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Published By Amazon

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Match Report

Anglers Mail Archives

Anglers News Archives

Dear fellow Anglers and Matchmen

I am thrilled to announce the March 2024 edition of the re-launch of Angling News and Match Fishing News by myself: Clive Branson!

What's New?

Fresh Design and User-Friendly Interface:

Our Facebook page, website and paperback publication have undergone a facelift, featuring more news, article, and blast from the past including a modern design for easy navigation and a seamless user experience. 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



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. With nearly 4,000 members and even more viewers this platform is another vehicle to bring anglers the latest news and updates including my own match fishing results.

On this months vlog s

Two videos to talk about this month, once again fishing the mighty river Wye at Belmont Hereford. The River Wye Spring Festival over two days. This is a new event that is run over a two day period in February. Dave Roberts the Hereford match organizer put this event together only a couple of years ago and in his wisdom has kept the match to a minimum of 54 anglers. All pegged around the prolific Belmont section, thus short walks and a chance of a good days fishing. However this time of year the weather comes int play and with heavy downpours of rain the river rose overnight on the first match. Drawing a good peg number 89 opposite the boathouse on the Azda bank I was more than happy. This peg is normally a good dace and roach peg but with the river up a couple of feet and above the platform, I had to fish midway down the wooden steps. Setting my stall for bleak I started on them. Finding the bleak small close in I decided to fish at 4 meters. Fishing long does slow up the catch rate but compensates with larger bleak on the hook. Anyway after the 5 hour match I ended up with 34lb 8oz and a 2nd in the section. Only beaten my top angler Steve Maher who weighed in 42lb.

Normally you would need two section wins to have a chance of making the frame as they pay out the top six. The winner is decided by overall 6 point penalty section wins. With a second I knew my chances were slim but I needed to win my section the 2nd day. To have an outside chance af a minor placings.

See Vlog <https://youtu.be/p-mFEzKjysk>

The second day and with the river still up I drew peg 53 which is just above the old railway bridge on the rugby field side. I did not fancy this peg because as the flow runs off quick against the bridge stanchions it is not a good holding spot, except for the odd barbel. So I set up a couple of feeder rods as well as my bleak whips. As the match started I was pleasantly surprised to see some bleak in the turbulent slack. So I continued from the day before and went all out for bleak. Thinking if I could win my section I Mmay have a chance of framing. However I had a bleak magician above me in Paul Johnson who won his section the day before, so I had my work cut out. Nevertheless, I continued and ended up with 24lb 14oz in the end, and did manage to beat Paul next peg, however just above him was also a great bleak angler Trevor Chalk who managed to beat me into 2nd place again. It was a great festival and I did pick up two brown envelopes to help me along the way.

See my Vlog <https://youtu.be/UYOmVNGtTkE>



March Calendar Girl with a massive Carp



Environment watchdog boss tells farmers to 'do better' on river pollution



Environment Agency chair Alan Lovell acknowledged the numerous "financial pressures" on farmers, including difficulty accessing government cash. He also called water companies "appalling" for their sewage discharges

The head of the environment watchdog has ordered farmers to clean up their act on river pollution, telling them it is time to "take their medicine".

Alan Lovell, chair of the Environment Agency for England, told the National Farmers Union (NFU) on Tuesday that pollution from agriculture and rural land is "roughly equal [to] that coming from the water industry".

It comes amid widespread public outcry over the state of the nation's waterways, with water companies and farms leaking sewage, fertilisers and manure into rivers, lakes and coastlines.

Campaigners say the River Wye is in a "death spiral" due to the chicken faeces coming from intensive farms along its banks, feeding bright green algal blooms that choke other river life.

The farms help feed Britain's growing appetite for eggs, which rose by 12% in one year in 2022, according to environment department

Speaking at the annual NFU conference in Birmingham, Mr Lovell said: "Let's clear out these pollution incidents and do it better."

He presented "uncomfortable" photos of dirty waterways next to farms, along with Defra figures showing that farms account for 40% of river pollution, compared with 36% from water companies.

The numbers are "not good", said Mr Lovell, who was also criticised during a Q&A session with farmers who accused him of failing them over flooding ruining their land



"This is a two-way street," he said. "I'll take my medicine on flooding, and other aspects. But please will you take yours?"

