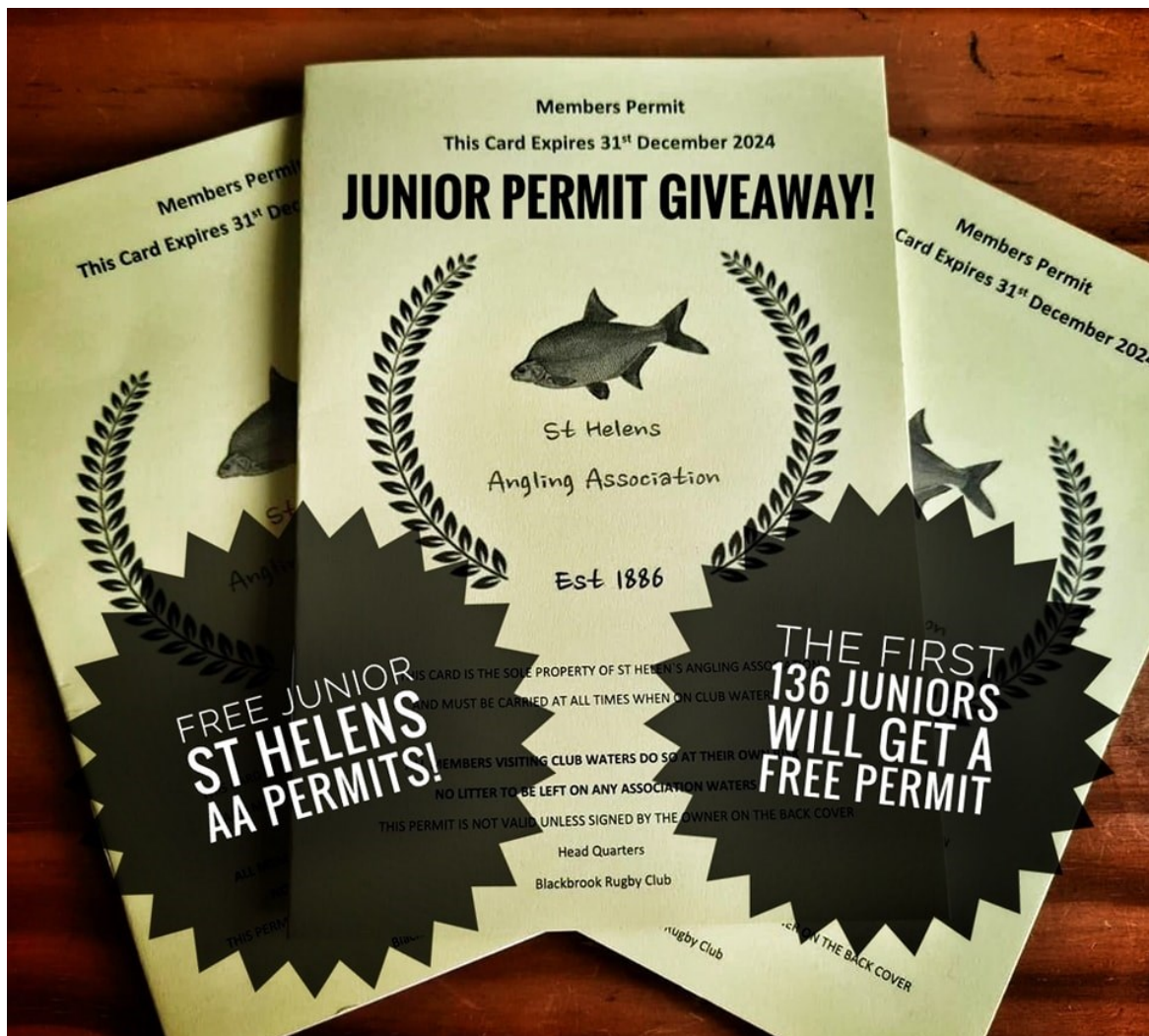
## **HOW TO APPLY**

The Talent Pathway is open to all anglers over 10 years old and under the age of 15 on December 31, 2023. More details on the requirements needed and an online application form can be found here:

<https://anglingtrust.net/our-competitions/team-england/england-talent-pathway/coarse-talent-pathway/>

Deadline for entries is Friday January 26, 2024.





## **FREE JUNIOR PERMITS!**

On the back of our Christmas Match, the Christmas Raffle and Chris Weeder's coaching day raffle, we have just purchased 136 Junior St Helen's Angling Association Permits, which are available for free to collect from St Helens Tackle and Bait.

The first 136 Juniors will get a free permit, that will allow them to fish all St Helen's AA waters for free until the 31st December 2024!

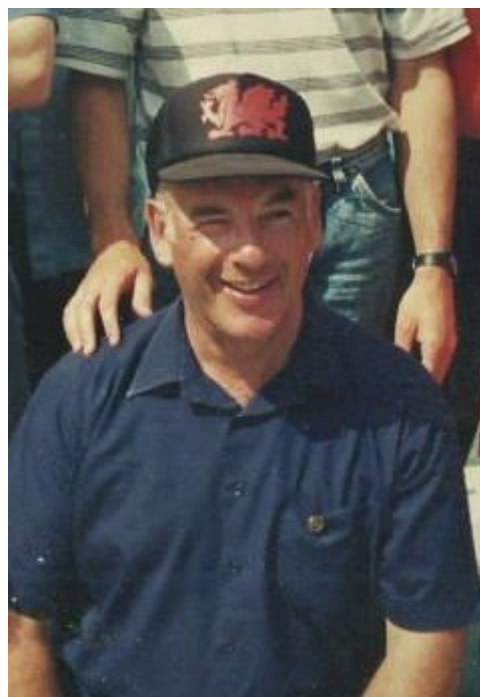
Simply pop down the shop, leave your details, and collect your  
**FREE JUNIOR PERMIT!** 👍

A massive thank you to all the anglers who took part in the match, and not forgetting everyone who bought a raffle ticket, and people who donated a prize towards the raffle, we couldn't have done this without you. 🥰

Also a massive thank you to Tackle Guru, Fish Matrix, Peg No1, Preston Innovations and Sunnyside Bait on gifting prizes to the raffle. 👍

Sad News that John Mayers the former Manager of the Winning Welsh Team of 1989 has just passed away. John The best and most successful Welsh Team Manager John who hailed from Pontypool in South Wales moved to Hereford with his job at Sun Valley. He was an active angler in his day, but most of all he was a great organizer of fishing events. He became head of the Welsh Federation of Anglers back in 1980 and in the next year 1981 had the insight to take a Welsh team into the C.I.P.S World Championships. On his first attempt he managed to steer the Welsh team into 3rd bronze position on the Warwickshire Avon at Ludington.

It took another eight years for John to accomplish his best ever and the World Championship Gold medal position. During his short 9 year reign as manager he helped to conjure 1 Bronze team medal 2 Bronze individual medal with Richy Bainton and Phill Davies. 1 Silver and 1 Gold medals with Clive Branson and the converted Team Gold in Bulgaria 1989. As well as keeping Wales in the top 10 standings with a 6th and a 4th. Our thoughts are with John and his family. R.I.P



Celebrating the Team Gold



Singing the Welsh Anthem





# Tribute to Colin Golding

A sad ending to 2023 with passing of Colin Golding aged 87 on New Years Eve.

Colin Golding Born 21<sup>st</sup> November 1936 in 24 Queens Road, Kingswood Bristol, and still lived there until his passing.

Colin did an Engineering Apprenticeship, becoming a Draughtsman specialising in detail Gear design. This occupation required mathematic dexterity and hand printing skills, which Colin has in abundance - Never made a mistake in calculating the pools. Colin spent the majority of his working life at Rolls Royce Engines at Patchway, Bristol. Colin had a fall out with management about promotion and went on strike, as he reminded us on a good few occasions he is technically still on strike after some 40 years.



We often use the word Angling Legend lightly. However, in Colin's case this without doubt applies. Colin is a Legend in Match Angling not only in the South West but is also well respected throughout Anglings fraternity.

Colin was coached and encouraged by his father George both fishing for the local club Adults AA. Father and son are renowned for their post match arguments over how badly each other fished. Colin won his first senior open match at the tender age of 15 after previously winning the Adults AA Juvenile cup a few times.



In 1956 at the age of 19 having qualified for the Bristol and West All England Team Colin was elected team Captain. A big honour back then as it was hard enough to qualify for the team. The team finished 26<sup>th</sup> out of 94 teams taking place on the River Witham. It was during the 1964 National Championship representing the Bristol and West fished on the river Severn that Colin caught 500 Bleak for 14lb 6 ½ oz for 5<sup>th</sup> overall out of 1,284 competing anglers. Catching these small fish was a skill Colin had honed catching Dace on the Bristol Avon.

Colin was the most consistent angler in the South West for 17 years. Regularly winning and framing on a majority of venues, especially the Bristol Avon and River Huntspill. Colin Captained the Golden Carp AA South West Winter League Team which regularly won the league to take on national team winners in the finals held in Ireland.

The pinnacle of Colin's angling career came in 1973 when he was selected to represent his country in the World Championship to be fished on a Lake in Chalon-Sur-Saone France on July 22<sup>nd</sup>. The final team of five to fish was picked the day before the match and unfortunately Colin ended up as Reserve. On his return Colin having been on "Strike" started work with an agency and low and behold he arrived in the next drawing office to my design office. Just a few of Colin's achievements: England Cap France - Gladding Masters final – Woodbine Final Denmark – AT Winter League Finals Ireland.

## My Tribute:

As a young angler I often fished matches on the Bristol Avon and Colin was always in the frame, I remember his hair was always full of chrysoidine dye A great angler and would pass on information when asked. No wonder he represented England in the World Championships R.I.P Colin a great ambassador for the West Country

# Clive Roberts Memoirs

*Editorial By Clive Branson*

Most anglers when they first start fishing often befriend someone who share the same interest and experiences and become good friends. Clive Roberts is such a person.

I first met Clive when we were both budding match anglers, fishing our local match scene on the local South Wales circuit, I remember Clive Roberts as a young lad who was very competitive during our junior years and often shared the junior prizes. We became such good friends that Clive and I when we were of age started to travel together regular on many fishing events. Both joining the local match club Cardiff Nomads.



Clive was a natural angler who loved his sport and would put a lot of time and effort into his fishing. So much so that he would dominate many junior competitions and when of age in his teens and early 20s became one of the most successful anglers in the South Wales circuit. Often we would travel around the South Wales and South West circuit together. Clive, not only a natural gifted angler but also very matriculate in keeping match fishing records, going back to an early age.

When I wrote my autobiography a couple of years ago I would often ask Clive for some informational facts as I knew he kept them recorded, and without his help I would not have completed my book. When I approached Clive and asked if he would consider writing his own autobiography and memories for this magazine, he did not hesitate, and I am eternally grateful because I know he has over 60 plus years of goldmine information to pass on.

I hope, just as myself, that you the reader will become engrossed in what he has to say over the next few chapters, maybe not just a history lesson but sound good advice for future references.

## **In his own words;**

The early years: I started fishing when I was 11 years of age, and thanks to my cousin John Drew. He took me to a place called St-y-Nyll ponds, situated in the vale of Glamorgan., upon catching a couple of Perch I was hooked to fishing, and couldn't wait until the next time. At the tender age of 11 I joined the Glamorgan Anglers Club who at the time had a good local match calendar, unlike today where most clubs are now commercialised and often discourage match fishing.

My first match as a youngster in 1967 was a club open held at Barry Reservoir, also in the vale of Glamorgan. A reed surrounded pond full of Tench and Rudd. After picking my peg I found that I had a long walk, only to start fishing an hour late. Nevertheless I went on and won the junior section prize with 2 Tench and a small bag of Rudd, weighing in 7lb 13oz and my first ever money pickup of 2 shillings and 6 pence. In today's money that would be about £5

In the early days of my match fishing career the focus was around East and West Dock of Cardiff, and also a place close to where I lived called Roath Park.. All these venues were predominantly roach venues.

In 1966 the River Severn Bridge crossing was built, this opened up travel from South Wales to the West country and venues such as the Bristol Avon and the Huntspill drain became not only affordable but also accessible to Welsh anglers. My first sortie to the West country was in 1969 and the venue was the Bristol Avon at a place called Limpley Stoke where I managed to catch 1lb of Gudgeon. During that year I fished my first match on the River Wye and remember catching lots of 1lb Roach, then a week later I blanked on the same venue.

During this period I also fished my first ever match on the River Taff in Cardiff and managed to catch a massive 33lb of roach setting a new river record, and best of all winning 2 pounds 8 shillings, remembering that 20lb of roach was a great weight anywhere in the country at that time. After winning this competition I was noticed by the local newly formed match squad "Cardiff Nomads" who approached me and offered me a place in the team. At just 14 years old I was the youngest ever member.

My first match for the Nomads was also in the same period on Cardiff East dock where I unfortunately blanked, however it was a learning curve for me and the tactics of ledgering was new to me. I knew then that I had to get a new type of rod called a quiver tip, this made seeing the bites much easier.

In 1969 the River Taff had become a major open match venue, and often we would get match anglers from as far as field as Manchester and from Bristol coming to taste the great roach fishing that the river had to offer. A certain Kevin Ashurst was one, and after drawing my peg I decided to go and watch this legend of fishing. This was the first time I ever saw a tray full of casters, something we never used in those days only the ones in our sawdust mixed along with our maggots, and then we would normally discard them. This was a revelation by the mid-land match anglers and needless to say Kevin went on and won the match with 16lb of Roach, ever since those day I became a big fan and a fanatic with the caster bait, and even 60 years later I will always have casters in my bag.



These early matches on our local river certainly taught us a lot, I remember an angler called Alan Troman who hailed from Kidderminster come to the river one day, and before he started the match, he would dig out a nest of wasps that were living in the banksides of the river, and duly fished with the grubs and upon doing so caught 4 huge chub that we never knew were living in the river at that time. Followed by another method foreign to us at the time, he pulled out a split cane pole and then went on to catch roach and win the match.

Those were great days, uncomplicated straight forward catch as much as you can, wicker baskets, fibreglass rods, white and brown bread crumb groundbait, 2 banksticks and a keepnet dipped in linseed oil to help prevent them from rotting. No fishing for points in them days, while carbon rods and poles had yet to arrive.

During the early sixties the Angling Times winter league was the biggest match angling event on the calendar, and the winners from each area of the country would meet up and fish a final match in Ireland on the Erne system. The Winter leagues was in full swing across the country and well attendant, thousands of anglers participating. In our local circuit the team to beat were Rumney AA and they could field a very strong team of 12.



They reached the final of the Angling Times Winter league finals 1966 and won the event.

Nomads at the time were still a new team and it took us another few years to emulate our rivals. However in 1968 my team Cardiff Nomads achieved the same and won the final event on the flooded River Erne with just a total weight of 14lb. During this period the Irish Erne system was just being dominated by roach, up until then it was bream.

**Team : top left to right**

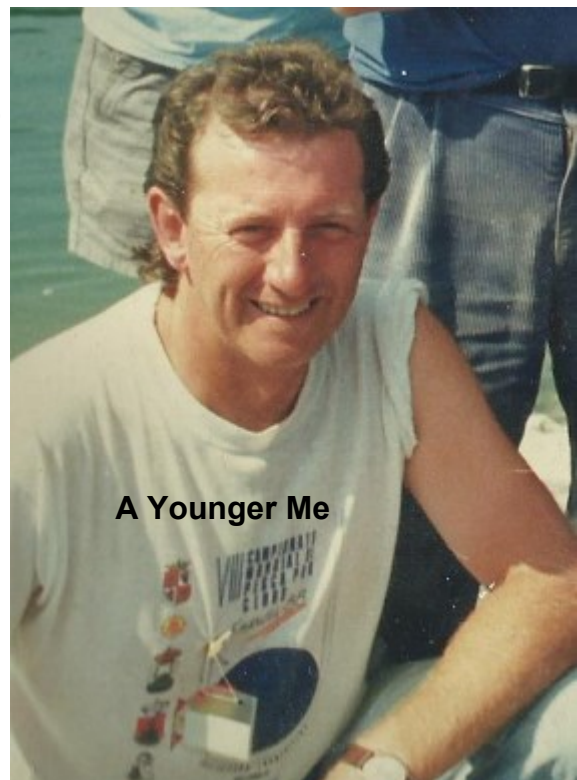
Gary Evans, Tony James, Richy Bainton, Ron More, Bus driver, Larry Powel, Me Clive Roberts, Fred McNally

**Bottom:** Henry Brown, Roy Woodfield, Gerry Bailey, Richy Candy, Brian Gibbons



July 1968 will go down as a turning point in Welsh Match fishing history, a match on the River Taff Produced a new open match record with 36lb of roach for fellow Nomad member Richy Bainton. Unfortunately this was the last match held on this once great river as a cyanide pollution whipped out all living things by a manufacturing company called Liners, at a place called Treforest which was 5 miles upstream of Cardiff. They emptied into the Taff system a pollutant that not only wiped out the river but all the adjoining venues that included East and West Dock, the Taff feeder stream where we enjoyed many matches.

All we were left to fish was the Roath Park Cardiff Lake and then the excursions to the Bristol Avon. As a keen match angler I would often catch a train from Cardiff Central to Temple Meads and than a taxi to the crane on the Avon at Keynsham. These matches were now I consider the learning years. Fishing deep slow waters was all new to me, and something I had to learn. At this time my introduction to groundbait and maggot catapults. Were new to me, the only other place I knew of catapults being used was by a London match angler called Ray Mumford. Used mainly I believed on the River Thames. Until then most bait and groundbait was thrown into the swim by Hand



**A Younger Me**

Come back for the next episode of my Match Fishing Memories .....



# SECRET LIVES of fish



**Dr Ian Welch**

BSc (hons) Freshwater Biology, MSc  
Applied Hydrobiology, PhD Aquatic biology

**New Feature  
Secret Lives  
Of Fish**

## The making of monsters

### Why do some fish grow bigger than others?

**A**LTHOUGH big is not always best, there is undoubtedly something special about catching a big fish, and as an angler, most of my time has been spent in the pursuit of monsters. But just why do some fish get bigger than others? What is the science behind a PB or a British record?

As with most fishery science, there is no simple answer, and the leviathans of the piscine world are created by a number of different, yet inter-related, environmental factors.

#### Genetic heritage

Just as we inherit characteristics from our parents, from physical features such as eye and hair colour to the likelihood of contracting various diseases, so it is with fish. This is, perhaps, most readily seen in the differing carp strains, which exhibit huge variations in weight-to-length ratios – a fact that fish breeders have long exploited to produce carp to suit differing angling requirements.

It is, however, not just relevant to carp, as the parenthood of all fish, and the environment in which the parent fish lived, is key to the production of the fry that will ultimately survive and grow on to be specimens.

#### Eggs, larvae and early development

Young, healthy parent fish living in high-quality water produce a higher quality and greater number of viable eggs than older or diseased fish, or fish living in a poor quality environment. In addition, warm summer and autumn temperatures producing good feeding in the season preceding egg production means that the female parent is able to recover quickly from spawning and channel more energy into production of eggs the following spring.

Eggs produced as a consequence of this tend to have a much higher percentage of yolk than eggs produced following a poor feeding season. Big eggs,

■ Ferry Lagoon in Cambridgeshire is the perfect place for bream to grow big. The current British record 22 lb 11 oz bream was caught from the stillwater in 2012.



■ Eggs from healthy parents laid in the spring following a long and successful feeding the previous summer and autumn are equipped to be future giants.

with a larger, nutritious yolk to sustain the early development in those vital first days of life, result in bigger fry, which grow quickly and strongly, making them better

suited to evading predation, and to withstanding adverse environmental conditions.

Once they have consumed their yolk sac, hatched larvae

are entirely dependent upon the productivity of the environment for their development. The size of the fry limits the size of the food items that they are able to eat. The bigger the larvae and the quicker they are able to grow, the quicker they are able to move onto larger, more nutritious food items.

#### Aquatic productivity

The rate of development of the fry through to adulthood is then influenced by a range of different environmental factors, all of them important in determining how successfully the fish will grow. These include: food availability, temperature, water quality, the physical environment, interactions with other fish and interactions with man.

The availability of food in any water is governed by a large number of diverse factors,



such as water temperature, fish biomass, water quality and habitat diversity. For an individual fish to grow to its full potential, there needs to be enough food present, and food of a sufficiently high quality that it can feed continuously as it develops. Temperature is the single most important factor here, and it not only contributes to food availability, but also to the length of the growing season.