The watchdog chair said he "understands the challenges" for farmers, including lack of awareness and "financial pressures".

Farmers are battling a squeeze on prices from supermarkets, vastly higher gas and fertiliser prices, inflation and rain and flood damage.

These have led to a contraction in the sector, the NFU says, with 7,000 fewer agricultural businesses in the UK in 2022 than in 2019.

Meanwhile, water companies have handed out multi-million pound dividends, although they are about to increase investment.

Mr Lovell said the historical underinvestment by water companies was "appalling, and they know it".

Latest News

The River Wye, dotted with intensive poultry farms, is suffering in particular and campaigners have taken the Environment Agency to court in a bid to enforce stricter rules on farms.

In response:

Farming has been badly hit by flooding in the UK and many farmers are calling on the government to invest more in river defences to protect food production.



Roy Marlow Passed away

Roy Marlow Unexpectedly Confirmed Dead at The Glebe Fishery, the Fishery He Built; Family and Friends Shocked

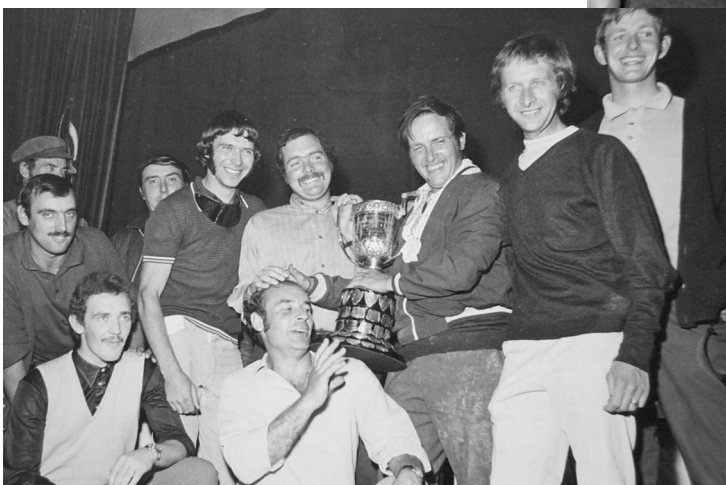
The angling world is plunged into mourning as news spreads of the passing of a true legend, Roy Marlow, leaving a profound void in the hearts of anglers globally. Renowned for his unparalleled contributions to the fishing community, Roy's legacy resonates far and wide, casting a shadow over the sport he loved dearly.

Roy was a big name in the angling trade and leaves behind a great legacy - not least the beautiful Glebe Fishery which he made his home in his later years.

Rest in peace Roy. Our thoughts are with his son Nick, and the rest of his family



Fifty years ago 15th/16th July 1967 the famous Leicester Likely Lads gained their nickname when Roy Marlow won the Saturday CIU National on the Relief Channel and on the Sunday Dave Rossi won the Joshua Tetley Gala on the Welland. An Angling Times journalist coined the phrase, 'Leicester, the Likely Lads' and the rest is history



Top Right

Roy Marlow One of the original Likely Lads



Des Ship Reports

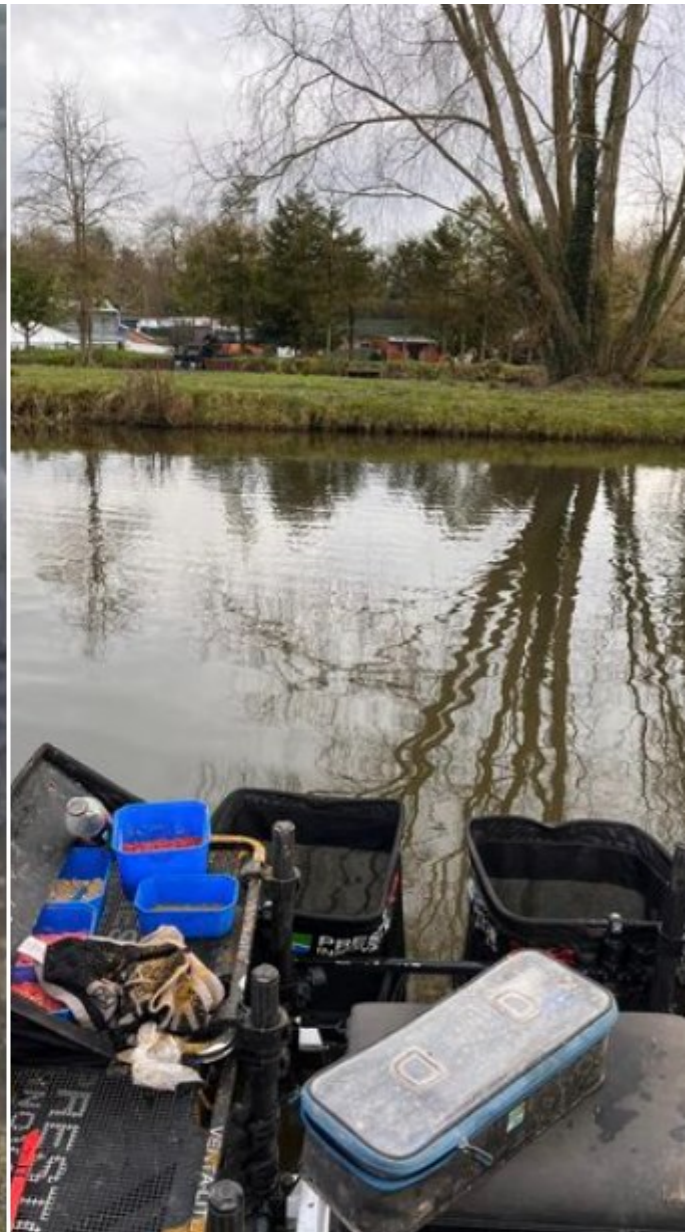
First day of the on the flyer tv two day silver fish at meadowlands. For me this is my practice for the final that's this Sunday coming. Drew out peg 27 on the big lake, lansdown. Found out some info and was told really I needed to be to my right a little to get on the proper skimmers, had a lovely days fishing but couldn't really catch long properly but to my right the fishing was mega, definitely learnt some things today that hopefully will help tomorrow and Sunday in the final. Finished with 34 lb that was only 6 th in the 11 peg section so no good in the big picture of things and would of loved to been slightly to my right. Well done to the framing weights and section Winners hopping to



11 February

Guested on the Loden lake winter league today. This is a beautiful lake just down the road from Todber manor fishery, it's been really hard in areas in the league and was hopping for a nice peg. Peg 32 stuck to my hand that I was pretty happy with as it's one of the pegs that can hold some of the few carp that are on here. First port of call was try and catch one. Started on a 20 gram ICS cube with 3 discs of 8 mm bread and 20 minutes later a had a 10 lb common in the net. That was the start I wanted for sure and tried for another one for around 40 minutes but nothing and I was itching to have look on the pole, looking around it was fishing rock hard in my area so wasn't expecting much on the pole to be honest and after dropping in on my ground bait lines for just Mincey roach it was looking like I was going to be looking for a second carp but luckily I decided to put a chop worm line in at the start, dropped on this and caught a 2 lb skimmer, this was my turning point as I fed the other lines straight away with worm as well, caught odd decnty skimmer over the two lines until the end. Finished with 20 lb of skimmers and the carp for 29 lb that thankfully won the day 🏆. lovely fishing when your on a few fish here, well done to Simon Hebditch coming second with 20 lb, Damion Townsend coming third and everyone else that took part. Ground bait today was f1 dark, pro thatchers green and some so natural deep water, used 5 slip and a 4+14 f1 maggot tied to 011. Hope you all had a nice weekend. Lovely to meet a couple of guys that have just got into match fishing as well