Extended growing seasons, as a consequence of a warm early spring and a mild autumn and winter, mean that fish are able

**“It is often said that fish thrive on neglect, and there is a huge amount of evidence to suggest that this is indeed the case.”**

to remain active and to feed for longer. Global warming suggests that we are tending towards warmer, wetter winters in the UK as a whole, but there are considerable local differences that mean some waters remain warmer than others, too.

There is also a significant north/south divide that often means fish in southern waters start to feed earlier in the spring, and continue feeding later in the winter than fish in more northerly counties.

Water quality influences aquatic productivity, too, and any factors that restrict food availability or stress the fish will result in suppressed, rather than optimum, growth. These factors include oxygen concentration, the presence of suspended solids and pollutants.

Stress and competition due to interactions with other fish, both of the same and other species, also exerts an influence on growth, with a huge density-dependent relationship. In other words, for a fish to maximise its growth, there needs to be a low biomass of other fish species, and this appears to be irrespective of food availability. More fish, even with plenty of food, will still usually mean a slight suppression of growth.

### **The presence of man**

Finally, there is the presence of man!

It is often said that fish thrive on neglect, and there is a huge amount of evidence to suggest that this is indeed the case. Over-zealous fishery management and angling pressure impact upon the growth of fish in many ways and, although supplemental feeding via anglers' baits may have a positive influence in some circumstances, it is a very finely balanced equation.

There are, of course, many exceptions – the huge potential for giant perch in otherwise overcrowded commercial pools was one that I was quick to discover – but if you are looking for the perfect big fish water, the chances are it will be a relatively natural one with a low stock density, it will be lightly fished, have an exceptionally high quality of water, a diverse range of habitats and be in the southern half of the country.



■ Future giants? A range of different environmental factors influences how big fish grow.



## A Journey Back in Time: Angling Adventures of 1952

Welcome to a treasured archive of Angling News magazine from the year 1952, a time when the art of angling was not just a pastime but a way of life for many enthusiasts. As we leaf through the pages of this vintage publication, we find ourselves immersed in an era where the pursuit of the perfect catch was more than just a weekend activity—it was a cultural phenomenon.

In 1952, the world was undergoing significant changes, and amidst the post-war recovery, anglers sought solace and joy in the serene waters, casting their lines into rivers, lakes, and coastal shores. Angling News, with its distinctive sepia-toned pages and eloquent prose, served as the beacon guiding fishing aficionados through the latest techniques, gear innovations, and tales of noteworthy catches. (Soon to be Released full Book)

Join us on this captivating journey each month as we explore the angling stories that graced the pages of Angling News in 1952. From the timeless charm of fishing narratives to the quaint advertisements showcasing state-of-the-art fishing gear of the time, each article and image encapsulates the spirit of an era where the thrill of the catch was intertwined with the spirit of adventure.

So, buckle up your waders, grab your vintage tackle box, and let us cast our lines into the nostalgic waters of Angling News 1952—a time when every angler's dream was a tug on the line and the anticipation of a remarkable fish tale to share.



### A Typical 1951 Advert

<p><b>"MAKE YOUR OWN MATCH RODS"</b> In Spanish-reed or Light Jap Cane. Ferruled or Ferruleless Kits. Complete kits. Spanish-reed, G-Heart Spliced Tops, 12 ft., £1.15.0. 14 ft., £2.0.0. Jap Cane, 12 ft., £1.7.6. 13 ft., £1.10.6. G-Heart or Lance-Wood Tops. Built Cane Tops, 15/- extra. Carriage 2/-. Deposit on Packing Case 10/- (Returnable) <b>DELL, 19, Oliver Road, New Malden, Surrey</b></p>	<p><b>MUCILIN</b> The finest preparation in the World for making Lines and Flies to Float Regd. SOLID for LINES, LIQUID for FLIES, CLEAN &amp; EASY to USE Each of these preparations may be had from most Tackle Dealers <b>THOMAS ASPINALL LIMITED, CARLTON CHEMICAL WORKS</b> Reg. Office: Bank Street, BOLTON</p>
<p><b>CARTERS</b> For Pike Spinning Balts, and Angling Requisites of every description. Agents for "Platil" Nylon <b>11 SOUTH MOLTON STREET, BOND STREET, W.1.</b> Mayfair 0550. Est. 200 Years.</p>	<p><b>A FORM OF AGREEMENT</b> For Renting and/or Letting of all Sporting and Fishing rights 2/6 Post Free from the Publishers "THE ANGLER'S NEWS," 29, Old Bond Street, London, W.1</p>
<p><b>FOR FINE FISHING USE -</b> <b>MILBRO TACKLE</b> The "Mitchell" fixed-spool threadline reel, distributed by the makers of the famous "Milbro" tackle is suitable for roach and trout or pike and salmon. Expertly made. Smooth precision. Two interchangeable spools. Automatic level wind. Price £7.7.0, inc. P. Tax. See it at your local tackle shop. Wholesale only - <b>MILLARD BROTHERS LTD.,</b> 467, Caledonian Rd., London, N.7. Telephone: NORTH 2437 Factory: Diana Works, Carfin, Lanarkshire. Also at Glasgow, Manchester and Belfast.</p>	<p><b>UNIQUE OUT-OF-SEASON</b> <b>Special Bargain Offer</b> <b>SPANISH REED MATCH RODS</b> <b>£3.19.6</b> PLUS POST AND PACKING (2/6) REDDITCH MADE, EACH ROD CARRIES HILLWARD'S 12 MONTHS' GUARANTEE. SPECIFICATION 12 ft. (3 piece) Lightweight Spanish Reed, Spliced built Cane top, Full Stand-off Rings, Bung Cork Handle, (24 ins.) Rubber Button, Dural Fittings, Tip Action. ★THIS SPECIAL OFFER WILL REMAIN IN FORCE UNTIL JUNE 15th, 1952 ONLY <b>HILLWARDS of BIRMINGHAM</b> 343 COVENTRY ROAD, SMALL HEATH BIRMINGHAM, 10.</p>

# IT DEPENDS ON THE SWIM

by ... PETER MICHAEL

**L**EAVING aside the quality of the sport it yields and other purely piscatorial considerations, does the appearance of a swim matter? Does environment in general—the setting in which he fishes—influence the angler to any appreciable extent in his choice of a swim?

Without doubt, some sportsmen will aver that nothing matters provided the fishing is good—that, to the keen fishermen, the only really worthwhile thing, the thing that matters most, is the sport he obtains. Whether he finds himself stationed opposite a blank wall or plying his rod but a stone's throw from the gas-works, makes no odds at all, so long as the quarry is co-operative, the fun fast and furious, the thrills following one upon the other. Indeed, many an angler is satisfied enough, these days, if he can watch a float or flick a fly in any convenient piece of water; for while there are a great many devotees of the sport, there are, alas all too few fishable waters, and some of these are uncomfortably crowded.

There is much to be said, in fishing as in every other thing, for considering all points of view. And I suppose it is true of all of us that, when we become absorbed in watching nibbles, in striking willing fish or playing them, we forget our surroundings and are aware only that we are pitting our skill and wits against a worthy adversary. But what of the spells in between, or the indifferent days, when sport is not so fast and there is time to muse or reflect, to look round us and take stock of the aspect generally? It is then that shortcomings of a drab swim become rather more evident. Our chosen swim may be revealed, all too starkly, as an uninteresting or not very attractive one; dull or sombre, perhaps, colourless or lacking most of the accepted aids to rustic or scenic beauty.

## MENTAL RELAXATION

A lot depends, of course, on one's philosophy, and one's outlook. Some anglers are concerned merely to catch fish; that, to their mind, is the be-all and end-all of angling. Just where they catch their fish does not matter—though they may be most meticulous in the matter of method or tackle. Others (you may count me among them) find essentially, in fishing, full relaxation if not supreme escapism—a means, pre-eminent, unchallenged, of casting off the shackles of complex modern life; of freeing themselves, if only for an all too brief period, from the worries, the burdens and perplexities, of a daily round which has become irrevocably linked with mental stresses and psychological strains, form-filling and regimentation. That is why, increasingly, tranquillity and quietude exercise so strong an appeal—why an hour or two at the waterside may do the harassed human more good than any number of more conventional prescriptions.

I must confess that I know of many swims, reckoned good so far as sport itself is concerned, which I would, nevertheless, gladly surrender in favour of the next chap. The fish they harbour may be every bit as

dour as, no less spirited than, their fellows in more congenial haunts—yet there is much to be said for catching the best fish in the best places. If "a change is as good . . ." then let it be the whole thing, for nothing can better it: let our spirits soar the higher along with full emancipation, however transient, from care and worry, boredom or mental wear and tear.



*If one can fish among pleasant surroundings, a blank day will not seem so disappointing.*

Leave bricks and mortar behind, and let smoke and grime be, for the nonce, but vague memories: transcending all else, the beauty and rich serenity of a rippling stream, a placid corner in a weed-fringed lake, a quiet backwater a thousand miles removed from the din and stench of the city, beckons imperiously, more mystically compelling, to the mind of the solitary angler, than any of the seven wonders.

Recalling some of my well-loved swims, I cannot help but feel that I cherish these for their beauty and quiet serenity no less than by reason of the sport they offer. There is, for one, that secluded pool where the stream spreads out gratefully as though glad to be released from the thralldom imposed by the densely serried trees and shrubs that hem and overhang it in the reach immediately above, where it is so constricted that in part it seems almost to vanish. With glad song it surges from the imprisoning buttresses of vegetation, to broaden into a deep pool split by the main current and lesser eddies.

## A RESTFUL PLACE

Well down, among the submerged limbs of a tree fallen or felled long before I first set eyes on the place, dwell the perch for which—primarily, at any rate—I fish this attractive swim: vigorous hard-fighting perch which run to fair size but seem to be possessed of uncommon craftiness in keeping with the unrevealing taciturnity of the still depths.

Surely few places could be more restful, more refreshing—spiritually as well as physically—than this one. Here, on a hot summer's day, indeed, I care little whether

I fish or merely laze, like the discerning surgeon in a certain delightful angling book. The benign sun filters through a tracery of brightest green that is the tangle of bushes and trees and sedges on the farther bank: swallows and martins swoop dexterously to snick insects from the surface almost under my nose: sometimes sport is good, again it may be indifferent or even downright poor: withal, I never tire of fishing in this restful and secluded place.

## SENSE OF FREEDOM

Again the same charming stream—this time a pleasant glide where silvery, stream-lined dace take the place of perch and deputise most worthily: where the clear, sparkling shallows seem as cool water on a hot and tired face. The stream travels fast through one arch of overhanging vegetation, traverses this long, straight glide, and, gurgling its half-choked protest, passes under another natural arch at the end of the shallows, where yellow sand and well-scoured pebbles throw back the light of the sun. One feels—as, seemingly, does the stream—in this clean-cut open space, a sense of freedom; even the fish, lively and dashing, seem to be imbued with the same reckless, daring spirit, their acceptance of a lure being lightning-swift, their opposition when hooked of a determined type. A swim that I love to revisit whenever I can, whatever the season: in its moods capricious, yet never lacking subtle attraction and endearing charm.

Once again, a pool—this time, in still water. Strangely enough, I have taken few really worthwhile fish from this particular well-loved swim, yet I would gladly fish it at almost any time rather than engage ready takers in certain less attractive ones.

(In any event I have my excuse—if such be needed—for it is the sort of pool in which there is always a chance of connecting with a good-sized jack.) It may be that its allure is mostly intangible; yet, as I see this, the most placid of pools, and even excluding the tranquil water itself, it derives much beauty and colour from the background of tall trees massed in grandeur and dignity, the tall reeds and yellow iris on almost every side, the graceful willows that trail their drooping branches into the water.

And so many other favourite haunts which likewise exercise their own peculiar fascination for an angler who loves peace and plumps for solitude. A canal swim which appeals primarily, perhaps, because it was one of the first I ever fished, and which is studded with islands of luxuriant vegetation where dragon-flies settle like so many brilliant jewels, lagoons where waterfowl forage among the golden brandy-bottles. In the warm sunshine, the pungent aroma of water-mint mingles headily with the subtle scent of the pines: so that, whenever I recall that pleasant place, those characteristic odours seem to be present once again.

And yet another canal swim, in an even less frequented stretch, where, during the coarse-fish close season, I have leaned over the low bank, with its profusion of water-side flowers, to watch portly, slab-sided tench in shoals weaving the muddy trails that tell of courtship and spawning; and have found those same gold-tinged fish singularly elusive from mid-June onwards.

That sleepy little backwater, too, opening

(Continued on page 178, col. 3)



## THOSE WERE THE DAYS

by . . . FADDIST

**H**UMAN nature being what it is, recollections of triumphs cancelling out recollections of trials, the old days inevitably are the good old days, the past is the palmy past. Then, surely, pellucid waters held fish in abundance and there were few to fish for them.

There is, of course, always something to be said for the past and no doubt well-to-do old-timers, men of means and leisure, had precious little to grumble about, but the main body of anglers was not so fortunate. The more favoured anglers had some advantages which now we cannot hope to enjoy—a sufficiency of elbow-room was one of them and no Purchase Tax another!—but, on the other hand, present-day anglers generally have advantages not enjoyed by the old-timers. There is little point in delving into the advantages of the past—the past is dead—but when we come to present-day advantages the position is different.

Most important of these modern advantages probably is that of available leisure. Obviously men had not overmuch time to fish when they worked six days a week, and long days at that. If I remember aright, the "Trent Otter," instancing the keenness of some of these men, once mentioned certain Sheffields leaving their work on Saturday afternoons, walking ten to twelve miles to a riverside inn, sleeping rough in barn, or hayloft, fishing from early Sunday morning, and walking back to Sheffield on the Sunday evening. Yes, those were hard days for many, days of little leisure and limited fishing opportunities. The present five to five-and-a-half day working week has altered all that, the only sufferers being the fish.

An almost equally important present day advantage is that of mobility, for which anglers have to thank the bicycle and the internal combustion engine. Distance represented difficulty in the old days. Distance now is no deterrent.

Then there are the pleasures, the very real pleasures, of handling fish on modern tackle. Admittedly some of the old-timers used fine tackle but generally they did not. In the main outfits were relatively cumbersome, sometimes nothing less than fearsome. The material in one of their rods would be more than sufficient for a couple of our rods; and reels have been improved out of all knowledge, the like remark applying to lesser tackle items. No, clearly the moderns have it on this count. Harking back for a moment to "fearsome" rods, I remember reading of some old barbel fishermen who made their own one-piece rods of hickory or lancewood, the main requirement being that they should be immensely strong; their rods, plus plate-sized reels, weighing over 4 lb. apiece!

### INCREASED RECORDS

Other things apart, nowadays outsize fish appear to be more common than of yore—one has only to notice how the records are from time to time stepped up, the increased numbers of roach over 2 lb. recorded, etc., to appreciate this—the evils of pollution are being fought (with the A.C.A. in the van), poaching is less prevalent, and fish preservation and re-stocking are receiving increasingly widespread attention.

Penultimately, and less seriously, the angler no longer faces personal attack—apart, possibly from the odd bull—on his lawful occasions. This sort of thing, for example: "There is a rule, or law, practised particularly by those who fish in the Lee,

which is that of waiting for any of their party that may drop in the rear. One of a party loitered behind and his absence was not discovered till they had travelled a considerable way. They called him by name, but received no answer. Alarmed for his safety, they retraced their steps and, to their horror, they found him quite dead, with his throat cut from ear to ear. Since this lamentable occurrence, if an angler has occasion to stop, he has only to call out the word "Law" and the whole party wait until it is convenient to continue the journey." (London Angler's Book (1834)—John Badderley.)

A last point. One is apt to imagine that in the old days waters generally were clean and clear and that pollution is a relatively modern affliction largely caused by industrialisation. This was not always so. Almost by chance, recently, I discovered a slim volume on "The River Lee," by Major Lamorock Flower, which certainly undecives one as to the position in the early eighteen hundreds, so far as Walton's river was concerned at any rate. Major Flower, one-time sanitary engineer to the Lee Conservancy Board, knew what he was talking about. Listen to what he says: "It (the Lee) has been termed 'practically an elongated sewer, from its rise in the County of Bedford, and its course thence to Barking.' A modern poet writes:

'Tis but a narrow unclean ditch at best,  
Where murdered dogs and cats are left to rest.

*Punch* wrote, in 1885, when, verily, the news of the alleged foul condition of the River Lee was, to say the least of it, 'the talk of the town';

"They said, as they roved on the river's foul bank,  
Were there ever three odours so foetid and rank—  
The three bad smells of Lee."

It makes good reading, and redounds to the credit of the then riparian owners in the higher reaches of the Lee, that following Major Flower's persuasive, rather than legal, approaches to them, not infrequently they had matters righted, sometimes at considerable personal expense.

## A SEA FISHER'S DIARY

by . . . TURNSTONE

**I** AM writing this as a particularly strong and persistent east wind swirls powdered snow into every crevice it can find. Comfortably sitting before a big log fire I read a letter from an angler who asks if east winds are bad for sea fishing. The present east wind, or blizzard (I write in the last days of March), is enough to put anglers off, if not the fish, but I think there is good reason to suppose that east winds affect fish adversely.

Being personally thoroughly warm and comfortable, it was a pleasant task to take down my diaries and look through them. They give details of wind direction and temperature, as well as general remarks, some of which would not be printable. East winds are not common in the south of England, but I was interested to find that, when east winds blew, I caught very few fish and, on occasions, none. My study of the question was not exhaustive, for my diaries run back over the last 25 years, and it would be a long task to pick out every east wind.

I do my share of freshwater fishing, and there it is an established fact that an east wind is the end of hope. Izaak Walton, some four hundred years ago, merely

repeated a long accepted precept when he wrote: "The east wind is the worst," and no man in his right senses will go fishing on river, lake or canal when an east wind blows.

Whether the theory of east winds and poor fishing applies to sea fishing can only be determined by the experiences of sea anglers. My diaries tend to show that east winds lead to poor results, but they are only the records of one man's experiences in a limited number of places. It would be interesting to know what other anglers think about the effects of east winds on sea fishing. They must obviously have a far greater influence, for good or ill, on the east coast than on the west.

### SURFEIT OF SCALLOPS

Scallops are appearing on the market again as their season approaches. They are, on the fishmonger's slab, very well trimmed and tidied up. They are selling for 6½d. each this week, and my thoughts went back to the days when I lived on an Irish island, and bought them for 3d. a dozen. I had to cut off the poisonous (or inedible) frills, but they are an easily prepared shellfish. My wife and I thoroughly enjoyed them until, one day, she bought two dozen at the door and I, knowing nothing of this, bought another two dozen in the Mess. After eating them in two different ways, my wife made the remainder into a scallop pie. It was a delectable pie, but about half way through our helpings we looked at each other—and ate no more. Neither of us has been able to face a scallop since, though the incident is fifteen years old.

It is strange how luxuries pall. The scallop incident is an example, but I have also been "cured" of a liking for pâté de foie gras and blue cheese, through long-sustained over-doses of them. Yet there are certain ordinary things like bully beef which one can eat for ever and ever, not necessarily with enjoyment, but without active repulsion.

A scallop well presented in its shell looks most attractive, and I wonder whether, de-shelled, it might not make a good bait. I have never heard of their being used, but, like oysters, they may be good but too expensive baits for the average pocket. The brilliant fried-egg look of a scallop should be enticing, especially to bass looking for hooks baited with strips of bacon.

### IT DEPENDS ON THE SWIM

(Continued from page 174)

off a not so sleepy river—sometimes, in a dry spell, I have found it almost too shallow to fish, yet often I have contrived to take a roach or two, perhaps the odd dace or chub. Grand sport, both "mixed" and exciting, have I found there not infrequently after floods; many a pleasant evening has become the richer still by reason of an hour or two spent there as the shadows lengthened and the westerling sun threw golden gleams on the sabre-tips of reeds and rushes. Lush water-meadows fringe the stream, the nearby hedgerows are populous with bird-life; gorgeous peacock and tattered comma, painted lady and handsome red admiral, feast at the wild flowers that throng its banks; from the small farm at no great distance come the sights and sounds of familiar country living.

What more could man want in these anxious, vexatious times? It is something to be able to take rod and line to the water-side; but supremely satisfying and consolatory do the angler's favourite haunts become when real beauty, true loveliness, is to be found there: when the catch, whatever the quality of the sport, is pleasure and relaxation in the fullest sense of those terms, well-laced with peace and contentment.

# Canal & River Trust NEWS

23 December at 10:00 ·

We recently restocked the Ashby Canal with 66lb of bream and 380lb of roach following a breach that led to the unfortunate loss of fish in 2020. Huge thanks to Leicestershire County Council for funding this restock and Fishers Pond Fishery for supplying the fish



27 Dec 2023

we've recently launched what is likely to become one of our biggest fish rescues yet at Brent Reservoir, also known as the Welsh Harp Reservoir in north London.



A new manager has been granted the license to manage Blythe Waters Fishery in Solihull following a competitive tender process. The fishery reopens on January 1 2024.

The recently restocked Bridge, Willow, and Cherries pools at the fishery are perfect venues for club matches, open for bookings in 2024 and 2025.

□ For more contact Trevor Bowcott on 07486 522531.



# Legends in my Lifetime

## New Series



### Clive Branson

This is a continuation of my popular Talking to Legends from my Youtube channel.

In this series which are extracts from my book Living with Legends. Available from Amazon Books. I look back in my life of match Fishing and the legends of yesteryear with a glance at possible future legends in the great sport of Match-Fishing

During my retirement now 73 years of age still remembering as if it yesterday I look back on my fishing career and recall very fond recollections of all those anglers who have had a memorable influence in my fishing life. As a former World Champion Match Angler, I have often been asked "Who had the most influence in my match fishing career?" In a sentence I would often say "Too many to list" So writing this autobiography of my experiences with those that have made an influence in my fishing career has given me the vehicle to do so.

I am sure most people reading this book "Legends in my Lifetime" would most likely have a list of their own! I am fortunate to have met some great people and some brilliant anglers along the way. Some encounters are brief, yet some still, remain friends, even today. Some Legends I mention perhaps I never met but would have dearly liked to. In my research, I have found a few of my fellow anglers would say they were influenced by their father or someone in their families, unfortunately I came from a none fishing family and so everything I learnt came from being self-taught.

Nevertheless, I would look for inspiration from those who appeared to be the best in their time.

From an early childhood to later in life I would try and befriend some of the best anglers I could find, some would become good friends. Seeking out guidance and favour from the best in any sport I would say can give you the edge and Match fishing was no exception.

In recent times coaching has become a profession for some of the elite anglers and many would seek out their guidance and assistance. For me growing up and getting into match fishing, there were no coaching or teaching, we all learnt from each other. Those who shone above the rest made a name for themselves and angling publications would seek out their knowledge and put to print so the masses of anglers could learn from these great anglers that become Legends in the sport.

As a young angler I remember looking forward to the weekly Angling Times and Anglers Mail newspaper. (Unfortunately, the Anglers Mail ceased trading as I write this book The Angler's Mail released its final issue on October 27, 2020 after publishing for 56 years. 1964-2020) And later Monthly magazines such as Match Angler and Coarse Angler would appear on the marketplace. Being a forerunner



in making some of the first Fishing videos is also something I was very proud of and these legends would come alive on the old VHS tapes and later DVD's as they too became involved, allowing the masses to see first-hand their hero's performing on the fishing venue.

Aspiring anglers would follow their heroes in the weekly, monthly angling publications on a regular basis, and I was no exception with the Great Late Dick Walker being the first, writing in the Angling Times, more about Dick Walker shortly.

Of course, these days with social media and the internet, information about new tactics and methods are quickly shared and therefore it seems less legends are borne. So, the main reason I am writing this book that all the legends of the past will be remembered for years to come.

Continuing next issue....



# Keith Westgate

(Former Angling Correspondent)

I haven't been fishing since well before Christmas except for last Sunday when I fished for NDAA with Tony Gibbons and Brian Bygrave in the team of three league at Reepham.

I came comfortably last in my lake and section with 22lb 4oz not A bad weight in most circumstances but on this particular lake it's about 10lb adrift of the better weights, I fished ok but it's just not my thing really, little tiny carp, lots of bites and being extremely careful with how much bait you put in. Tiny amounts really, I think I used maybe quarter pint of maggot and a handful of micro pellets for that 20lb tells me one thing it must be so solid with fish that it's just ridiculous really.

I much prefer a catch like the picture from 2013 Simple white maggot on the day did the trick, a slow start only 2 fish in the first hour but the longer I fished the better it got...drawing fish from well down the peg on the famous River Wensum at Lyng back when the Wensum Championships was actually held on the river....give me the stick float over these commercial ponds any day ...

I think it must be a dying art, these days as it's almost impossible to get on the upper rivers with any regularity.....that's why I love the river Yare so much because in summer it's full of Roach and it moves ... More next issue





# Will Raison

## Commercial Matchfishing Reports

Each month we report on Will's match fishing exploits

First match of the year for me at gold valley and I drew peg 12 on gold lake ,had a lovely day swapping between the method, bomb and pole for 7 carp and 4 f1s for 55 lb and the match win !!!!!.

Great practice for the upcoming Rushmore league that starts Sunday,,  
let's hope I get near a few again !!!!!



First match of the Rushmore league today , I've drawn a good peg ,51 on gold ,, didn't have the best match if I'm honest,,lost a fish and missed two bite that pulled my rod in !!!.

Ended up with 40 lb for second in the section, so not a bad start , even though I should have had nearer 50 lb ,,can get it right next match!!!!

Open on syndicate lake today and I drew peg 136,, can be good, but I had the feeling it was the wrong end .

Caught a few f1s on the pole and one bream and 4 big carp on the bomb ,, definitely fed to much as most of my fish came past my bait .

As I feared the other end fished very well with 110 lb winning, my 53 lb was top up my end so I'm happy with that!!!.

Really enjoyed putting my new 10 ft arity power to good use , Rushmore league tomorrow, and with 53 people fishing,it's going to be a good match





# May Potter (Fishing Coach)

2023 has been a busy one fishing wise for me! Fishing plenty of festivals and open matches but the peak for me was getting picked for the ladies team in Serbia.

Didn't get to fish first day but the buzz of fishing abroad and excitement that 2nd day was immense.

Had some cracking coaching days and days out doing feature for MAP and Dynamite!

Hopefully more of the same in 2024





# Tom Scholey Match Reports

A 'mixed bag' of matches to bring you up to speed on....

First up, my maiden voyage to Moorlands Farm near Kidderminster, standing in for Jordan Holloway, while he is on his Canadian adventure.

This is a venue that I have filmed at a couple of times, but never fished, so I was really looking forward to it. I had a cheeky practice on Friday on Meadow Pool, and it was wonderful sport. A skimmer a chuck short and long, and even some big perch down the edge.

Come the day of the race and I drew peg 14 on Moors Pool, which looked spot on to be honest, towards the middle of the lake. I had a really nice days fishing rotating three groundbait lines, made all the better because my old mate Rory Jones was next door.

I finished with 10-12-0 which was enough to win the lake, and finish 5th overall, winning me £100. Great payout on this league! I have made a little film of the trip as a bit of an experiment for a future project. I'll post the link in the comments when its ready to go.



**Sunday was Hallcroft** for the Teams Of Four. I was really happy with my draw - 21 on Moat Outer, lots of small fish here at the moment.

I had perhaps the polar opposite match of the day before. A nightmare where everything went wrong!

I love the short pole roach fishing at Hallcroft, and there were some great samples in front of me in the second hour. But I just didn't seem capable of catching them! Tangled rigs, swinging fish off... you name it, it went wrong! Then to top it off, my catapult elastic snapped... so I had to get off my box and get another one from my carryall. This killed the swim and I never had a bite for half an hour..... Anyway, managed 21lb for fourth in section. I needed 24lb for second, which I should have had with my eyes closed.

Team wise, it was a similar story. Matt was best performer with a section second, James was fourth too, and Andy struggled from the wrong end of Moat Island (on the day). Lots of work to do here!

Today I've been down to the Riddings on the Halkon Hunt Winter Classic Qualifier. I've drawn Riddings Lake, and with a cold breeze pushing at me it wasn't comfortable fishing. I fished maggots and groundbait, which was the right call tactics wise, I just needed one more little run of fish to qualify. I've finished with 10-12-0, Steve Hemingray won the lake with 12lb. Well done mate! Messingham double header at the weekend. Can't wait!





# BREAKING NEWS

## Barnsley Blacks bolster squad with



The powerhouses of team match fishing that are Drennan Barnsley Blacks have added one of the nation's hottest prospects to their ranks.

Elite performers including Lee Kerry, Matt Godfrey and Alan Scotthorne are regular performers for what are widely described as one of the greatest teams ever, and but they've now turned to youth to bolster the squad. England under 25 international Josh Newman has been building a solid reputation with his impressive performances on natural waters and that consistency has been rewarded with the offer to join Barnsley.

*Speaking on his Facebook page, Lee Kerry said: "What a terrific signing for the team. Josh is an angler that I feel has a huge future ahead of him!"*

*Josh is immediately available for selection and will hope to get picked on numerous occasions during what will once again be a busy year for Barnsley.*



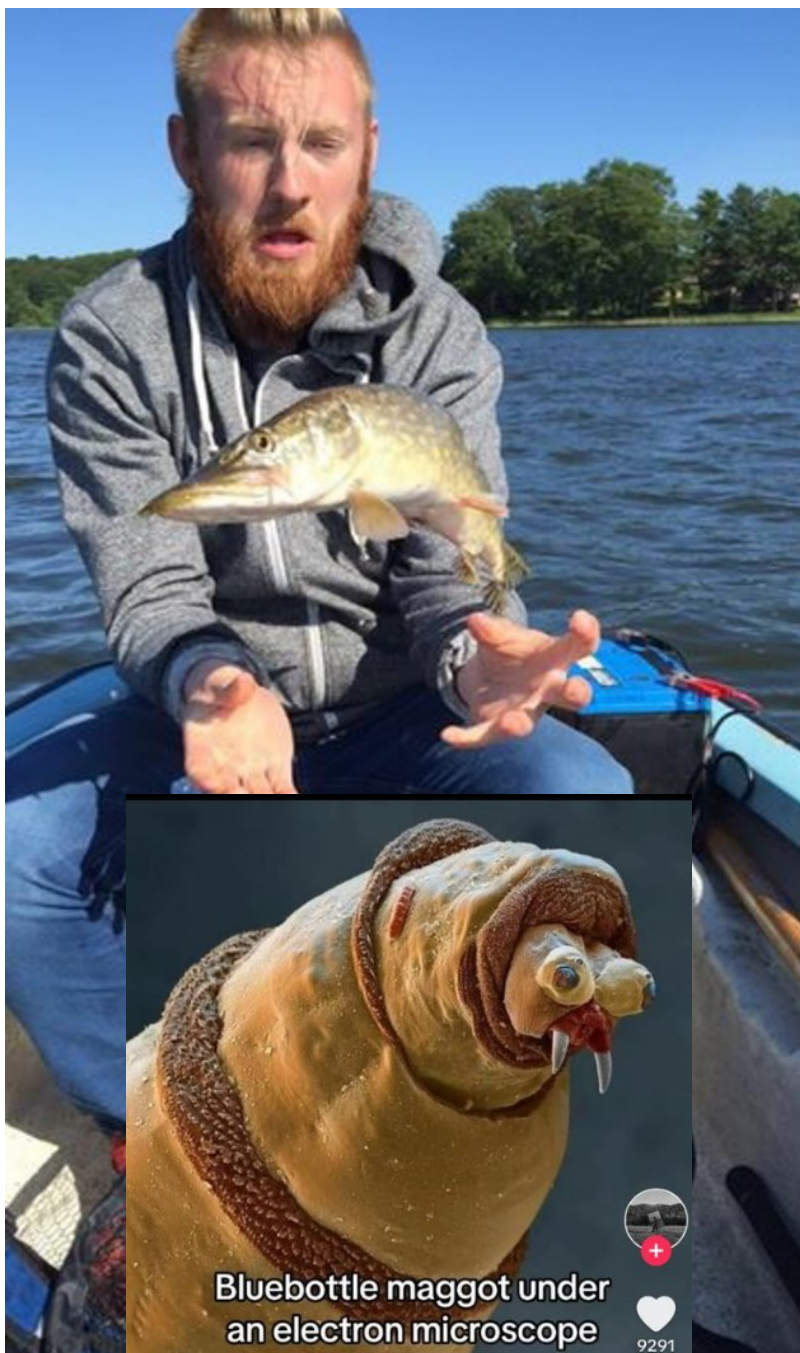
## **BEST CHUB THIS YEAR**

Reports of a huge Chub caught from the River Thames at Llondington weighing in at 8lb 13oz (See Picture)

One of the largest specimen to have been caught from a river in 2023  
It was taken recently by Alan Stagg, a former Drennan Cup winner who's no stranger to catching outsized chub Fishing a ledger and Krill boilie it took him 10 minutes to land this specimen







You know someone who needs this





A young boy applied for a job at a department store. The store manager said: "We are looking for somebody with sales experience but we're having a holiday sale tomorrow and you can give it a try."

At the end of the day the manager checked the day sales and was shocked, the boy had sold £79,083.25 worth of merchandise.

He asked the boy how he did it and his replied: "Well this guy was going fishing so I asked if he wanted some fish hooks. He said sure. That's £1.00. I asked if he had a nice fishing pole. He said no and got a graphite pole for £2000. I asked if he had a nice reel. He said no and I got him a reel for £335.00. I asked where he will be fishing and he said Llangoes Lake. I said the best places to fish are near the center, and when he said he didn't have a boat, I set him up with a 30 foot cruiser for £28K. I asked if he had a trailer. He didn't, so I got him a double axle trailer for £3K. Then I asked what he had to tow the boat. He only had a station wagon, so I told him that just wouldn't do, but we could get him a nice fully loaded Dodge Ram for £48K. He wanted it all".

The store manager was astounded: "And to think it all began with that man asking for fish hooks." The boy said: "Oh no, it all began with him asking for some tampons for his girlfriend, and I said, "Well you won't be doing much this weekend so you might as well go fishing!"

Two blondes were fishing on an opposite sides of the river and using the same tackle. However only one young blond was catching fish, and she was catching a lot.

Finally the other blond couldn't stand it any longer and she asked "How do you get to the other side of the river?"

The other blond thought about it for a while and finally answered "You are already there."



## **SIX RULES FOR MEN TO FOLLOW TO A HAPPY LIFE:**

1. It's important to have a woman who can cook.
2. It's important to have a woman who does all house work.
3. It's important to have a woman who is very rich.
4. It's important to have a woman who is very good in bed.
5. It's the most important that these four women would let you go fishing any time you want.
6. It's very important that these four women never meet.





# Fishing Quiz:

**What is the term for the art of catching fish with a hook, line, and rod?**

- a) Hunting
- b) Trapping
- c) Fishing
- d) Angling



**Which type of fishing lure is designed to mimic the movement of injured or distressed prey to attract fish?**

- a) Jig
- b) Spinnerbait
- c) Crankbait
- d) Soft plastic worm

**In angling, what does the term "bag limit" refer to?**

- a) The size of the fishing bag
- b) The number of fish one can catch in a day
- c) A type of fishing bait
- d) Fishing regulations for bags



**What is the purpose of a fishing reel?**

- a) To measure the length of the fish
- b) To attract fish with sound
- c) To store and deploy fishing line
- d) To weigh the fish

**Which of the following is a traditional material used for making fishing lines?**

- a) Nylon
- b) Rubber
- c) Cotton
- d) Leather



**What is the term for the practice of catch-and-release in fishing?**

- a) Fish conservation
- b) Angler's remorse
- c) Ethical fishing
- d) Sportfishing



**In fly fishing, what is the purpose of the fly line?**

- a) To attract flies
- b) To cast the fly
- c) To tie flies together
- d) To catch fish

**What is the world record for the heaviest largemouth bass caught as of 2022?**

- a) 17.72 pounds
- b) 22.3 pounds
- c) 25.01 pounds
- d) 29.01 pounds



**What type of fishing involves using a baited hook trailed behind a moving boat?**

- a) Trolling
- b) Drift fishing
- c) Ice fishing
- d) Still fishing

**Which famous river is renowned for its salmon fishing?**

- a) Nile River
- b) Amazon River
- c) Thames River
- d) River Tweed



Answers on Page 89



# Ye Old Bait Photo Album



“—I don’t care for ’em myself.”

"Plastitol" PLASTIC

MAGGOTS

Have smell to attract the fish.

A PERFECT BAIT.

Coarse fish and trout take them.

ULTRA SOFT PLASTIC, they look and feel NATURAL in 4 COLOURS.

CAN BE USED REPEATEDLY

DO NOT COME OFF THE HOOK

Ask your dealer for a TRIAL PACKET.

4 in 4! postage 3d

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20

COARSE FISHING BAITS

COOKED MAGGOTS.

MAKE SURE WATER IS REALLY BOILING THEN DROP IN AND STIR VERY QUICKLY.

FIG. 5

## WHAT YOU NEED TO CATCH A BIG 'UN

- ROD — Greenheart, built cane, glass or steel.
- REEL — Centre-pin or fixed spool.
- LINE — Breaking strain 2 to 56 lbs.
- HOOK — Size 8, 10, 12, 14 or 16.

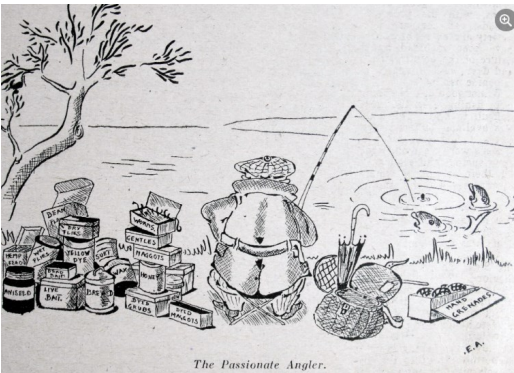
OH! AND, OF COURSE,

## “SX” MAGGOTS

(THE BAIT FOR BIG ROACH)

5/- per pint, carriage paid.

ESSEX BAIT COMPANY · Mayland · Chelmsford ·



The Passionate Angler.

10

COARSE FISHING BAITS

"LIVER MAGGOT"

"PINKIE"

"SQUAT"

"SPECIAL"

FIG. 1

THE FOUR SPECIES OF MAGGOTS MOST USEFUL TO THE COARSE FISH ANGLER



**Thanks to Don Maggots... THE WORLD'S BEST**  
 3/-, 4/6 and upwards, per tin. Carriage Paid. Cash with Order.  
**DON BAIT CO. · 17 HIGH STREET · MEXBOROUGH · YORKS.**  
 PLEASE USE BLOCK LETTERS FOR YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS



# The INFORMANT

Our secret angler takes you into previously untold stories.

## Getting carried away

**I**HAD a day down on the river, trotting for chub with the outside chance of a roach or even a barbel as a bonus.

It went well, with a good number of moderate-sized chub falling to my stick float and maggot tactics, and I was having a short break for a bite to eat when another angler walking the banks paused briefly behind me to ask how I had got on.

"You've got a bit of competition today," he informed me, and when I looked puzzled he said that in the swim above me was a well-known angling writer and a photographer with a couple of expensive-looking cameras.

I hadn't known that there was anyone there, and even when I stood up to peer over the tall grass, I found that there was a large bush separating me from the next peg and no chance of seeing anyone.

The bank-walker bid me good luck and went on his way, and soon I returned to the task of extracting a few more chub from the shoal, which had grown in confidence while I had been resting the swim.

I landed a couple more, and

then something attracted my attention in the margins just above where I was standing.

At first I thought it was a fish turning on the surface to dive down, but it showed again, and I realised that it was a roach in distress.

As it came down on the current towards me, I put down my rod and grabbed the landing net, just in time to intercept the fish as it passed me on the surface, belly up but attempting to kick itself the right way up, before going belly up again.

Once it was in the landing net I held the net head in the edge of the flow, and it was soon able to face into the current. There seemed to be nothing outwardly wrong with it, other than that it had been too exhausted to swim

against the flow and had drifted helplessly.

As I watched it in the net, I realised that it was much deeper than I'd first thought, and lifting the folds slightly so that it lay on its side for a moment I estimated its weight at over 2 lb.

When it was clearly keen to be off, I let it swim out and back out into the main river and out of sight.