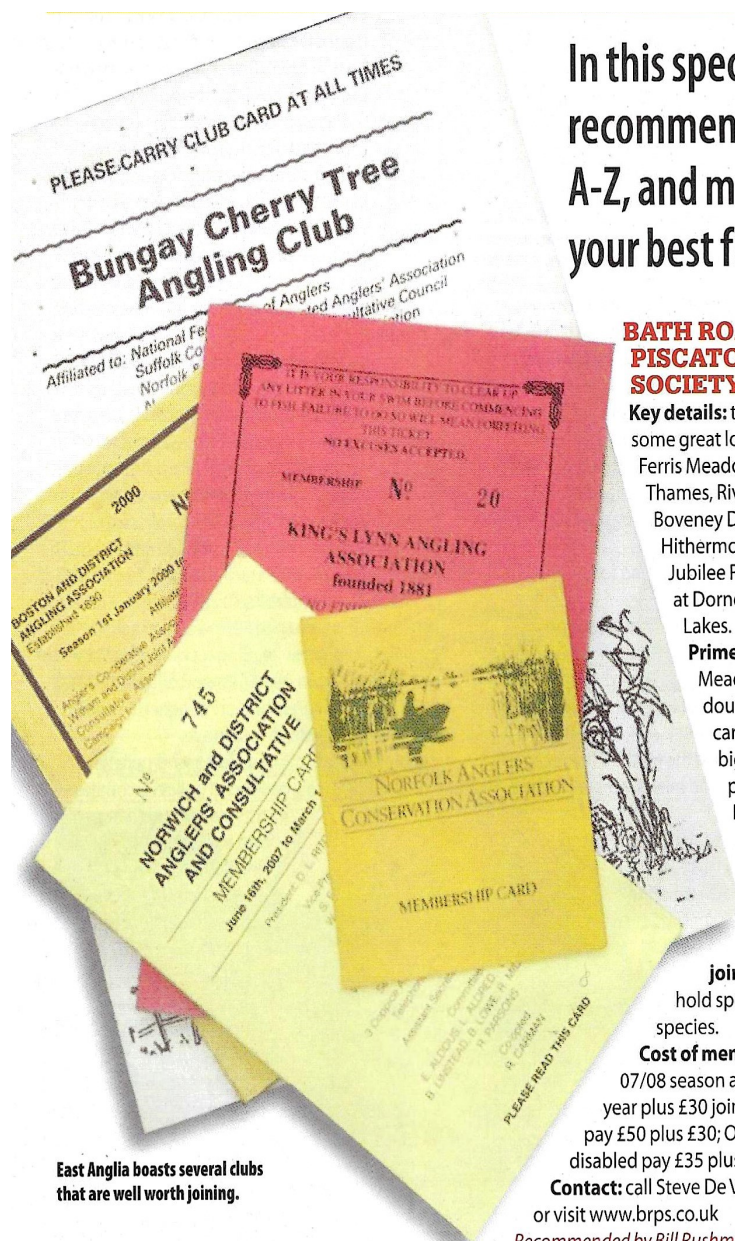


10 February

Penultimate round of the teams of 4 at the lovely Tunnel Barn Farm. With the rain going in like it has, I was surprised to see the water level the highest I have ever seen it there, so I was unsure quite what affect it was going to have on the fishing for everyone, however it proved to not make a difference at all! Team draw put Andy on 29 top, Callum 10 house, Aide 28 new & myself on 27 extension, happy enough with the draw but could have done with a couple of fliers in there. My peg has been a bit up & down all league so wasn't sure how it was going to go. With the lake slightly coloured up I decided to start on pellets at 11m. surprisingly enough this happened to work as pellets haven't worked for me at all, up until now. Had a great start catching some decent F1's & stockies, but I did notice that a few were fishing down the edge and catching, I had a go myself but only had silver fish, had to go across at 16 mtr where I caught a few f1 on maggots before trying my short line and this was brilliant for about 40 minutes until I died and never come back even late, I did manage to catch in the edge in the last hour over some super crush green but it wasn't solid, finished with 75lb that was only 6th in my 15 peg section as the lake fished brilliantly like the rest of the complex. Team has done great coming second on the day and with just one round to go we are 26 points in front. Well done to all the winning teams and individuals today and can't wait for next weeks last round

Clubs to Join for 2024

In this special feature our six regional experts recommend the best clubs around. Check out this A-Z, and make this the year you enjoy some of your best fishing ever!



East Anglia boasts several clubs that are well worth joining.

AMALGAMATED FISHERIES LTD, Somerset.

Key details: this club's stillwaters include Tockenham Lake, Burton Hill Lake, Pawlett Ponds, Shackells Lake, Sabre Lake. Rivers include the Brue in Somerset, 23 stretches of the Bristol Avon, two stretches of the Chew and sections on Cam Brook, Wellow Brook and the Bristol Frome.

Why you should join: the waters offer specimen fish of most coarse species.

Cost of membership: for 08/09 season full membership, valid from Jan 1 2008 until June 1 2009, are adults £45, adult and child £55, ladies, juveniles, OAPs, and the disabled all £15.

Contact: call J S Parker on 0117 960 3378 or visit www.amalgamatedfisheriesltd.co.uk
Recommended by Brian Gay

BATH ROAD PISCATORIAL SOCIETY, Middlesex.

Key details: this club controls some great local waters including Ferris Meadow Lake, River Thames, River Colne at Poyle, Boveney Ditch, Gibraltar Lake, Hithermoor Lake, Tench Pit, Jubilee River, River Thames at Dorney and Moor Lane Lakes.

Prime venue: Ferris Meadow is noted for its double-figure tench, carp topping 40 lb, plus big bream, perch and pike.

Interesting fact: the Boveney Ditch is artificially heated by cleaned up sewage water.

Why you should join: the club venues hold specimen fish of most species.

Cost of membership: for the 07/08 season adults pay £60 per year plus £30 joining fee; 16-18s pay £50 plus £30; OAPs and registered disabled pay £35 plus £15 joining fee.

Contact: call Steve De Ville on 07931 841825 or visit www.brps.co.uk
Recommended by Bill Rushmer

BATHAMPTON ANGLING ASSOCIATION, Somerset.

Key details: the club's stillwaters include Hunstrete, Newton Park, Lydes Farm and Weston Pond. Also the Kennet and Avon Canal. Rivers include Bristol Avon, the River Chew and Box Brook.

Interesting fact: there is a thriving veterans' scene.

Why you should join: it's a progressive pro-active club with prime stillwater carp and general pleasure fisheries as well as top drawer river and canal sport for a wide variety of species.

Cost of membership: it's £25 for adults, £7 for juniors, veterans and the registered disabled.

Contact: call Dave Crookes on 01225 427164 or visit www.bathampton.org
Recommended by Brian Gay

BAY MALTON ANGLING CLUB, Cheshire.

Key details: Bay Malton AC was formed in the mid 70s and now has up to 20 stillwaters and four rivers.

Interesting fact: the club took over the running of Border Commercial Fishery.

Why you should join: prime stretches of river offer barbel to double-figures. Stillwaters include large lakes and small intimate ponds.

Cost of membership: free for under-8s; 8-15s pay £10; 16-17s pay £22; seniors £44 plus £44 joining fee in the first year.

Contact: write to Bay Malton Angling Club, P.O. Box 646, Broadheath, Altrincham, WA14 5YZ or visit www.baymaltonanglingclub.org.uk
Recommended by Ian Chapman

BILLERICAY AND DISTRICT ANGLING CLUB, Essex.

Key details: the club has 30 venues including stillwaters, the River Pant, Suffolk Stour and Roding.

Interesting fact: it's the largest fishing club in the South East with over 4,000 members.

Why you should join: plenty of waters throughout the whole of Essex.

Cost of membership: Ordinary membership costs £58 including joining fee. OAPs pay £34 including joining fee (this may change at the AGM).

Contact: call the helpline on 0870 240 7074 or log onto www.bdac.co.uk
Recommended by Bill Rushmer



Fish the idyllic Hunstrete Lake with membership of Bathampton AA.

BIRMINGHAM ANGLERS ASSOCIATION LTD.

50 of the top Angling Clubs

Best Value In the UK.

(Some information may have changed, after going to print.

It is a good idea to enquire beforehand)

West Midlands.

Key details: formed in 1883 as the Birmingham and District United Angling Association, the BAA offers 200 miles of river fishing, 60 miles of canal fishing and 14 different stillwaters.

Prime venue: the Severn between Bridgnorth and Bewdley is teeming with barbel and other species.
Interesting fact: match legends like Ivan Marks, Kevin Ashurst, Robin Harris, Clive Smith, Ken Giles and Mark Downes were all members.

Why you should join: with miles per £1 the BAA offers the best value fishing in the country.