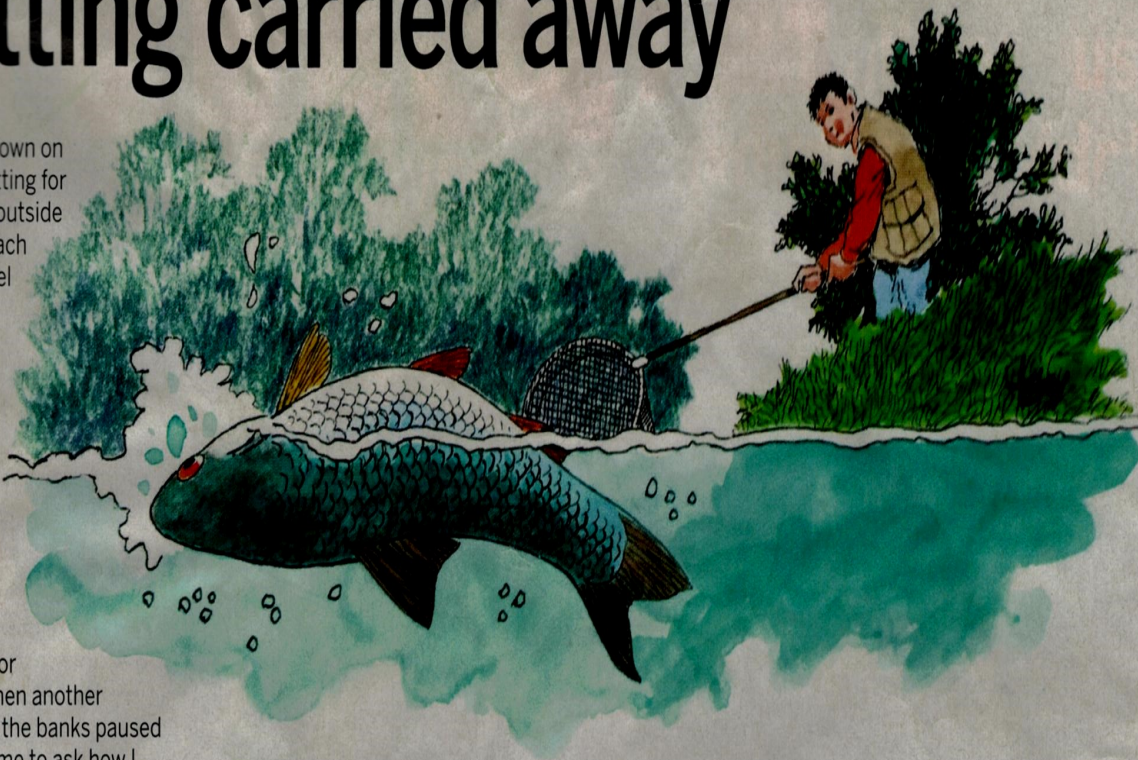
I thought about walking up to the swim above me and asking them whether they had just put

**“ In the swim above me was a well-known angling writer and a photographer. ”**

a big roach back. But I thought better of it, not knowing for certain where the stricken fish had come from.

A couple of weeks later, when looking through a magazine, I came across an article by the famous angler who had been fishing in the swim above.

It ended with the claim that the writer always took great care when returning fish to ensure that they had recovered enough to swim away strongly, and his advice to readers was to follow his example.





# XMAS MATCH REPORTS

## **Sean Ashby** (Former World

Champion) Match Report

Final 2 matches of 2023 to report on, both on the Ryecroft silvers lge.

On the sat before Xmas I drew peg 4 on new canal. Quite fancied it despite the wind which made it difficult to fish at 14m right over. Caught an ide, small tench, 2 skimmers and some roach and perch to finish 2nd on the lake with 9.13 to Steve Hemingray who had 10.4 of skimmers next to me.

Today I've been on 14 on carp lake,, great area but very poor last match. Fished mostly casters at 14m to win the lake and the match with 23lb odd. Caught well last hour on single caster long under a 0.3 prototype silvers float over the most consistent commercial silvers mix. Power Green and Sweet fishmeal.

Cam won the new canal with 11lb tops, sorry 19lb so some Guinness tokens for new years eve, have a great one!



## **Ryecroft.**

Jan 6th

Drew best lake peg 29, bit in the corner but fancied it anyway. Fished at 14m most of day on casters, 0.3 float and single caster over the usual power green and sweet magic. Weighed 15.12 to win the lake and 4th overall.

Cam came 2nd with 16lb with just 16.7 winning. It's tight at the top now



# THE INSIDE LINE...

**An Archive Article with  
Former World Champion  
Dave Thomas**

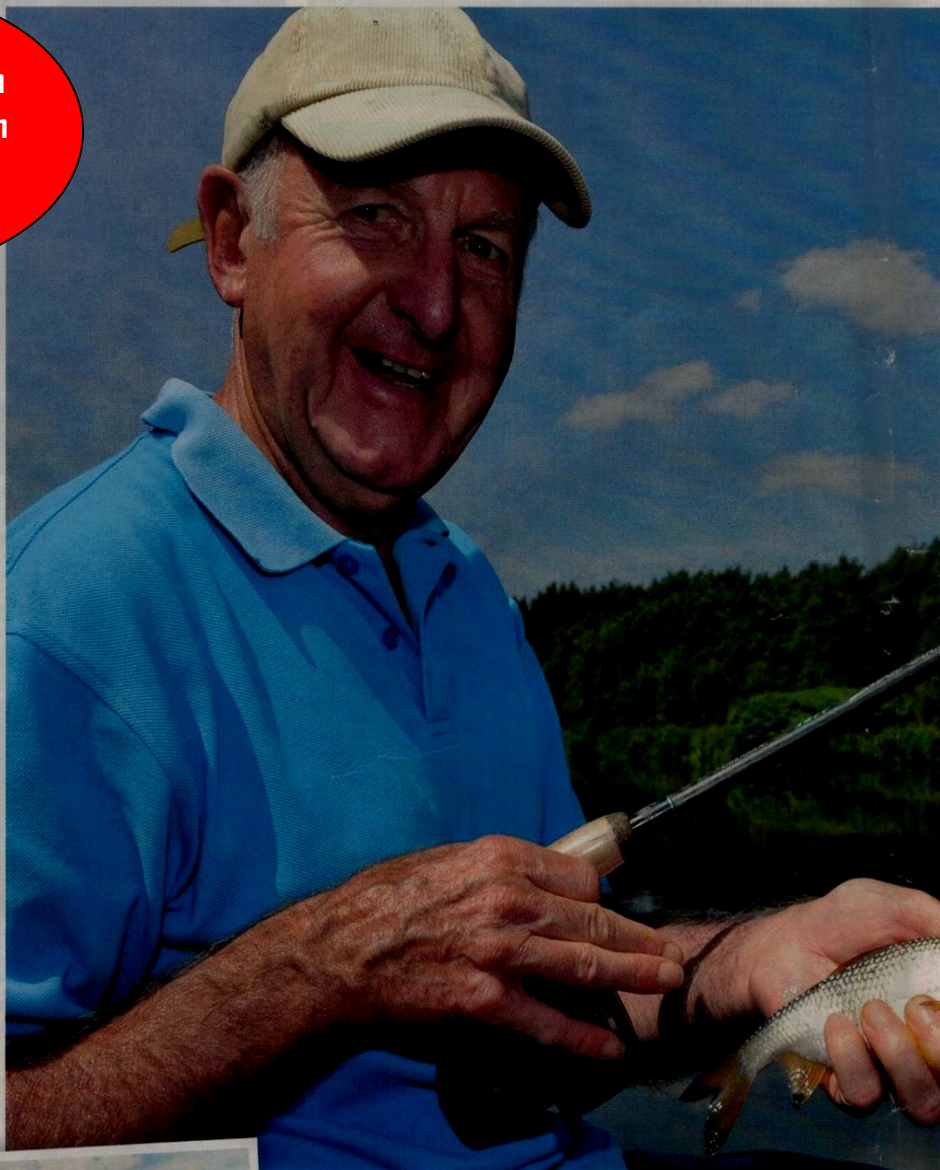
FAMOUS anglers talk exclusively on matters close to their own hearts. This week, we talk to former World Champion and river ace **Dave Thomas** who became the world's best on a flooded Warwickshire Avon in 1981.

**What was it like becoming World Champion?**

I think it's the pinnacle for a match angler's career and it was a dream for me to achieve it. But from the minute I was selected to fish the 1981 Championships I knew I had a very good chance of winning. I found out in May I was in the squad and from that minute onwards I was focused totally on it, nothing else existed.

**Did you practise hard on the Warwickshire Avon?**

I didn't really feel it was needed to keep travelling down from Yorkshire on a regular basis as I knew the



Dave with a mixed bag during a match in Sweden.

venue pretty well so just kept practising on some tough local rivers and had a load of evenings on the Wharfe at Boston Spa. I was a good Trent angler and if you can do well there, then the Avon is relatively easy. The team also had four hard practice days just before, fishing two three-hour sessions a day, and I did well, so I was very confident.

**And didn't you do well at the Evesham festival just before?**

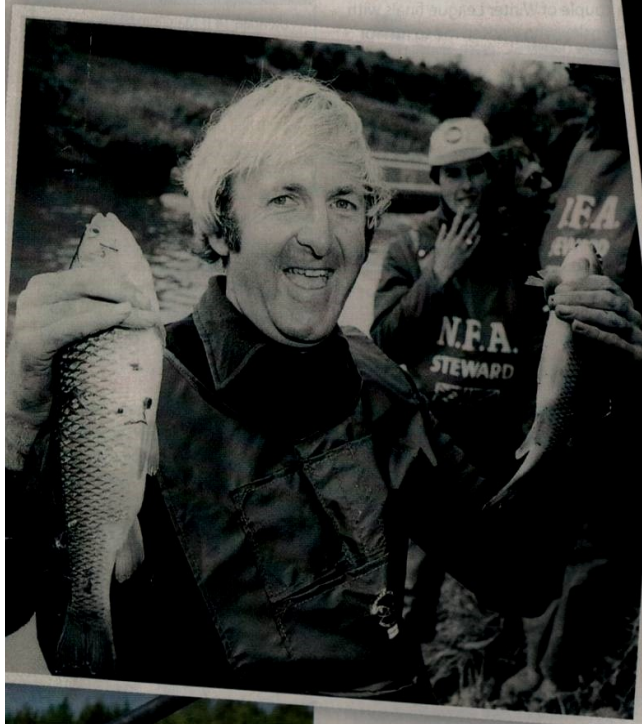
All the England team wanted to do well as this was just a few weeks prior. You had the Courage and Ladbrokes individuals on the Saturday and Monday with the team

event on Sunday and I was second, first and second. I couldn't have done much better as I was beaten from a flyer called the Bridge peg that held a lot of chub. I don't think that sequence will ever be beaten. I was on such a high that weekend I couldn't sleep, but I was driven to do well.

**So your confidence was high?**

I was very confident, I did genuinely believe I could win. I thought the best angler for a particular venue generally wins, and the year before a German guy was far ahead of everyone else on that venue and did win. I'd got my head right,





Dave with the two chub that lifted the individual world crown.



Dave also won the team event the day before with this bag of chub in horrendous conditions.



**ROACH** are Dave's favourite species – a 60 lb pleasure bag from the Trent at Hazelford Ferry was his best redfin bag.

psychologically I was there. There was a lot more pressure for the England side to win it as we were by far the favourites. Our manager Stan Smith had hand picked the venue with us trying to get an advantage, something that happens with every home country. England had never won team gold up to then.

#### The first match was the team event, how did you get on?

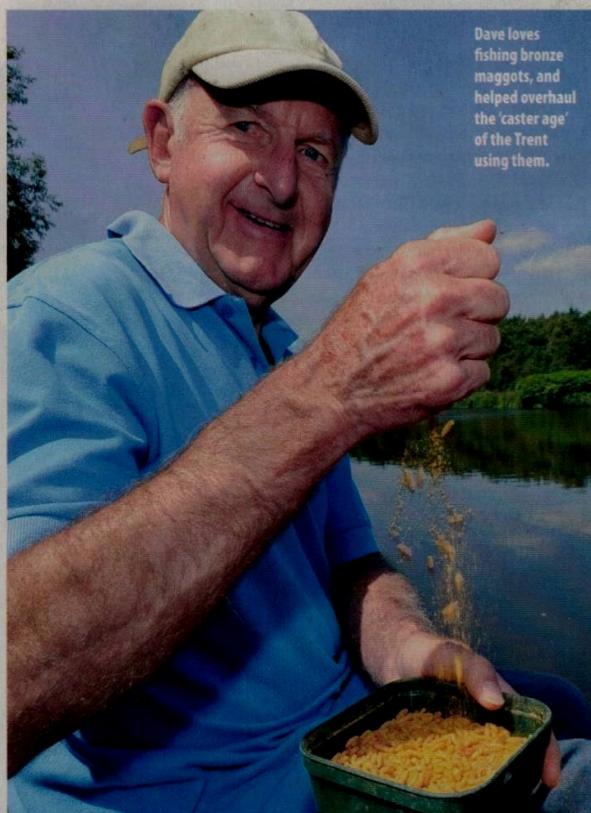
The river had come up after heavy rain and there was a lot of extra water. It ended up with France taking team gold as their pole and bloodworm approach for roach worked a treat and we were second.

I'm convinced if the river was normal we'd have won. The team were all very disappointed. I was pleased as I hadn't wanted to let the side down as it was my first start in a World Champs and I won the match outright so got maximum section points with 4 kg 590 gr of chub to 1 lb 6 oz on waggler or stick with maggot. There were thousands watching and it made a great atmosphere. Every fish I hooked received a huge cheer but we anticipated that and I used that and absorbed it all. I don't think I put a foot wrong and Ken Giles and Mark Downes said that as well.

#### How did the individual event on the Sunday go?

The river was awful and I drew a really poor peg and was told I had no chance from it. I was gutted as I wanted to show what I could do on a normal river. I got to my swim and it was racing through, with just a tiny slower bit close in under the rod tip but I thought just fish as hard as you can. The first half of the match I just reeled in leaves. Then I got my first chub and when it kicked back I was really surprised I'd hooked a fish. I had a split second to decide to play it and risk it snagging me or bully it and risk snapping off or pulling out but I went for the latter and it just came straight to the net and the crowd went wild. It was about 1 lb 8 oz and soon afterwards had a smaller one and then later on a 4 oz roach. I must have been confident as I was interviewed by BBC

**“I didn't start match fishing seriously until I was 28 when I got my first car”**



Dave loves fishing bronze maggots, and helped overhaul the 'caster age' of the Trent using them.





Dave and wife Avis with the big trophy.

Grandstand's Tony Gubba and chatted to him during the match. That was enough to win it with 1.190. I don't know if anyone has won both days outright before or since.

#### Was it a big celebration that night?

The rest of the team were pleased for me but we were a bit down from the team result as we all wanted to do it for the manager Stan Smith. Everyone was staying at the Grand Hotel in Birmingham so we did have a celebration. Some German lad carried me to the bar and got me a lager and one of their officials said they'd been watching me practise and would have had a £40 bet on me if that had been allowed. The Wales team also took me under their wing and with a name like mine I must be Welsh. They were throwing me up in the air I seem to remember!

River ace Dave was an expert on the stick, and still uses them on his local Aire and Calder Navigation as it can flow quite strongly.

#### How many years did you fish for England?

That was my one and only World Champs I fished in. I was at the 1978 event but was reserve as the venue didn't quite suit me and in 1982 it was on a canal, so as a river angler never got picked which I totally understood. It was the first time the World Champion hadn't defended the crown and the world governing body introduced a rule to say they'd be invited in future as a wild card but it was too late for me.

#### What were your other major achievements?

I was the first *Angler's Mail* Matchman of the Year in 1978 and would have won two times

before if it had been running. I won a couple of Winter League finals with Barnsley who wanted me to fish for them full time, but I was loyal to my club, Leeds DASA and we were third on a Div. One National. Eventually we created the Leeds Anglers World team and won Div. 5 and Div. 2 titles.

#### What are your favourite match venues?

I loved river fishing and working full-time didn't really have the time to become an all-rounder. To me winning a Burton Joyce Open on the Trent was the pinnacle, as there was so many good anglers on there and I was fortunate to win a fair few. I didn't start match fishing seriously until I was 28 when I got my first car. But I remember at 19 getting a lift to fish the 310-entry Rotherham Open on the Trent at Dunham Bridge and I finished with 6 lb 6 oz of roach on trotted bronze maggot so I had the potential if given the opportunity.

#### How did you get into fishing?

My brother Jack got me into fishing. I was about 12 and were on a caravan holiday near Blackpool and there was a pond full of rudd. He took me to a few club matches but it never clicked and I started pleasure fishing until I was about 16 and started fishing club matches. When I got my car at 28 Jack said it was too late for me to get into the match scene so that inspired me to do well. Jack won the Veterans National about ten years ago which was the highlight of his match career.

#### Does your wife also fish?

Yes, Avis was a very good match angler herself and won the Ladies National as well as big Opens like a 250-pegger on the Witham. I met her working at the Post Office together, and started going out a few years later. She didn't fish then but I got her into it. We did some tackle sponsorship adverts together and I think it went down well.

#### Who were the best anglers you fished with?

There were plenty like John Allerton, Pete Warren, Kevin Ashurst and Ivan Marks to name a few. The best compliment I probably got was from Kevin on one of his

#### WHAT I LAST BOUGHT

A Drennan 14 ft Matchpro float rod that is a lovely light rod.

#### WHAT I LAST CAUGHT

A 14 lb bag of roach to 12-14 oz on the Aire and Calder Canal on stick and bronze maggot.

was there ever an angler you could beat on the next peg. Apparently I said Dave Thomas at the 81 World Champs. That means a lot coming from someone like him.

#### Any anglers you looked up to when growing up?

Not really any anglers but I took a lot of inspiration from other sports and how they coped with pressure. I really liked Bjorn Borg and Leeds stars Billy Bremner and Norman Hunter. I tried to adopt a style of never giving up, and giving my all despite a bad draw. I have seen so many match anglers not try hard when faced with poor pegs. Those Leeds players wouldn't give up even if 4-0 down.

#### Do you still match fish?

I'm 66 now and took early retirement from the Post Office at 49 to do a bit more fishing but 18 months later I developed a bad back. I pleasure fish as much as I can but the match fishing has had to stop.

#### ■ Dave Thomas was talking to Thomas Petch





# JOHN C ESSEX Memoirs



An angler since the age of twelve John's first love was match fishing. After an invitation by Ivan Marks, he joined the Leicester 'Likely Lads' team which won National Angling Championship medals in 1971, 1973, 1974, 1975 and 1977.

John's wins include the Great Ouse Championship, the Trent East Midland Regional Woodbine Final and the Fenland Championship, as well as finishing third individual in the 1975 Nene Division 1 National. His best fish in that event was a carp of 6.41kg - a record fish at the time.

A back problem forced him to retire from the match circuit, and in 1977 he concentrated on coaching the Leicester Junior side. With Roy Jeffery as team manager and ably supported by coaches Trevor Tomlin and the legendary Ivan Marks, these young lads and lasses won the NFA National Junior Team Championship in 1974, 1977, 1980, 1983 and 1985.

After ten years of chiropractic treatment John drifted back into fishing for carp and after two years caught his first twenty from Birstall lake, no more than two miles from his home. He later progressed to margin floater fishing, taking many twenties from his local club lake.

John is an avid collector of angling books and old tackle, with an extensive library of nearly 1000 books. He has written many articles on angling history for Angler's Mail, the Angling Star, Classic Angling and Waterlog.

John has been actively involved in angling administration since the 1970s (serving on several club committees) and he chaired the Leicestershire Angling Federation for thirty years, working on behalf of anglers and angling clubs in Leicestershire.

John has kindly agreed to share his match history memoirs to our Monthly publication and website





# The John C Essex Match Memories

This might evoke a few memories for some of the anglers who fished the match circuits and competed in the nationals during the 70's. Today, the 8th of September 2023, marks the 50th anniversary of the 58th National Angling Championship which took place on the River Witham in 1973 from Southrey to Langrick.

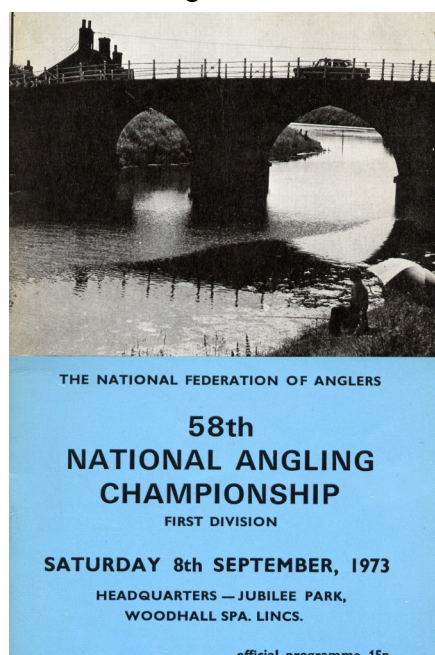
Team favourites with bookie Jim Wooding on the day were Leicester AS at 3-1, Birmingham 4-1 then Leeds, Coleshill and Lincoln at 10-1. As it turned out Leicester finished second on 709 points with Leeds third also on 709 points but Leicester had nearly 96 lbs to Leeds 57 lbs. So who won? Jim Wooding initially had Grimsby and District at 20-1 but they outshone the star teams of the day finishing on 717 points amassing a magnificent 92-10 to take the honours on the day.

Had it not been decided on points then Leicester AS, captained by Ivan Marks, would have had the best total team weight ( and won) in three successive Nationals. But the decision by the membership of the NFA to decide the National on total team points from 1972 heralded a new approach to team fishing. Kevin Ashurst said 'In terms of weight, it would have been an even greater match if more anglers had used the leger. And we all know why so many didn't.' I know that to my cost as the team plan for a minimum of 2lb proved to be a struggle on my peg.

Some teams in my section fished the bomb all day and caught odd bream, not many but enough. When I had a go for them on the tip I never had a bite and all the time the 'catch 2lb' team orders nagged away at my thoughts. Very negative fishing and my less than impressive performance probably cost our team a winner's medal. I should have fished the bomb all day but daren't risk it. But at Langrick on peg M4 Alan Wright shocked the angling world by winning the first of his two National titles by putting together 41-10-8 of bream on a stick float rather than a swingtip. He pipped Leicester's Dave Downes to the title by just 4 ½ ounces.

Dave fished also fished team orders to catch 2 lbs of small fish before going for bream which he eventually did on C64 at Stixwould. He wasted the first hour of the match before switching to a quiver tip (yes even then) rather than a swingtip. Docker Nev Fisher, who took fifth place with 27-7-3 for 14-1 Grimsby, led the way for Grimsby but their captain George Hallam, a 42 year old dock supervisor, won B section contributing 17-9-8 and a brilliant 79 points to the team total. Well done Grimsby who duly celebrated their victory. As the winning team Grimsby won Gold Sovereigns in presentation cases.

For my book on the National I was very grateful to Nev Fisher and members of the Grimsby team for supplying photographs. Wonderful history!







Paul Parish's name has been etched into angling's history books after he landed one of the biggest-ever roach in British waters, weighing a sublime 4lb 2oz.

The Buckinghamshire angler caught the fish from Brasenose 1 at Oxford's Linear Fisheries - one of the country's most popular venues. Whilst it's best known for carp, specimens of a range of species also take up residence in the 32 acre lake, as Paul well-knows.

The 39-year-old arrived at the lake to find a few swims free that'd be in the teeth of Storm Debi, which was set to roll in the following day. He told us "I felt this area would give me the best chance of a big roach or two," he explained. "I set my kit up and baited an area 50 yards out lightly with a large feeder, filled with black groundbait, maggots, chopped worm, and casters. My aim was to create a small patch of feed on the lakebed, over which I could fish two rods tightly.

The first night and the following morning were quiet, but when the wind picked up in the afternoon, the fish arrived. I landed a 3lb roach, plus a 3lb 3oz perch and a few large bream that muscled in on the action. Things went quiet again that night, but the next morning I rebaited in anticipation of another busy afternoon. After recasting his maggot feeders, fished heli-style with size 14 hooks baited with three red maggots, Paul received a slow drop-back bite at 11:30am and lifted into a heavy fish, giving the tell-tale sharp headshakes of a very big roach.

The last moments of the battle were very nervous as I'd seen that it was indeed a roach, but nothing could prepare me for what lay in the net: a truly enormous roach. It's the best fish I've ever caught and will likely ever catch. I've had my best year specimen fishing and have broken five PBs, but nothing comes close to this capture."

The fish caps what's already been phenomenal season for big stillwater roach, with a handful of upper 'threes' reported towards the end of 2023 but Paul's redfin takes things to a whole new level and is the joint-fourth largest ever reported.

"The first fish I ever caught was a roach, so I'm thrilled to have caught one of the biggest ever reported. Landing it as a moment I'll always remember."



# Mystery Anglers

On the popular facebook Matchfishing page we often post a mystery angler. Most get the right angler but some get it completely wrong. In this Magazine readers get the opportunity to find the right answer on page 90 Have a go and guess who they are



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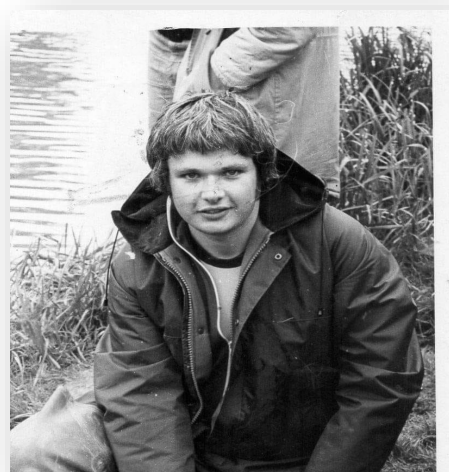
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# The **SPECIALIST'S**

## Pete 'The Meat' Upperton **WINNING WAYS WITH MEAT**

A successful match angler, Pete, aged 33, reveals how he gets the most out of meat.

**I** FIRST started fishing at the age of 13, back in 1994. I fished mainly at weekends and occasional Wednesdays, for a team called Sunmead, which my dad used to run. I count myself lucky to have been given the chance to go straight into match fishing, learning the necessary skills at several venues, including Willinghurst, in Shamley Green, and Stubpond, near East Grinstead, in Surrey. Back then I used to try to pinch my old man's rigs and any unwanted

tackle, but I don't think that I'd be so keen to do that now!

When I wasn't match fishing I would pleasure fish at every opportunity, which was mainly in school holidays. I used to like going to Old Bury Hill, near Dorking, in Surrey.

I then started fishing in a junior league for Dorking Juniors with my good friend Zac Brown. We fished events all over the country, such as the Drennan Pole Champs and Nationals, as well as local league matches on lakes, rivers and canals.

At the age of 17 I joined Fox Match Banstead, and competed







■ Here's Pete on his way to winning £65k at the Maver Mega Match This Final in 2015. No prizes for guessing the winning bait!

in the Surrey Winter League and Drennan Super League for a couple of years.

I then decided to set up my own team of ten anglers, mainly made up of friends who I fished with regularly, some more experienced than others. The team was called the Meatbashers! The name was chosen based of the love I have

for meat fishing. I thank my dad for this, because he introduced me to this method. We began by fishing the Van den Eynde Super Cup and Super Sixes at Stubpond, but in 2007 I started fishing for Preston Innovations Delcac, a successful match team based in Kent.

Then in 2009 I quit team fishing altogether and got an

individual sponsorship with Middy, who continue to sponsor me.

I live with my girlfriend, Nicola, in Sutton, Surrey, and since I have been with Middy I have won countless open matches, including the Maver Mega Match This Viaduct qualifier in 2015. I then went on to win the Final at Maver Larford, which is by far my biggest success, netting me the biggest prize in match fishing, £65K!

My other successes include the Maver Pairs in 2015, the Stafford Moor Pairs in 2014, the Middy Team Cup in 2014 and 2015, and several winter league matches.

I also came second in the Maver Pole Final in 2015.

Most of my success is based around meat fishing, and over the years I have expanded my knowledge, and identified different ways in which to prepare and catch fish using this delicacy.

Before meat cutters were around, I spent many a painstaking night before a match cutting up meat with a knife, trying to get small, even-sized cubes.

I have listed a few pointers for anglers wishing to try meat fishing or to further their knowledge. I hope you find them useful.

“I thank my dad for my love of meat fishing, because he introduced me to it.”



# The SPECIALISTS



## ■ Feed different lines

I feed lines slightly differently and work out the best way that the fish want to eat. No two sessions are ever the same. Once I've figured how the fish are feeding, the action can be fast and furious.



## ■ Alternative baits

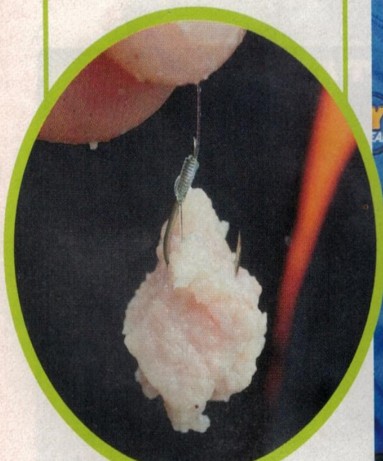
Don't be afraid to feed other baits. Although meat is my favourite, I also use fishmeal groundbait, and as a back-up I use corn or casters.

## ■ Match your hook size to the size of bait

Make sure that you fish a hook relevant to the size of meat that you are fishing. For example, use a size 14 for an 8 mm cube of meat. My favourite hook pattern is the Tubertini 175. The sizing is slightly different from others, with 1 being the smallest and 6 being the largest. A number 3 is what I normally use for most of my meat fishing, the equivalent of a size 14.

## ■ How I hook meat

The best way that I have found of hooking meat is to just nip it through the side with plenty of the point showing, to ensure optimum penetration when striking. The hook bait offering is often selected from my mushy meat mix, with small particles clinging to the cube. What fish could resist!



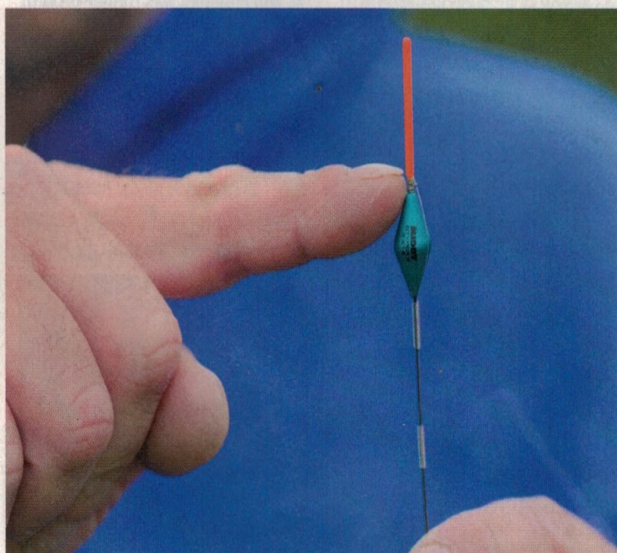
## ■ Meat for all fish

Meat has a way of picking out bigger fish, particularly carp, but it can also be great for picking out big skimmers and other silver fish.





## ■ Pete's MEAT TIPS



### ■ Simple rigs are most successful

I keep rigs simple, tidy, positive and balanced, to suit the size of fish that I am targeting. Ensure that you have duplicate rigs pre-made. I use a Middy Carp Grey 3 float when fishing long distances, and a Middy Styrex 3 float for fishing close in or down the edge. I tend to use a larger than average (4 x 14) float for edge fishing, to ensure stability and to limit false bites, which prevents foul-hooking.



### ■ Meat cutters in various sizes

I always carry various sizes of meat cutters, to help cover all aspects. No venue is the same, and changing hook bait and feed size can be vital. The size of meat that you use can vary, depending upon the size or species of fish that you are targeting.

### ■ Meat feed selection

Meat can be prepared differently, to maximise your peg. On a six-metre line you could use 8 mm cubes, to enable you to chuck them in by hand, but when fishing down the edge you could feed mushed-up meat.

### ■ Legering also works

Don't be afraid to feed 10 mm bits of meat on a bomb line, because this works well all year round, particularly when fish are difficult to catch on your pole line, or when it is too windy to present a bait accurately with a long pole.



### ■ Go easy with feed

I never go in 'gung ho' by potting in big amounts of bait. There is an old saying that 'You can put it in, but you can't take it out'. Take it easy, and start your session by trying to catch fish while feeding through a Kinder cup, offering small amounts of meat to bring early bites.

continued  
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# Here's how I prepare MUSHY MEAT



**1** I use two tins of Chopped Pork & Ham, purchased from Lidl, which has a softer texture than other brands.



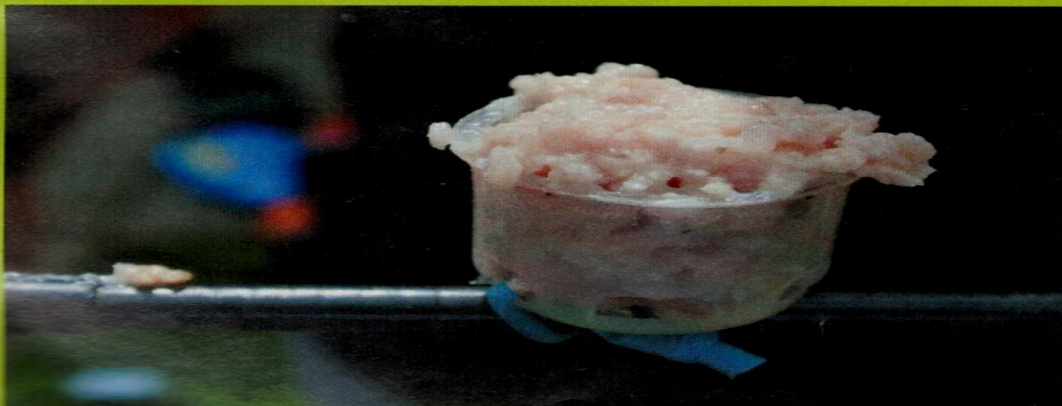
**2** The first tin is pushed through a meat cutter to produce cubes of 8 mm and 6 mm. The cubes are then tipped into a big bowl and mixed together.



**3** The second tin is cubed and pushed through a groundbait riddle.



**4** The cubes are then mixed in with the mush, to produce a variety of textures.



**5** This meaty mush is loaded into a Kinder pot or a converted bottle top feeder.





# WELCOME TO MY ULTIMATE GUIDE TO FEEDER FISHING

**IT WASN'T that long ago that fishing the feeder was viewed as an inferior way of catching, almost a last resort that required less skill and more luck than fishing the pole or waggler. Times have changed a bit since then!**

In fact, fishing the feeder has become a bit of an 'in vogue' thing in the UK and indeed across the continent with new feeder-only match competitions springing up every few months and more and more tackle companies producing feeder kit to keep pace with the demand.

And I suppose I've been at the vanguard of this trend, having been lucky enough to be selected for the England Feeder Team in 2011 and then be crowned World Champion in 2014.

The feeder is a method I love, whether that's casting a long way for bream at Ferry Meadows or plopping a tiny Method to the far side of a snake lake. What I love the most is that, like any way of fishing, there are lots of little things that you can do to get a bite.

The following series are taken from Steve Ringer's "The Ultimate Guide to Feeder Fishing" in collaboration with the Angling Times. Steve has collated this easy to follow Feeder fishing series from all his articles and has condensed this fascinating insight to what is believed the Ultimate Guide to Feeder Fishing. Steve Ringer is renowned as the finest feeder angler in the World today. Each month we shall be bringing you a new article along with the latest trends



# New Series Feeder Fishing

## KNOW YOUR FEEDERS

When should you fish a Method over an open-end? All is revealed...

**It's not only floats that can send your head into a bit of a spin when it comes to picking the right one to suit your fishing – feeder choice is just as perplexing, given the sheer number of types on the market.**

Years ago it was a straight pick between a plastic open-end for lake bream or a blockend for river chub, but the advent of commercial carp has introduced a whole new breed of feeders. They keep on coming, too, with the Guru Hybrid the latest feeder to hit the banks.

Standard open-end feeders are sub-divided into cage, rocket and plastic varieties, so it's no wonder that you can easily pick the wrong feeder before you've even wet a line.

To help you make the right choice, over the next few pages I've broken down each type of feeder in my box and when it is best used.



I store my feeders in a large box as this makes locating the right one a quick and easy job – no rummaging around here!



### BULLET FEEDER

This is a type of maggot feeder with the weight built into one end. That makes for a feeder that casts accurately and goes a long way in windy weather.



### METHOD FEEDER

I'll pick a Method when I want to be attacking with my feeding in the summer and get lots of pellets into the peg when carp are the main target.



### WINDOW FEEDER

Ireland's big loughs seem to respond to this unique feeder. Brilliant for getting a quantity of particle baits to the bottom, especially chopped worm and caster.



### HYBRID FEEDER

A cross between a Method and pellet feeder that's a little more refined than both. Side walls stop the bait breaking away on the way down.



### PELLET FEEDER

I don't use a pellet feeder that much nowadays but they do allow you to regulate your feeding precisely and are very good in late autumn/early winter.

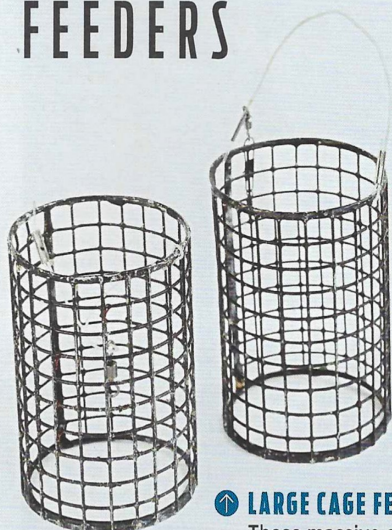


### MAGGOT FEEDER

Great on winter venues when there's a stock of mixed fish such as F1s, barbel and skimmers that are tuned into eating maggots rather than pellets.



## OPEN-END FEEDERS



### ↑ LARGE CAGE FEEDER

These massive cage feeders see the light of day when I want to get lots of groundbait and particles down quickly for bream.



### ↑ SOLID OPEN END FEEDER

A standard open end feeder but without the holes. This ensures that nothing comes out of the feeder until it hits bottom.



### ↑ CAGE FEEDER

Lets bait out as it falls through the water, and is excellent for putting attraction in the swim when after roach and skimmers.

### INLINE CAGE FEEDER

Should you prefer to use an inline cage, these are the ones to pick. I use them on commercials when fishing for F1s and skimmers.



### ← OPEN-END FEEDER

This is the open-end feeder that most of us will be familiar with. They still take some beating for bream, fished on a moderate cast.



## BOMB FEEDERS



### GURU CUBE

My standard bomb for carp work. The square shape casts very well, and with the supplied stem there's the option to fish it as an elasticated version.



### GURU IMPACT BOMB

When the carp want a bit of feed but not feederfuls, these bombs let you introduce small helpings of micro pellets alongside your hookbait.

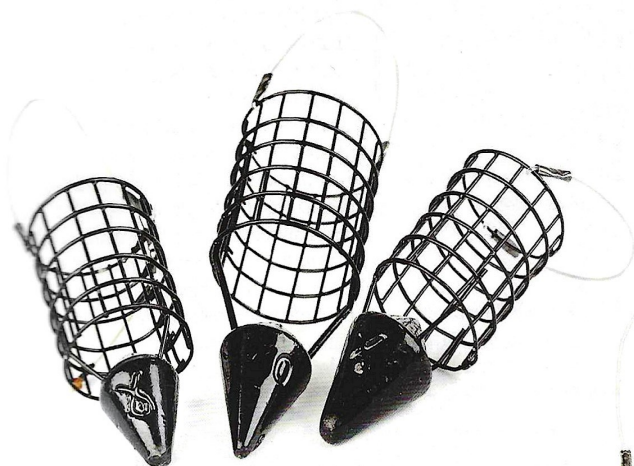


### FEEDER WEIGHTS

It's not only the overall size of feeder that should dictate the feeder you pick - weight is just as important to ensure accurate casting each time.



# DISTANCE FEEDERS



## MATRIX BULLET FEEDER

A real brute of a feeder for wild conditions – especially Ireland! Their shape helps with long casts while the cage means a quick release of bait.



## MINI DISTANCE FEEDER

Effectively the same as the Kev Leach feeders but in a smaller size for shorter casts and when not too much feed is needed to keep the fish happy.



## GURU ROCKET FEEDER

These are due out in the coming months and are a standard weight-forward rocket feeder for bream fishing. They also feature changeable weights.



## KEV LEACH DISTANCE FEEDER

The distance feeder that's won me lots of matches at Ferry Meadows! With the weight built into one end, they cast superbly and are deadly accurate.



## INLINE OR ELASTICATED?

Where permitted I will always opt to use an inline elasticated feeder. They offer security against hook-pulls when playing fish under the rod-tip.



# GLOSSARY OF FEEDER FISHING TERMS

Make sense of common terms that you might hear on the bank but not have a clue what they mean!

**A Action** – Description of the flexibility of a rod. Rods have a fast or slow action. Fast actioned rods are generally stiffer overall but bend more at the tip. Slow actioned rods are more flexible, with some flexing along their entire length

**Additive** – Flavouring added to bait to increase its attraction, usually in a powder or liquid form

**Anti-reverse** – Mechanism on a fixed-spool reel that prevents the reel from turning backwards

**Arlesey bomb** – A pear-shaped leger weight available in a range of sizes

**B Bail-arm** – The wire part of a fixed-spool reel that guides the line on the spool

**Baiting needle** – Device used to mount baits on to a hair rig. It has a small hook on the end and a plastic handle

**Bankstick** – A metal stick with a screw thread at the top, on to which rod rests, keepnets and pole grips can be fixed.