Cost of membership: BAA is open to all and there is no joining fee involved. For 2008 membership is: adults £29; OAPs, ladies and under-17s £17. Permits from the BAA office: BAA, 106 Icknield Port Road, Rotten Park, Birmingham, B16 0AA.

Contact: call John Williams on 0121 454 9111 (mornings) or visit www.baa.uk.com

Recommended by Tony Keeling

BOSTON AND DISTRICT ANGLING ASSOCIATION,

Lincolnshire.

Key details: they have holdings on over a dozen cracking 'drain' venues and affiliation to the Witham and Joint Anglers Federation and the East Midlands Angling Federation opens up even more venues that include the rivers Witham and Glen.

Prime venue: it'd be impossible to choose.

Interesting fact: this year will see the club's 112th annual open match being held (venue tba).

Why you should join: great value for money.

Cost of membership: £17 from Jan 1, with concessions available.

Contact: call Mrs Clifton on 01205 760666 or visit www.bostonanglingassoc.co.uk

Recommended by Jim Tyree

BRADFORD NO 1 ANGLING ASSOCIATION,

West Yorkshire.

Key details: Bradford No 1 AA has approximately 43 miles of river, 11 lakes and 4.25 miles of canal.

Interesting fact: the club was founded in 1878.

Why you should join: first class stillwaters, two great canals, and nine top quality Yorkshire rivers.

Cost of membership: under-17s pay £14, ladies £16, and over-65s pay £16. Full seniors pay £36. The joining fee (not for juniors) is £20.

Contact: call John Sparks on 01274 421786 or visit www.bradfordno1.com

Recommended by Ian Chapman

BUNGAY CHERRY TREE ANGLING CLUB,

Suffolk.

Key details: Bungay has a variety of venues. The Club Pit at Ditchingham offers carp to 20 lb plus tench and bream.

Prime venue: chub, quality roach and big bream on the middle reaches of the River Waveney.

Interesting fact: TV angling star John Wilson honed his long trotting skills on the delightful River



Jim Tyree shows off a fine Waveney chub.

Waveney.

Why you should join: it has a forward thinking committee.

Cost of membership: seniors £40, concessions available, from local tackle shops or via Mark Casto.

Contact: call Mark Casto on 07969 641061.

Recommended by Jim Tyree

CAMBRIDGE FISH PRESERVATION AND ANGLING SOCIETY LTD.

Cambridgeshire.

Key details: in 1885 the club was formed as the Jolly Angler. On its formation the club had one stretch of the Hundred Foot River at Earith; now there are over 30 miles of prime river fishing, three lakes, four pits and a pond on the books.

Prime venue: the River Cam is a fabulous venue and is a great place for anglers to learn watercraft.

Interesting fact: the late Percy Anderson, a professional footballer and class act at various other sports, was a valued member.

Why you should join: CFPAS is a friendly club with several angling coaches on their books.

Cost of membership: the year permits run from March 15 2008 to March 14 2009 and cost £25 for adults with some very generous concessions.

Contact: call Graham Tweed on 01223 234616 or visit www.cambridge-fpas.co.uk

Recommended by Tony Keeling

CANTERBURY AND DISTRICT ANGLING ASSOCIATION,

Kent.

Key details: formed in 1928 the association's venues include Fordwich Lake, the Kentish Stour, Stour Lake, Trenley Lake, Trout Lake, Littlebourne, Stonar Lake, Minister Lakes plus the Little Stour.

Prime venue: Fordwich Lake has produced mirror carp to 43 lb 4 oz, commons to 35 lb 10 oz, double-figure tench, plus perch and bream.

Interesting fact: the club's Stonar Lake is salty, holding both freshwater and sea species.

Why you should join: good selection of river and stillwater venues.

Cost of membership: for the 07/08 season adults pay £55 plus a joining fee of £27.50 and £3 for a key; OAPs pay £27.50 and £13.75 joining fee plus £3.

Contact: call the club office on 01227 710830 or log onto www.CDAA.org.uk

Recommended by Bill Rushmer

CENTRAL ASSOCIATION OF LONDON AND PROVINCIAL ANGLING CLUBS (CALPAC).

Key details: venues include Stew Pond, Manor Pond, Balls Green, River Arun, Grand Union Canal, River Medway, the River Kennet, Basingstoke Canal, River Eden and Springbrook Sewer.