**Barbed hook** – Hook with a small 'barb' protruding on the inside of the point to penetrate a fish's mouth. Barbless hooks have no barb, while some hooks have a tiny 'micro barb'

**Big pit** – A scaled-down version of a big carp reel used for casting feeders long distances

**Blend in** – Hookbaits that are picked to merge in with the colour of the feed being introduced via a feeder

**Blood knot** – Basic knot for attaching hooks and swivels

**Boilies** – Round hookbaits made from a paste and boiled to harden them off. In dozens of colours, flavours and sizes

**Braid** – A synthetic woven material used for mainline when bream and skimmer fishing

**C Caster** – The chrysalis formed from a maggot

**Chopped worm** – Worms that have been chopped with scissors to create hundreds of tiny pieces. A great additive to groundbait for bream and roach (pic below)

**Chuck** – Colloquial term for a cast

**Cocktail** – A hookbait comprising two



or more different baits – especially good when targeting bream

**Commercial fishery** – A stillwater which is well stocked with a mix of species and is used by day anglers and for matches. Most feature a range of on-site facilities such as a café, tackle shop and toilets

**Corn** – Grains of sweetcorn for hookbait or feed. Natural yellow is best but other colours are available too

**Crack-off** – Accidentally snapping off the rig when casting. Occurs mainly when feeder fishing at distance

**D Dendrobaena** – A commonly-used worm for hookbait and chopping for feed. Commercially-bred, 'dendras' are tough and will keep active for a long time

**Diameter** – The measurement of the cross-section of line or braid. These commonly range from 0.10mm to 0.20mm for feeder work, and the smaller the diameter, the finer the line

**Disgorger** – Small plastic device used to safely remove a hook from a fish's mouth or throat

**Drag** – Device on a reel that regulates how easily the line can be pulled from the spool

**Drop** – Another term for the distance between feeder and rod-tip before casting. The longer the drop, the further you will be able to cast

**Drop-back** – Term used to describe a bite that causes the line to fall slack, such as when a fish picks up the hookbait and runs towards the angler

**E Elastic** – The shock-absorber fitted to the top section(s) of a pole which is used to play fish. Elastic is also used in the stems of in-line feeders such as Guru's Method, Pellet and Hybrid feeders

**Eyed hook** – Hooks with an eye at the

end of the shank, used for hair-rigging and also with thick lines in specimen angling

**F Fast action** – Rods which bend mainly in the top third, nearest the tip. Applicable mainly to float rods

**Feathering the line** – The act of placing your index finger on the lip of the reel's spool during the cast to slow the exit of line and stop the rig from going too far

**Feeder arm** – A solid attachment that's fixed to your seatbox leg with a rod rest head at the other end. This creates a stable platform to rest the rod on at any angle you choose

**Fixed rig** – When a feeder or bomb is fixed in place on the line – for example, an elasticated Method feeder

**Fluorocarbon** – A fishing line often used for hooklengths (and mainlines in specimen carp fishing) which is heavier and slightly stiffer than standard monofilament and is invisible under water

**Freebies** – Particles that are either loosefed or added to groundbait. Casters, pellets, chopped worm, corn and hemp are common examples

**F1 hybrid** – Popular modern fish stocked into many commercial fisheries, which is produced by crossing a crucian carp with a common carp

**G Gape** – The gap between the point of the hook and the longest part (the shank)

**Goo** – Sticky additives in a range of colours and flavours. These give off a great cloud in clear water and are brilliant in winter

**Grinner** – A very strong knot often used in rig tying

**Groundbait** – Used as an attractor or a carrier of loosefeed, groundbaits are often fishmeal or breadcrumb-based

**H Hair rig** – A method of attaching hookbaits where the bait is threaded on to a short thin section of line (the hair) which then hangs clear of the hook

**Hemp** – The seed of a cannabis plant, sterilised so it won't grow. When cooked it is especially good for roach and skimmers

**High-visibility** – Boilie or pellet hookbaits in lurid yellow, pink, orange and green colours that can be easily seen by fish

**Hooklink/Hooklength** – The trace of line tied to the hook at one end and connected to the mainline at the other

**Hook tyer** – This is a small tool with wooden and metal prongs that is used to tie a spade-end hook on to the line

**Hybrid feeder** – A new type of feeder for commercial carp that's a cross



between a Method and pellet version

**I Impact bomb** – A bomb with a small mesh section in the middle into which a few pellets can be added before casting

**Inline** – A feeder, bomb or float with a central tube for the line to run freely through

**J Joker** – Bright red larvae which are used mainly as a feed for small fish and can also be hooked

**K Keepnet** – A long fish-friendly net 2m-3m long, usually rectangular in shape, which is put in the water to temporarily retain the catch

**Knot picker** – Metal tool with a narrow pointed end, which is useful for opening up a knot in the line or a tangle

**Knotless knot** – As the name suggests, this knot doesn't actually involve any tying as such and is used with eyed hooks for hair-rigging baits

**L Lead clip** – A device on carp rigs to hold the lead but release safely if it becomes snagged

**Line bite** – A false indication on the float or quivertip caused by a fish brushing into the line

**Line clip** – Clip on a reel spool used to hold the mainline, ensuring the rig can be cast to the same spot every time (pic right)

**Link legering** – Legering method using large shot fixed on to a small paternoster instead of a bomb

**Loosefeed** – Individual loose items of bait which are fed on their own

**M Marker** – Far-bank target you can aim at when fishing the feeder to ensure repeated accuracy

**Method Feeder** – A type of feeder with a frame for moulding bait around. Comes in either an inline or elasticated/fixed format

**Monofilament** – A standard nylon fishing line. Some modern pre-stretched monofilaments are available in lower diameters for the given breaking strains and are ideal for pole fishing

**N No-knot** – Another term for the highly popular knotless knot used when hair-rigging baits

**P Peg** – A numbered platform or swim on a fishery. Before a match, the competitors 'draw pegs' to decide who fishes where

**Pellet** – Small cylinders made from fishmeals that are compacted into a

hard bait. Brilliant as a feed or hookbait in bigger sizes for carp

**Pinkies** – Grubs which are slightly smaller than maggots and are used as hookbaits for small species.

Often coloured fluorescent pink or red (pic right)

**Pop-up** – A buoyant bait which is 'popped up' off the bottom, anywhere from an inch to a couple of feet, when using a feeder or a leger

**Presentation** – The art of offering the bait and the rig to the fish correctly and as naturally as possible

**Pull round** – A positive bite on the feeder that causes the quivertip to lurch all the way round in an aggressive manner

**Punch** – A device for making cylindrical hookbaits by punching out a section from a larger piece of bait, such as a bread or luncheon meat

**PVA (Poly Vinyl Alcohol)** – A water-soluble material that comes in mesh or sheet form and is used to present a small parcel of loosefeed next to a hookbait

**Q Quivertip** – Sensitive, painted end section of a feeder or bomb rod, used for bite detection

**R Redworm** – Tiny worms found in the top layer of animal waste which make a great bait for skimmer bream

**Riddle** – A mesh sieve which is used for tasks such as removing sawdust from maggots or draining water from soaked pellets

**Rocket feeder** – With the weight built into one end, this feeder can be cast a lot further than a standard feeder and is very popular on bream lakes

**Running rig** – The term for a fish-friendly leger rig which allows the bomb or feeder to run freely up the mainline with nothing obstructing it above

**S Shockleader** – A section of heavy mono line used at the rig end of the mono or braid mainline to absorb the pressure of a long cast

**Silicone tubing** – Hollow tubing which is threaded on to the shank of a hook to ensure a hair-rigged bait is presented properly

**Skimmer** – A small bream of between a few ounces and 2lb

**Slab** – The nickname given to a large bream

**Spade end** – Standard hook for hooking soft baits and natural baits, which features a flat spade shape at the end of the shank



**Speed bead** – A soft rubber bead that stops the feeder sliding on to the hooklink and allows the angler to change hook and hooklink sizes in seconds

**Stand out** – Hookbaits that are coloured differently to what's being fed, making them easy for fish to see and pick up

**Swingtip** – A special kind of bite indicator which is rarely used these days. The tip is set to hang down from the rod end and when a bite occurs it rises upwards

**Swivel** – Two tiny metal rings attached to a small metal body. Used as a connection for lines and feeders in rigs

**T Target board** – Square black board which is attached to a bank stick and placed just past a rod-tip. Used to help the angler spot shy bites when using the quivertip

**Test curve** – Rating given to a rod's strength, particularly in big-carp fishing. It suggests the weight required to bend the rod-tip by 90 degrees from the blank

**Through action** – A rod with a constant, forgiving bend throughout the blank, such as a feeder or specialist rod

**Turn** – The distance taken up by one full rotation of the reel handle. Anglers often use 'turns' to describe the distance that they are fishing at on the feeder

**V Venue** – The generic term given to a fishing location – a stillwater, canal or river

**W Wafter** – A neutral buoyancy dumbbell or boilie hookbait that when fished on a hair rig will 'waft' just off the bottom (pic right)

**Watercraft** – Common term for the ability to read a swim or venue, its features and weather conditions, and then apply it to where, how and when you are going to fish. Considered to be an important skill

**Window feeder** – Popular in Ireland, this feeder has the weight at one end and a window slot in the side – great for fishing in deep water without releasing the bait early

**Z Zig rig** – Another term for a pop-up presentation, where the bait is presented off bottom in conjunction with a simple bomb rig





venue file: THE OAKS LAKES, SESSAY  
[www.theoakslakes.co.uk](http://www.theoakslakes.co.uk)

# The Practice *With Lee Kerry!*

**Lee Kerry** decides to begin a campaign on some lakes that are new to him!

Spring is here, and that means I need to dust the commercial gear down and get on the bank. I must admit that I really enjoy catching on commercials as the days begin to get longer. It just seems the fish are in the mood to feed, and you can build your peg throughout the day.





To get my eye back in I decided to travel up to the Oaks at Sessay for some of their midweek matches on what they refer to as the 'new lakes'.

Now these lakes are actually 10 years old, but they have been impeccably managed with good stocks of carp. There is no pleasure fishing allowed on these lakes, with matches on Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays only.

It means the fish are fighting fit and you can really be sure of a great day's fishing.

With a few of these matches in mind I have brought the Match Fishing cameras up to look at some of the key methods and gear I need to get me back in bagging mode!

## Rigs

First of all I need to think about a selection of rigs to suit. The lakes are a maximum of five feet deep, so there is no place for big floats, and 4x12 and 4x14

Inline Diamonds are perfect, with a strung-out bulk of shot just above the hooklength.

These rigs will do me for all the fishing on the bottom on these lakes, as even the margins are three feet deep, so with this in mind I have

A short 10ft rod makes fishing these small lakes a doddle.

tied them to the new 0.20mm Accu Power, a really high quality line that will take the battering of big carp catches.

To complement the rigs I also needed to prepare some

... as did a hair-rigged hard pellet.

No-nonsense 6lb mono on the reel.

Potting in hard pellets worked well...

11h and 12h were both used.

**"The fish are fighting fit and you can really be sure of a great day's fishing."**





Lee's standard shotting for carp fishing.

[INSET] Always mix a big of groundbait to try on the Method.



There is a 14.5m limit.

require a bit of thought. The likely hook baits are going to be hard pellets, Pro Expanders, corn or maggots. This means I need some size 18 and 16 KKM-Bs prepared with hair-rigged bands, as well as some 14 and 16 GPM-Bs for hooking the softer baits.

Not one to be underprepared I have also tied these on 0.16mm Accu Power as well, in case we go into bagging mode!

with snaggy pegs on these lakes, so my XS90 pole will allow me perfect control at range and the power required at shorter distances.

As for elastics, I have gone for the old faithful 11h for the long pole lines, although curiosity has got the better of me and I have threaded a kit with some fresh 12h for the short line, just to give it a try.

Along with pole fishing, conditions can sometimes mean a feeder rod is needed too. As for much of my small commercial fishing, a 10ft Supera with a 520

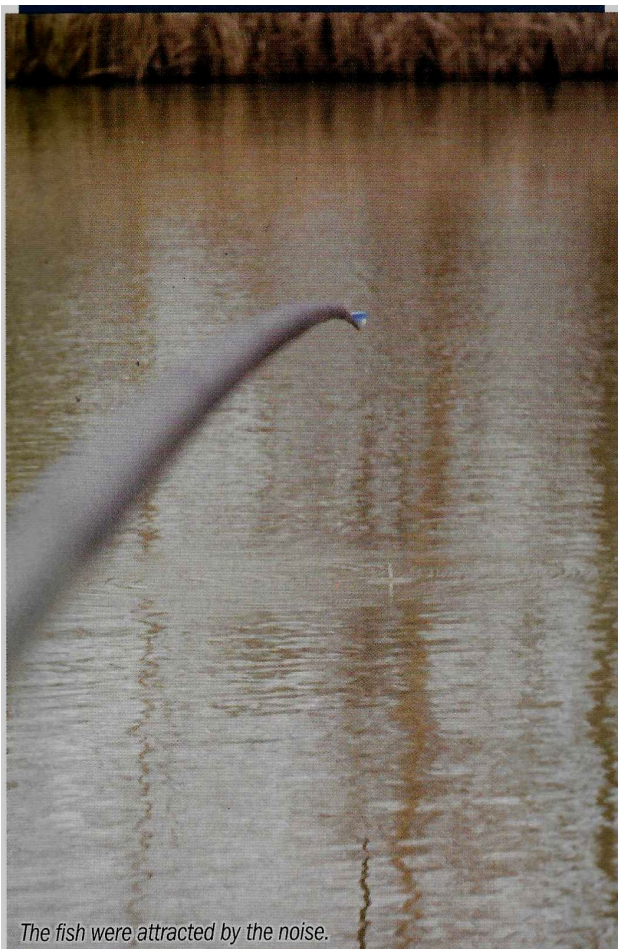
hooklengths; 0.14mm Accu Power is going to cope with all the fight of spring carp on these lakes, but hooks

## Elastics And Poles

There are no big problems







The fish were attracted by the noise.



The lake shallows up towards the middle.

Centris NT reel is a winning combination. This has 8lb Sinking Feeder Mono to a snap swivel, which allows me to use the small-elasticated ICS Method feeders, or even a bomb if I need to interchange.

### Baits

With gear preparation done, it's time to start thinking about baits, and naturally my first thought is towards pellets. This has to be the number-one carp bait, and a must on any commercial side tray.

At Sessay they ask you to use fishery pellets, so I have

five feet.

It may seem like a big difference, but the shallow bottom is that bit firmer and the fish are more tempted to eat from the bottom at this range.

A winning catch here at this time of year would be approximately 100lb, which means the long pole is definitely a viable option.

In the summer, weights of 300lb are commonplace, so fish have to be caught closer to compete.

They could back off as well beyond pole range, so a small bomb or Method feeder are further options.

***"As bites begin to ease, I want to see if the feeder will keep them coming."***

some 2mm, 4mm and 6mms on my side tray.

These are going to form the basis of my attack today, although I have brought maggots and corn as backup.

### Lines

Interestingly, these lakes were dug with a shallower area across the middle of the lake, which you can reach with 13 metres of pole.

This is around three and a half feet in depth these days, with the closer lines around

### The Session

Starting on a top kit plus one section, I decide to throw small amounts of pellets around the float, two or three at a time, with the idea being just to draw a single fish in and catch it.

After 10 minutes, I begin to get odd indications; however, annoyingly no proper bites develop. A foul-hooked fish gets me off the mark, but with only one more in the next half an hour, it is proving a frustrating start.

A change to a soft 6mm Pro Expander brings me a couple of fish, before again there are signs of fish without any evidence they want to go down to eat my bait.

When this happens, it is a clear sign that the fish want to be in shallower water. The two options therefore are the margins or the shallower bar out to 14 metres. The bar gets the vote. What happens next shouldn't have come as a surprise, but it is a reminder of how fickle fish can be.

Placing a small soft Cad pot on the end, I ship out to 14 metres and tap in two 6mm pellets. Within 30



4mm and 6mm fishery pellets.



# **MATCH FISHING LOG BOOK**

**The Logbook to record all your**

## **MATCH-FISHING**

### **Details and Catches**

**Keeping a log to refer back too time and again, can help to improve your catch rate.**

**Keep a record of the date, match, venue, weather, peg number, type of swim, depth, species of fish, methods, bait, groundbait, winners weight, section winner, your weight & position. Lessons learnt**

***(The great Legend & People Champion Ivan Marks once said "That a matchmans brain must be like a calendar and remember occasions of similar times and draw on his experiences")***

**This Log book will do just that!**

**Take it with you and record your event and match for future reference**

**Designed and formulated By**

**Clive Branson**

**(World Champion, Gold, Silver & Bronze medallist)**



## EXAMPLE PAGE

**Venue** *River Avon*  
**Type of water** *River*  
**Date** *16/06/2023*  
**Match Name** *Open Match*  
**Number Fishing** *60 pegger*  
**Organizer Name** *Eversham AA*  
**Tel No** *0123 496789*  
**Weather** *Sunny Dry*  
**Temperature** *Warm 23c*  
**Peg number** *9*  
**Type of swim on day** *Slow pace, running clear*  
**Depths** *3ft inside 6ft down first shelf*  
**Methods** *Whip, waggler, Pole*  
**Baits** *Red Maggot / Pinkie / Worm*  
**Groundbait** *Loose fed Hemp*  
**Species** *Chub, Roach, Skimmers*  
**Target Weight** *6-10lb*  
**Your Weight** *8lb 9oz*  
**Section winner** *Gary Wilsmore*     **weight** *9lb 7oz*  
**Winners names & weight peg numbers**  
**1<sup>st</sup>** *G Cross Peg 66 Bream on feeder 16lb 1oz*  
**Notes for the future** *Lost chub on pole Caster Bait, cost me the section Should have fished the feeder across. Winner used groundbait feeder and worm for 6 Bream*



**Venue**

**Type of water**

**Date**

**Match Name**

**Number Fishing**

**Organizer Name**

**Tel No**

**Weather**

**Temperature**

**Peg number**

**Type of swim**

**Depths**

**Methods**

**Baits**

**Groundbait**

**Species**

**Target Weight**

**Your Weight**

**Section winner** **weight**

**Winners names & weight peg numbers**

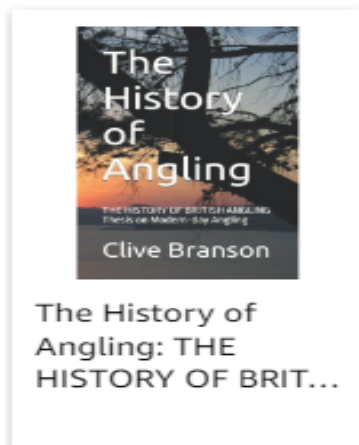
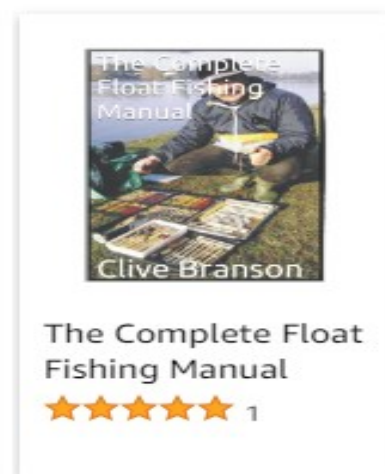
**Notes for the future**



Clive Branson titles including back issues

Available from Amazon

[www.tinyurl.com/clive-branson](http://www.tinyurl.com/clive-branson)







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## IT COULD BE YOU!

Will you be the angler to become the next Bait-Tech FEEDER MASTER? The big ticket sale is TOMORROW so be sure to get your devices ready to make sure you get those precious tickets ☐

**TICKETS ON SALE TOMORROW at 10.00am!**

Tickets for the Bait-Tech Feeder Masters 2024 will be on sale right here on our Facebook page.

Just be ready to log on, where a link will appear and you can click through to decide which of our 20 qualifiers suit you!

Have a look below to see what you fancy!

- 1: Sat 6th April - Decoy Lakes
  - 2: Sat 13th April - Barston Lake
  - 3: Sun 21st April - St Albans Lakes
  - 4: Sun 28th April - Ferry Meadows
  - 5: Sat 4th May - Decoy Lakes
  - 6: Sun 12th May - Southfield Reservoir
  - 7: Sat 18th May - Barston Lake
  - 8: Sun 19th May - JCB Lakes
  - 9: Sun 26th May - Ferry Meadows
  - 10: Sun 2nd June - Carr Mill Dam
  - 11: Sun 9th June - Upper Tamar
  - 12: Sun 16th June - Gloucester Canal
  - 13: Sun 30th June - River Yare
  - 14: Sun 7th July - Patshull Park
  - 15: Sun 14th July - River Trent
  - 16: Sun 21st July - Rudyard Lake
  - 17: Sun 28th July - Staunton Harold
  - 18: Sun 4th Aug - Upper Tamar
  - 19: Sun 11th Aug - Carr Mill Dam
  - 20: Sun 18th Aug - Southfield Reservoir
- The FINAL - Upper Tamar Lake on 28th/29th Sept**



## Secretaries / Match Organizers

If you want your club or open matches to be included within our pages .  
Please contact [clive@angling-news.co.uk](mailto:clive@angling-news.co.uk)

## HEREFORD AND DISTRICT ANGLING ASSOCIATION

### Draft Calendar of Events 2024

DATE	EVENT	VENUE	DATE	EVENT	VENUE
<b>JANUARY</b>			<b>SEPTEMBER</b>		
Sun 7 <sup>th</sup>	Rearranged Winter League Match **	R.Wye,Belmont, both banks. T' Courts	Sun 1 <sup>st</sup>	Club Match*	Pencoyd Pool (Limited Entry)
Sun 14 <sup>th</sup>	Winter League Match (Teams of 6)**	R.Wye,Belmont, both banks. T' Courts	Mon 2 <sup>nd</sup>	<b>Rules General Meeting</b>	Kindle Centre (Asda) 7.30pm
Sun 28 <sup>th</sup>	Winter League Match (Teams of 6)**	R.Wye,Belmont, both banks. T' Courts	Sun 8 <sup>th</sup>	Club Match *** (M. Pritchard Mem.)	R.Wye, Bartonsham, Eign & Field Farm.
<b>FEBRUARY</b>			Sun 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Joe Burrows Charity Match**	River Wye - All Waters
Sun 4 <sup>th</sup>	Club Match*	River Wye, Belmont, both banks	<b>OCTOBER</b>		
Sun 11 <sup>th</sup>	R. Wye Feeder Championship**	River Wye - all waters	Sun 6 <sup>th</sup>	35 <sup>th</sup> Wye Team Championship**	River Wye - all waters
Wed 14 <sup>th</sup>	2 Day Festival**	R.Wye,Belmont, both banks. T' Courts	Sun 13 <sup>th</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup> Winter League (Teams of 6)**	River Wye,Belmont, both banks, Tennis Courts
Thur 15 <sup>th</sup>	2 Day Festival**	R.Wye,Belmont, both banks. T' Courts	Sun 20 <sup>th</sup>	Match Booking (Alan's Tackle)	River Wye, B'mont both banks, Pumphouse d'steam..
Sun 25 <sup>th</sup>	Winter League (Reserve date)	R.Wye,Belmont, both banks. T' Courts	Mon 21 <sup>st</sup>	<b>General Meeting</b>	Kindle Centre (Asda) 7.30pm
<b>MARCH</b>			Sat 26 <sup>th</sup>	<b>River Wye - ALL CLUB WATERS CLOSED EXCEPT FOR PIKE MATCH.</b>	
Sun 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Club Match*	River Wye, T'Courts, Bartonsham.		Pike Fishing Match*****	River Wye
Thur 14 <sup>th</sup>	<b>LAST DAY OF COARSE SEASON ON RIVER WYE &amp; LUGG</b>		Sun 27 <sup>th</sup>	62 <sup>nd</sup> Wye Championship****	River Wye - <b>ALL CLUB WATERS CLOSED</b>
<b>APRIL</b>				Working Party ****(Stewarding)	Draw from 7.00am. Venue: Hereford Rugby Club
Sun 7 <sup>th</sup>	Club Match*	Pencoyd Pool (Limited Entry)	<b>NOVEMBER</b>		
Mon 15 <sup>th</sup>	<b>General Meeting</b>	Kindle Centre (Asda) 7.30pm	Sun 3 <sup>rd</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup> Winter League (Teams of 6)**	R.Wye,Belmont, both banks, Tennis Courts.
Sat 20 <sup>th</sup>	Club Match*	Pencoyd Pool (Limited Entry)	Tue 5 <sup>th</sup>	<b>River Wye - BELMONT(both banks), TENNIS COURTS CLOSED</b>	
<b>MAY</b>			Wed 6 <sup>th</sup>	18 <sup>th</sup> River Wye 3 day Festival**	River Wye,Belmont, both banks, Tennis Courts
Sat 4 <sup>th</sup>	Club Match*	Pencoyd Pool (Limited Entry)	Thur 7 <sup>th</sup>	18 <sup>th</sup> River Wye 3 day Festival**	River Wye,Belmont, both banks, Tennis Courts
Sun 19 <sup>th</sup>	Club Match*	Pencoyd Pool (Limited Entry)	Fri 8 <sup>th</sup>	18 <sup>th</sup> River Wye 3 day Festival**	River Wye,Belmont, both banks, Tennis Courts
<b>JUNE</b>			Wed 13 <sup>th</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup> Running Line Championship	River Wye,Belmont, both banks, Tennis Courts
Sat 1 <sup>st</sup>	Club Match*	Pencoyd Pool (Limited Entry)	Sat 16 <sup>th</sup>	Pairs Match**	River Wye,Belmont, both banks, Tennis Courts
Sun 9 <sup>th</sup>	Club Match*	Pencoyd Pool (Limited Entry)	Sun 17 <sup>th</sup>	Pairs Match**	River Wye,Belmont, both banks, Tennis Courts
Sun 16 <sup>th</sup>	<b>START OF COARSE SEASON ON RIVER WYE &amp; LUGG</b>		<b>DECEMBER</b>		
Mon 17 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Annual General Meeting</b>	Kindle Centre (Asda) 7.30pm	Sun 1 <sup>st</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup> Winter League (Teams of 6)**	River Wye,Belmont, both banks, Tennis Courts
<b>JULY</b>			Sun 8 <sup>th</sup>	Club "Fur & Feather" *	River Wye, Belmont, both banks.
Sat 6 <sup>th</sup>	Club Match*	Pencoyd Pool (Limited Entry)	Sun 15 <sup>th</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup> Winter League (Teams of 6)**	River Wye,Belmont, both banks, Tennis Courts
Sun 21 <sup>st</sup>	Club Match*	Pencoyd Pool (Limited Entry)	Sat 21 <sup>st</sup>	Club Christmas Match*****	Pencoyd Pool (Limited Entry)
<b>AUGUST</b>			* Phone Pete Pembridge on 01432 270706 to book.		
Sat 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Club Match*	Pencoyd Pool (Limited Entry)	** Phone Dave Roberts on 07812 081479 to book.		
Mon 5 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Last day for rule ammendments</b>		*** Phone Lee Pritchard on 07311 155336 for details		
Sun 18 <sup>th</sup>	Club Match*	Pencoyd Pool (Limited Entry)	**** Phone John Pembridge on 07413 472763 for details.		
Sat 24 <sup>th</sup>	Working Party***	River Wye	*****Phone Lee Harper-Smith on 07943 015836 for details.		
Sun 25 <sup>th</sup>	Working Party***	River Wye	*****Phone Chris James on 07737 684963 for details.		
Mon 26 <sup>th</sup>	Working Party***	River Wye			

Members are reminded that fishing is not allowed on any sections booked for a match from 12.00 midnight prior to the match until after the anglers have weighed in and their peg vacated.

Any changes to Matches or Work Party dates will appear in Woody's Tackle Shop. A list of all matches, Work Party dates & tasks, and Waters booked will appear at [www.hdaa.org.uk](http://www.hdaa.org.uk)  
Further Working Parties will be organised as necessary. Anyone wishing to participate should contact Lee Pritchard.



# Division One National Championship

## Leeds Liverpool Canal, Wigan

**Saturday 17th August 2024**

The Division One National is a team event, consisting of teams of 10 anglers taking part with up to 10 reserves. Teams for the Division One National Championship are already selected each year via invitation due to promotion status.

To take part in the Division One National Championships clubs/organisations must have affiliated membership of the Angling Trust and all individuals within the teams named on the entry forms must be individual members of the Angling Trust.

HQ: TBC

Closure of waters for practice: TBC

Draw: 8am

Fishing: 11:00am – 4:00pm

Licences: All competitors must be in possession of a current Environment Agency Rod Licence. Any competitor reported by the Environment Agency to the resulting team on the day of the match will be disqualified.

Keepnet: Minimum length of 2 metres

Bait bans: No bloodworm & joker. Other local rules tbc at a later date.

Refreshments: TBC

Eligible fish: All fish caught are eligible for weighing with the exception of Game fish, Pike, Zander & Crustaceans.

Procedures: All weighing in, and recording will be carried out by Section Stewards and Senior Stewards.



## Women's National Championship

### Monk Hall Fishery

**Saturday 6th July 2024**

**Tickets for will go on sale in early 2024 on the Angling Trust Competitions website.**

The Ladies National Championship is open to individual members of the Angling Trust over the age of 16 on the day of the event. You can join here [www.anglingtrust.net/membership](http://www.anglingtrust.net/membership)

The competition has both an individual and a team category. The event will be scored by overall weight and the winner of the individual event will become the Ladies Individual National Champion 2023. To compete in the team event participants must also be competing as an individual.

HQ: Boldings Pools

Lakes reserved: TBC

Draw: TBC

Fishing: 11:00am – 4:00pm (duration 5 hours).

Closure of waters for practice: TBC – please check with the Fishery directly as this could be subject to change depending on their open matches.

EA Rod Licence: Competitors must be in possession of a valid Environment Agency Rod Licence. Failure to possess a Rod Licence will result in disqualification from the event.

Keepnet: Minimum length of 2 metres (also see fishery rules regarding the number of nets and weight in each net).

Rules / Bait bans: Check Fishery & Angling Trust rules.

Refreshments: Available onsite

CHECK OUT OUR HIGHLIGHTS VIDEO FROM THE 2023 EVENT...



# Individual National Championship

## Leeds Liverpool Canal

**Saturday 3rd August 2024**

The Individual National Championship is for all individual members of the Angling Trust over the age of 16 on the day of event.

This is an individual event scored by overall weight, the winner will become the Individual National Champion.

### Headquarters and Results:

HQ Address for draw: TBC

Draw: 8:00am on the morning

Fishing: 11:00am – 4:00pm (duration of 5 hours)

Sections: TBC

Closure of waters for practice: TBC

Keepnets: A minimum of 2 keepnets must be taken by every angler.

Licences: All competitors must be in possession of a current Environment Agency Rod Licence. Any competitor reported by the Environment Agency to the resulting team on the day of the match will be disqualified.

Rules / Bait bans: TBC

Eligible fish: All fish caught are eligible for weighing with the exception of Game fish, Pike, Zander & Crustaceans.



# Division Two National Championship

## Aire & Calder and New Junction Canal

**Saturday 7th September 2024**

The Division Two National is a team event, consisting of teams of 10 anglers taking part with up to 10 reserves.

To take part in the Division Two National Championships clubs/organisations must have affiliated membership of the Angling Trust and all individuals within the teams named on the entry forms must be individual members of the Angling Trust.

HQ: TBC

Closure of waters for practice: TBC

Draw: 8:00am

Fishing: 11:00am – 4:00pm

Licences: All competitors must be in possession of a current Environment Agency Rod Licence. Any competitor reported by the Environment Agency to the resulting team on the day of the match will be disqualified.

Keepnet: Minimum length of 2 metres

Bait bans: No bloodworm & joker. No sticklebacks to be weighed in.

Refreshments: TBC

Eligible fish: All fish caught are eligible for weighing with the exception of Game fish, Pike, Zander, Crustaceans or sticklebacks.

Procedures: All weighing in, and recording will be carried out by Section Stewards and Senior Stewards.





# Team Commercial Stillwater National

## Drennan Lindholme Lakes

**Saturday 20th April 2024**

Sponsored by Drennan Lindholme Lakes in £2,500 prize money to winning team.

The Team Commercial Stillwater National Championship is a team event, consisting of teams of 10 anglers with up to 10 reserves.

To compete in the Team Commercial Stillwater National Championship clubs/organisations must have affiliated membership of the Angling Trust and all individuals listed on the entry form must be individual members of the Angling Trust.

**Venue:** Drennan Lindholme Lakes Fishery, Don Farm, West Carr, Epworth, Doncaster, DN9 1LF.

**Draw:** 8:00am

**Fishing:** 11:00am – 4:00pm (Duration 5 hours)

**Closure of waters for practice:** to be confirmed (anglers must check with Fishery directly as it depends on the matches they are hosting).

**Licences:** All competitors must be in possession of a current Environment Agency Rod Licence. Any competitor reported by the Environment Agency to the resulting team on the day of the match will be disqualified.

**Keepnet:** Minimum length of 2 metres

**Refreshments:** Available on site



## Angling Trust Feeder National Championship

### Aire & Calder and New Junction Canal

**Saturday 24th August 2024**

The Feeder National is the official qualifier for the FIPSeD World Club Feeder Championships in 2025\*. It is a team event of five anglers with up to five reserves. Each angler is required to be an individual member of the Angling Trust over the age of 16 on the day of the event, unless a Junior Angler Exemption certificate has been applied for and awarded. Teams are required to have club/association membership of the Angling Trust.

**Headquarters:** TBC

**Sections:** TBC

**Closure of waters for practice:** TBC

**Draw:** 8:00am

**Fishing:** 11:00am – 4:00pm (duration 5 hours)

**Bait bans:** No bloodworm & joker.

**Eligible fish:** All fish caught are eligible for weighing with the exception of Game fish, Pike, Zander & Crustaceans.

**EA Rod Licence:** Competitors must be in possession of a valid Environment Agency Rod Licence. Failure to possess a rod licence will result in disqualification from the event.

**Keepnet:** Minimum length of 2 metres

**Rules:** The Feeder National is fished to FIPSeD Feeder International rules (please see match booklet)





# Veterans & Masters National Championship

## Tunnel Barn Farm

**Wednesday 31st July 2024**

The Veterans & Masters National Championship is open to anglers who have individual membership of the Angling Trust. To compete in the Veterans category anglers must be 66 years old or above on the day of the Championship and those wishing to enter the Masters category must be aged 55-65 years on the day of the Championship.

Headquarters: TBC

Lakes reserved are: Veterans – TBC

Draw: 08:00am

Fishing: 11:00am – 4:00pm (duration of 5 hours)

Closure of waters for practice: TBC. Important notice: Anglers must check with Fishery directly as depends on the matches they are hosting.

Rod Licence: Competitors must be in possession of a valid Environment Agency Rod Licence. Failure to possess a rod licence will result in disqualification from the event.

Rules / Bait bans: Fishery & Angling Trust rules apply.

Refreshments: TBC



# Anglers with Disabilities National Championship

## Boldings Pools Fishery

**Saturday 6th July 2024**

The National Championship for Anglers with Disabilities is open to all individual members of the Angling Trust 16 and over on the day of the Championship.

The competition is fished individually and the event will be scored by overall weight and the winner of the event will become the Anglers of Disabilities National Champion 2023.

Headquarters: TBC

Lakes reserved: TBC

Draw: 8:30am

Fishing: 11:00am – 4:00pm (duration 5 hours)

Closure of waters for practice: TBC -please check with the Fishery directly as this could be subject to change depending on their open matches.

EA Rod Licence: Competitors must be in possession of a valid Environment Agency Rod Licence. Failure to possess a rod licence will result in disqualification from the event.

Keepnet: Minimum length of 2 metres (also see fishery rules regarding the number of nets and weight in each net).

Rules / Bait bans: Check Fishery & Angling Trust rules.

Refreshments: Available onsite





# Riverfest 2024

The UK's biggest and best river fishing competition gets underway for the 12th time on Sunday, 16th June on the Warwickshire Avon at Evesham.

There are 27 qualifying matches and, subject to ticket sales, this year's final will see the winner walk away with a whopping £14,000 from a prize pot in excess of £50,000!

RiverFest creator Dave Harrell has worked closely with the country's best match organisers and has booked the most popular summer venues for the qualifiers.

"Since I started this competition in 2013, I have always tried to develop and improve it every season," said Dave.

"This year we have two brand new venues on the list with the Bristol Avon and the Dorset Stour as well as all the regular favourites. It's going to be a great competition again, I'm sure!"

The 84-peg final will take place on the River Trent at Stoke Bardolph and Burton Joyce over the weekend of 21st and 22nd September.

Qualifying match tickets will go on sale on March 19th and April 2nd and the cost has been held at £35. Match day pools will be payable on the day of the qualifiers.

SUN 16/6 - WARWICKSHIRE AVON, EVESHAM (60)  
WED 19/6 - RIVER TRENT, NEWARK (80)  
SAT 22/6 - RIVER CALDER, MIRFIELD (60)  
SUN 23/6 - RIVER NENE, OUNDLE (60)  
WED 26/6 - RIVER SEVERN, BEWDLEY (60)  
SAT 29/6 - RIVER TRENT, CAYTHORPE (60)  
SUN 30/6 - RIVER MEDWAY, BARMING (40)  
WED 3/7 - RIVER TRENT, CUTTLE BROOK, INGLEBY (60)  
SUN 7/7 - WARWICKSHIRE AVON, STRATFORD (60)  
SAT 13/7 - RIVER SEVERN, BRIDGNORTH (60)  
SUN 14/7 - RIVER SOAR, SUTTON (60)  
WED 17/7 - RIVER TRENT, COLLINGHAM (60)  
SAT 20/7 - RIVER TRENT, BURTON JOYCE (80)  
SUN 21/7 - DORSET STOUR, STURMINSTER NEWTON (60)  
WED 24/7 - RIVER TRENT, NEWARK (80)  
SAT 27/7 - RIVER DON, SPOTBOROUGH (60)  
SUN 28/7 - WARWICKSHIRE AVON, STRATFORD (60)  
SAT 3/8 - RIVER THAMES, CLANFIELD (60)  
SUN 11/8 - RIVER TRENT, COLLINGHAM (60)  
SAT 17/8 - RIVER TRENT, BURTON JOYCE (80)  
SUN 18/8 - RIVER TRENT, TRENT LOCK (60)  
WED 21/8 - TIDAL TRENT (80)  
FRI 23/8 - TIDAL TRENT (60)  
WED 28/8 - RIVER TRENT, BURTON-ON-TRENT (60)  
SAT 31/8 - RIVER THAMES, READING (60)  
SAT 7/9 - BRISTOL AVON, SWINFORD, CRANE (40)  
SUN 8/9 - RIVER THAMES, ABINGDON AREA (60)





# Match Results Canal

Dave's of Middlewich Individual League, Round 1, Trent & Mersey Canal, Red Shale, Rookery & Mill Lane Sections, Elworth, Sandbach, Ches. Sun (79 fished). Dave Trafford (Matrix LTB) 10-2-12 (all roach on poled caster and bread); Tony Richardson (Hindley) 8-10-0 (all roach on poled caster and bread); Mark Grimshaw (Wigan MG) 6-0-9 (all roach; inc a 2lb specimen on poled caster and bread); Steve Fogel (Drennan NW) 5-12-0 (200 bits on the whip with bread); Peter Gradwell (Liverpool AS) 5-1-0; Lewis Breeze (Drennan NW) 5-0-13.

GT Bathroom Series, Cannock Extension Canal, Boatyard Section, Pelsall, Walsall, W. Mids. Sat (16 fished). Tony Kulik (Cashmores MG) 2-3-1; Chris Dean (Cashmores MG) 1-11-4; Gaz Mapp (Cashmores MG) 1-8-4.

Goodyear AC, Staffordshire & Worcestershire Canal, Slade Heath Basin & Baits Sections, Coven, Staffs. Sun (15 fished). Kevin Perry (Goodyear AC) 2-9-12 (roach and gudgeon); Glenn Law (Goodyear AC) 2-9-0; Mark Wyton (Goodyear AC) 2-2-0; Fred 'the Bread' Cheetham (Goodyear AC) 2-0-5; Malcolm Bethell (Goodyear AC) 1-6-9; Keith Hulland (Goodyear AC) 1-3-12.

HanKat Superteam AS Open, Stourbridge Canal, Tank Section, Brierley Hill, W. Mids. & Boats to Brettell Lane, Stourbridge, W. Mids. Sat (33 fished). Steve Broome (Maver Midlands) 13-11-0 (skimmers); Lee Woodhouse (HanKat Superteam AS) 10-10-2 ; Peter Lamb (Sportsman AA) 9-3-13; Dean Webb (Sensas Black Country) 8-9-2; Gary Owen (Canal Kings/Storey's) 8-5-13; John Garbett (Team Eclipse) 6-7-7. HanKat Superteam AS Winter Pairs League, Round 1, Stourbridge Canal, Old Strike Waters, Brierley Hill, W. Mids. Sun. Dave Anderson (Sportsman AA) 1-7-11; Phil Simnett (Droitwich Spa) 1-3-7; Barry Broadhurst (HanKat Superteam AS) 0-5-8; S. Randall 0-4-14; Owen Westwood (Wolverhampton AA) 0-4-0; John Cartwright (HanKat Superteam AS) 0-2-11. Pairs: Barry Broadhurst (HanKat Superteam AS) & Karl Haywood (Sportsman AA) 6; Dave Anderson (Sportsman AA) & Pete Hatton (ZLT) 8. (only top two pairs supplied).

Liverpool & District AA Open, Leeds & Liverpool Canal, Walk Over Section, Maghull, Merseyside. Wed. Gordon Griffiths 23-4-0; Joe Farrell 19-5-0; J. Easton 4-14-0.

Milton Keynes Angling Association New Year's Eve Golden Peg 2023 Match, Grand Union Canal, New Inn Section (New Bradwell), New Haversham, Milton Keynes, Bucks. Sun 31st Dec. Kevin Osborne 7-2-0; Ernie Sattler 4-8-0; Paul Hamilton 2-15-0; Paul Chapman 2-9-0; Colin Chart 1-9-0.

Nene/Towcester AC, Grand Union Canal, Furnace Lane Section, Nether Heyford, Northants. Sun 31st Dec. Mick Goodridge 2-2-0; D. Pannel 2-0-0; Chris Howard 1-15-0.

Port Sunlight AC Winter League, Round 5, Shropshire Union Canal, Great Boughton, Chester, Ches. Sun. Phil Loughran 0K 040g; Phil McKeown 0K 020g; James Prinold 0K 010g. (league placings to follow after final round).

Sportsman AC Opens, Birmingham Main Line Canal (BCN), Netherton Tunnel End Section, Tividale, W. Mids. Wed (9 fished). Chris Furnival (HanKat Superteam AS) 12-5-0; Mal Galliers (Sportsman AA) 7-9-0; Dennis Dingle (Cradley Heath) 5-0-0; Mark 'Jed' Whiles (Sportsman AC) 4-6-0; Mick Hawkins (Sportsman AC) 4-4-0; Pete Fellows (Sportsman AC) 4-2-0. Sun (9 fished). Mal Galliers (Sportsman AA) 11-9-0; John Horton (Sportsman AC) 6-8-0; Mark 'Jed' Whiles (Sportsman AC) 6-1-0; Chris Furnival (HanKat Superteam AS) 5-1-0; Dennis Dingle (Cradley Heath) 4-7-0; Alan Price (Sportsman AC) 4-2-0.

Stoke City DAA Open, Shropshire Union Canal, Gnosall, Staffs. Sat (19 fished). Richard Guest (Bag'em/ Maver Midlands) 4-12-12 (skimmers and roach); Dave Holbrook (Team Eclipse) 4-9-8 (skimmers and roach); Keith Holbrook (Rough Hay AC) 4-2-0 (skimmers and roach); Dave McCall (Cadence Superteam/ Bait-Tech) 3-12-12 (mixed bag of small silvers); Alan Round (Sensas Lifestyle MG) 3-10-0 (all hybrids late on); Keith Hulland (Sensas Lifestyle MG) 3-7-0 (four hybrids plus roach).

Wigan DAA Opens, Leeds & Liverpool Canal, DW Stadium Section, Wigan, Gtr. Manchester. Wed. Sean Wharton (Hindley) 8-5-0; Steve Wilson (Sensas NW) 6-5-12; Carl Whalley (Sensas NW) 5-14-0; Roger Gardom (Colmic Dynamite Trentmen) 4-15-8. Sat., Leeds & Liverpool Canal, Burscough Town Centre Section, Burscough, W. Lancs. Joe Seefus (Sensas NW) 12-11-4; Mick Topping (Sensas NW) 5-7-0; Roger Gardom (Colmic Dynamite Trentmen) 5-4-8; Sean Wharton (Hindley) 4-6-0.



# Match Results

## Rivers

Northwich AA Mini League 2024, Round 1, River Weaver, Dredger, Boats, Willowbeds & Newbridge Sections, Northwich, Ches. Sat. Simon Wilkinson (AGK) 18-7-0; Kevin Bell (AGK) 13-15-0; Alex Clegg (Wigan MG) 13-2-0. (all bream weights). Teams: AGK 5; BMR 10; Vale Royal Juniors 11; Wigan MG 16; Busby Babes 18; Weaver Burglars 20.

Rotherham UAF Winter League, Round 3, River Don, Sprotbrough, Doncaster, S. Yorks. Sun. Dave Clark (Ferryboat Old'uns) 6-7-0; Shane Gallagher (Spotted Fin/Team Normanton) 6-6-0; Gav Morton (MPW Baits) 6-5-0; John Bromilow (Tackle Traders) 4-15-0. Teams: (Joint 1st) Ossett; Mill Tackle; (Joint 3rd) Tackle Traders; Ferryboat Old'uns.

## Stillwaters

Blackfords Progressive Association Winter League, Round 4, Calf Heath Reservoir, nr. Gailey, Staffs. Sat (30 fished). Dennis Kneller (Penkrige) 16-14-0 (bream on Method feeder and waffer); Paul Bucknell (Little Dawley AC) 14-7-0 (bream on Method feeder and waffer); Alan Evans (Kidderminster) 12-14-0 (bream and skimmers on Method feeder and waffer); Gaz Oliver (Stoke-on-Trent) 11-5-0 (bream and skimmers on Method feeder and waffer). League: Gaz Oliver (Stoke-on-Trent) 4; Dennis Kneller (Penkrige) 5; Kevin Tipton (Fatty's Bait & Tackle/Sensas) 6; Paul Bucknell (Little Dawley AC) 9 (44-5-0); Brian Ashley (Telford) 9 (31-9-0); Shane Hodgkinson (JCB) 10 (37-13-0).

Boddington Scivers/Full Timers/Rare Day Off Open, Boddington Reservoir, nr. Byfield, Northants. Tues. Pegs 2-12: J. Webb 132-12-0; Paul Caton 105-8-0; T. Winstone 96-12-0. Pegs 66-80: Marius Eduard Dermelici 144-2-0; A. Snowy 122-10-0; N. Franklin 106-6-0. Pegs 82-92: Stu Palser 111-8-0; D. Sanders 62-12-0; J. Eades 49-8-0.

Kiveton Waters New Year Two Day Pairs Match, Sheffield, S. Yorks. Sat 30th Dec./Sun 31st Dec. Ryan Martin & Shane Hodkin 5 (245-12-0); Chris Graves & Dan Picksley (Sat.) & Mark Bexton (Sun.) 9 (149-7-0); Joep France & Rich Allen 10 (243-8-0).

### Stillwaters

Blackfords Progressive Association Winter League, Round 4, Calf Heath Reservoir, nr. Gailey, Staffs. Sat (30 fished). Dennis Kneller (Penkrige) 16-14-0 (bream on Method feeder and waffer); Paul Bucknell (Little Dawley AC) 14-7-0 (bream on Method feeder and waffer); Alan Evans (Kidderminster) 12-14-0 (bream and skimmers on Method feeder and waffer); Gaz Oliver (Stoke-on-Trent) 11-5-0 (bream and skimmers on Method feeder and waffer). League: Gaz Oliver (Stoke-on-Trent) 4; Dennis Kneller (Penkrige) 5; Kevin Tipton (Fatty's Bait & Tackle/Sensas) 6; Paul Bucknell (Little Dawley AC) 9 (44-5-0); Brian Ashley (Telford) 9 (31-9-0); Shane Hodgkinson (JCB) 10 (37-13-0).

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### Stillwaters

Castle AC Hangover Match, Canons, Northants. Sun 31st Dec. Steve Smith 8-6-0; Richard Wills 7-11-0; Andy Franklin 6-8-0.

Patshull Park Fishery Open, The Great Lake, Pattingham, Staffs. Sun. Steve Preece (Walsall) 13-10-0 (bream on the slider); Paul Bucknell (Little Dawley AC) 12-9-0 (bream). (only top two supplied).



# Commercials

Anglers Choice Middlesbrough Winter League, Match 7, The Oaks Lakes, Sessay, N. Yorks. Sat., Sycamore Lake. Rob Thurwell 187-3-0; Chris Clark 95-5-0; Rob Wood 67-15-0. (no league placings supplied).

Bitterwell Lake Silvers Match, Coalpit Heath, Bristol. Tues. Paul Elms 16-14-0; Tom Baker 9-4-0; Matt Challenger 7-14-0; Martin Rogers 7-12-0; Ricky Mills 6-15-0; Mat Taynton 6-14-0.

Blundell Fishery, Rixton, Ches. Sat., Open, Trio & East Lakes. Andy Greaves (Elton Tackle) 126-12-0 (carp to 13lb on pole-fished bread and maggot across); Chris Davies (Warrington) 73-11-0 (carp to 6lb on pole-fished corn and maggot across); Andy Ackers (Harry's of Wigan) 66-1-0.

Bradshaw Hall Fisheries, Bolton, Gtr. Manchester. Sat., Open, Lake 8 & Loop. John Jones 31-1-0; Gary Ainscough 27-9-0; Ian Bruce 26-5-0.

Brookside Fisheries, Warrington, Ches. Sat., Open, Snake Lakes 1 & 2. Stuart Conroy 42-1-0; Charlie Blakely 33-5-0; Steve Barlow 28-8-0.

Castle Ashby Open, Grendon, Northants. Tues., Grendon Lake. Trevor Dunkley 19-2-0; Pat Lloyd 16-2-0; John Pearce 14-1-0.

Chris Hill's Feeder and Silvers Only Winter League, Round 4, Barston Lakes, Solihull, W. Mids. Sun (32 fished). Michael 'Bud' Buchwalder (MAP) 23-0-0 (skimmers on the feeder with red worm over groundbait); Paul Warren 20-0-0; Gareth Lambert 19-6-0; Matt Bretherton 19-4-0.

Hawkesbury Hall Farm, Bedworth, Warks. Sun (14 fished). John Kidd (Hawkesbury) 16-3-0 (small carp plus bits on pole-fished caster and worm); Daver Armson (Hawkesbury) 12-4-0 (all roach to 8oz on poled caster and pinkie); Ian Shirley (Hawkesbury) 10-4-0 (perch and roach; both to 8oz on poled caster).

Heronbrook Fisheries, Slindon, nr. Eccleshall, Staffs. Sat., Open, Rover (18 fished). Martyn Steele 50-3-0; Ben Myatt 47-10-0; John Myatt 43-3-0.

High Heyes Farm Fishery (The Catteries) Open, Eccleston, Chorley, Lancs. Sat. John Dingley 32-8-0; Lee Clancy 26-0-0; J. Brooks 25-8-0.

Izaak Walton Fishery Costcutter, Chebsey, Stafford, Staffs. Wed., Rover. B. Handley 121-8-0; C. Sander-son 82-13-0; M. Steele 72-5-0; G. Taylor 63-6-0; D. Bracken 62-12-0.

Lingmere Fishery Open, Moreton, The Wirral, Merseyside. Sat. R. Newton 57-8-0; A. Dewhurst 55-0-0; T. Crofts 43-12-0.

Maver UK Winter League, Round 6, Packington Somers Fisheries, Meriden, W. Mids. Sun., Molands Mere, Big Geary's, Little Geary's & Siblings A & B Pools (61 fished). Steve Pearce 87-13-0 (F1s on poled pellet); Lee Richards 75-12-0 (carp and F1s on waggler with pellet); Rob Hodgson 57-3-0 (carp and F1s on bomb and bread); Jack Shirley 56-15-0 (carp and F1s on poled maggot); John Brown 54-5-0 (F1s on poled pellet); Paul Truman 54-1-0 (carp and F1s on poled pellet).

Meadowlands Fishery New Year Two Day Event, Ryton-on-Dunsmore, Warks. Sun 31st Dec., New Year's Eve Open, Lambsdown Lake & Warren Pool (33 fished). P. Jupp 137-14-0; Paul Caton 133-12-0; Adam Wakelin 106-14-0. Mon., New Year's Day Open, Lambsdown Lake (20 fished). Richie Hull 154-10-0; Mick Bull 140-10-0; Grant Merrett 111-14-0. Overall combined result after the two matches: Richie Hull 224-8-0; Paul Caton 220-2-0; Mick Bull 212-4-0.

Nisa Feeders Open, Makins Fishery, Bramcote, Nuneaton, Warks. Wed., Phase 1-Lake Two. Phil Hunt 88-11-0 (carp on the bomb with a wafter [first Nisa Open win]); Allan Neale (Nuneaton) 47-8-0 (carp on bomb and bread, then bomb and wafter); Andy Findlay (Preston Innovations/Sonubaits) 47-7-0 (mainly carp plus a couple of decent bream on bomb and bread then Method feeder); Peter Stockwin (Northampton) 22-10-0 (three carp and one bream on Method feeder); John Adamson (Nisa Feeders) 22-3-0 (four carp on the Method feeder); Gaz Kitch (Wykin Fishing Club) 20-0-0.



Packington Somers Fisheries, Meriden, W. Mids. Wed., Solihull Angling Centre Open, Rover (18 fished). John Burchell 90-7-0 (carp and skimmers on poled pellet); Jake Newton 87-0-0 (carp and F1s on pole-fished bread and maggot); Dave Childs 84-6-0 (carp and F1s on poled pellet); Mark Sumners 74-15-0 (carp and F1s on poled pellet). Sat., Solihull Angling Centre Silvers Open, Big Geary's Pool. Dave Elliott 20-10-0; Ian Keywood 13-11-0; Lee Cosgrove 12-3-0; Mark Jaques 8-10-0.

Partridge Lakes Fishery, Warrington, Ches. Sat., Open, Covey Lakes 1-4 & 5 (38 fished). Harry Campbell 56-11-0; Shaun Linton 45-0-0; Phil Walsh 44-4-0; Frank Cooke 43-7-0.

Preston Innovations Boldings Pools, Bridgnorth, Shrops. Sun 31st Dec., Sycamore Pool. Gareth Unwin (Big C) 42-15-0; Gaz Willey (Walsall) 33-3-0; Gary Morris (Preston Innovations Boldings) 24-2-0; Ian Stangroom (Bibby's/Stone & District AC) 23-14-0. Tues., Over 60's Open, Sycamore Pool. Clive Wright (Preston Innovations Boldings) 63-11-0; Gary Gollins (Swan Elite) 55-4-0; Dave Mortlock (Preston Innovations Boldings) 54-11-0; Colin Reynolds (Preston Innovations Boldings) 49-2-0; Bill Hill (Preston Innovations Boldings) 47-6-0. Wed., Open, Willows & Chestnut Pools. Gaz Willey (Walsall) 85-2-0; Steve Lovell (Maver Midlands) 83-1-0; Dave 'Tank' Palmer (Preston Innovations Boldings) 73-10-0; Ian Stangroom (Bibby's/Stone & District AC) 59-8-0. Thurs., Over 60's Open, Sycamore Pool. Clive Wright (Preston Innovations Boldings) 57-3-0; Steve Owen (Monkhall) 49-9-0; Clive Wynn (Tri-Cast Weston Pools) 47-5-0. Sun., Open, Oak & Willows Pools. Colin Wozek (OAC) 87-1-0; Gaz Willey (Walsall) 72-13-0; Dave Bowater (Preston Innovations Boldings) 38-7-0; Bill Rathbone (St. Francis) 37-11-0; Dave 'Tank' Palmer (Preston Innovations Boldings) 37-4-0.

Sherwood Forest Fishery, Edwinstowe, Notts. Sat., Open, Holmedale Lake. Ian Taylor 53-14-0; Nigel Shipman 38-4-0; Darren Bayliss 34-6-0. Sat., Silvers Open, Sherwood Lake. John Urruty 22-12-0 (roach, skimmers and perch on the waggler); Daniel Skinner 7-4-0; Steve Smith 6-7-0.

Splinters AC, Peatling Pools, Peatling Parva, Lutterworth, Leics. Sun 31st Dec. Steve Johnson 112-3-0; Dave Griffiths 85-11-0; Tom Griffiths 60-3-0.

Stoppo's Fishery Silvers Open, Coton-in-the-Elms, Derbys. Wed (9 fished). John Harper 25-7-0 (quality roach on poled caster at 6 metres); Leon Murphy 23-5-0 (quality roach at 6 metres); Dean Cherrington 20-5-0 (quality roach at 7 metres); Carl Yeomans 19-6-0; Steve Tivey 18-0-0.

The Mick Hewlett Memorial Match, Castle Ashby, Grendon, Northants. Mon., Grendon, Brickyard & Scotland Pools (60 fished). Wayne Robinson 33-14-0 (carp); Chris Pridmore 22-0-0; Stan Atter 20-4-0; Mason Perkins 17-11-0; Matt Ellson 15-15-0; Mick Wheeler 15-6-0.

The Oaks Lakes, Sessay, N. Yorks. Sat., Open, Cedar Lake. Barry Paton 33-0-; Craig Grant 24-6-0; Bob Sinclair 23-1-0.

The Oaks Lakes Silver Fish Open, Sessay, N. Yorks. Sat., Willows, Oaks & Alders Lakes. Ryan Bennett 26-8-0; Rob Swan 22-13-0; Rob Harbour 20-4-0.

The Old Hough Coarse Fishery Golden Pot Qualifier, Middlewich, Ches. Sat., Boulders, Prospect & Lower Benbo Pools. Simon Symcox 51-7-0; Danny Tomkinson 38-4-0; Jez Goldthorpe 36-2-0; Dave Pimlott 33-5-0. Qualifiers: Simon Symcox; Danny Tomkinson.

Todbor Manor, Sturminster Newton, Dorset. Sat., Open, Homeground Lake. Steve McDonald 110-14-0; Phil Hardwick 106-0-0. (only top two supplied). King of the Manor Qualifier: Steve McDonald.

Viaduct Fishery, Somerton, Somerset. Sat., Open, Campbell Lake (21 fished). Mark Wynn 130-0-0; Andy Weston 76-10-0; Matt Skyme 62-8-0. Silvers: John Fuidge 18-6-0; Toby Burrell 16-10-0; Adrian Dew 12-8-0.

Weston Pools, Oswestry, Shrops. Sat., Open, Weir Pool. Kristian Jones 102-8-0; Richie O'Connor 63-14-0; Alan Falzon 19-12-0. Sat., Open, Belvedere Pool. James Howarth 57-6-0; Dave Durbin 34-12-0; Ellick Peters 29-10-0. Sat., Open, Canal Pool. Nathan Spain 33-15-0; Steve Parry 33-8-0; Martin Wedley 26-16-0.

Willow Lakes Winter League, Round 4, Foston, Grantham, Lincs. Sat., Ash, Alder & Hawthorn Lakes. Steve Pretty 84-8-0; Tim Booker 55-7-0; Rich Ablitt 41-3-0; Mark Wyatt 30-8-0; Andy Findlay 30-1-0; Dave Booker 22-3-0; Dan Lacey 21-0-0; (Joint 8th) Andy Birkin 16-9-0; Alan Cullington 16-9-0; Mitch Riley 15-4-0. Lake winners: Ash Lake – S. Pretty; Alder Lake – T. Booker; Hawthorn Lake – M. Wyatt.



## Mystery Anglers Answers

1 (Bidford Angler) Harry Golder 2, (Hereford Angler) Dave Feeney 3. (Fenland Angler) John Taylor  
4. (Lancashire) Dave Trafford 5. (Gwent) Andrew Mumford 6. (Midlands) Mark Downes

## Fishing Quiz:

**What is the term for the art of catching fish with a hook, line, and rod?**

c) Fishing

**Which type of fishing lure is designed to mimic the movement of injured or distressed prey to attract fish?**

b) Spinnerbait

**In angling, what does the term "bag limit" refer to?**

a) The size of the fishing bag

**What is the purpose of a fishing reel?**

c) To store and deploy fishing line

**Which of the following is a traditional material used for making fishing lines?**

a) Nylon

**What is the term for the practice of catch-and-release in fishing?**

a) Fish conservation

**In fly fishing, what is the purpose of the fly line?**

b) To cast the fly

**What is the world record for the heaviest largemouth bass caught as of 2022?**

d) 29.01 pounds

**What type of fishing involves using a baited hook trailed behind a moving boat?**

a) Trolling

**Which famous river is renowned for its salmon fishing?**

d) River Tweed



## NOTES