Prime venue: the River Kennet at Padworth in Berkshire, is noted for big barbel, perch and chub.

Interesting fact: it's one of the oldest associations in the South East, established in 1879.

Why you should join: wide selection of venues.

Cost of membership: for the 08/09 season associate membership costs £46 for seniors; £37 16-18s; £28 for OAPs and registered disabled plus a £16 joining fee.

Contact: call John Bygrave on 0208 7779489 or log onto www.calpac.info

Recommended by Bill Rushmer

CHRISTCHURCH ANGLING CLUB,

Dorset.

Key details: there are 40 lakes on the club books. The club also boasts 30 river and stream stretches.

Prime venue: the Dorset Stour.

Interesting fact: Christchurch AC has grown to be one of the largest clubs in southern England.

Why you should join: members can fish the best of the Hampshire Avon, including Somerley Estate.

Cost of membership: a full adult membership costs £120 with disabled concessions at £85. Junior cards are £50. A Somerley salmon permit is £135.

Contact: call Paul Jerome on 01425 489011 or visit www.christchurchac.co.uk

Recommended by Brian Gay

COLCHESTER ANGLING PRESERVATION SOCIETY,

Essex.

Key details: loads of stillwaters and the Suffolk Stour plus a section on the River Colne.

Prime venue: Snake Pit has a possible 40 lb carp and catfish over 50 lb.

Interesting fact: nuts are banned on all waters.

Why you should join: many quality fisheries.

Cost of membership: on-line prices are adults £75 plus £2 handling fee, OAPs and the registered disabled £50 plus £1.50, 16-18s at £38 plus £1.25. The season runs from April 1 to March 31.

Contact: visit www.colchesteraps.org or join through agents such as Bevan Carp Tackle in Chelmsford or Bills Tackle in Braintree.

Recommended by Bill Rushmer

DERBY RAILWAY ANGLING CLUB,

Derbyshire.

Key details: formed in 1895 the club has a huge amount of river, canal and stillwaters. The club has miles of the River Trent and the River Dove, the Trent and Mersey Canal plus several stillwaters. The club also runs a separate trout fishing section.

Prime venue: the River Trent at Shardlow offers every type of swim, and a good mix of species.

Interesting fact: the record match weight on the River Trent at Shardlow is 183 lb, all bream except for one carp from the famous 'white house' bend.

Why you should join: taken at a cost per peg the DRAC offers tremendous value for money.

Cost of membership: adults £40; OAPs and registered disabled £23; under-16s £5. The 08/09 membership fees, from June 16 are: adults £41;

OAPs and registered disabled £24; under-16s £5. There is no joining fee. Enquire about trout fishing permits (there is a small waiting list).

Contact: call Richard Anderson on 01332 792807 or visit www.drac.org.uk

Recommended by Tony Keeling



Membership of Farnham AS gets you access to top venue Frensham Small Pond.

DEVIZES ANGLING ASSOCIATION, Wiltshire.

Key details: this club offers the Kennet and Avon Canal and Crookwood Lake, which is the stillwater created by the club and is good for tench, bream, carp and pike.

Prime venue: the Kennet and Avon Canal above and below Devizes offers excellent fishing for roach, bream, tench, perch and pike.

Interesting fact: there is no Close Season on the canal or lake.

Why you should join: the club offers various facilities, including platforms for the disabled, and coaching.

Cost of membership: it's £30 a year for adults, £15 for OAPs, £13 for 12-16s, and £9 for 8-11s. Crookwood Lake membership (in addition to the club membership) is £25, £18 and £10. Discounts are available when applying directly to the club.

Contact: call Richard Taylor on 01380 729620 or visit www.devizesaa.org.uk

Recommended by Brian Gay

DONCASTER AND DISTRICT ANGLING ASSOCIATION, South Yorkshire.

Key details: Donny DAA offers Southfield Reservoir, two massive canals and the River Don. They have a thriving match scene too.

Prime venue: bream-filled Southfield Reservoir.

Interesting fact: the club's three key waters, South Yorkshire Navigation Canal, River Don and New Junction Canal, once grossly polluted, are now some of the most renowned venues in the area.

Why you should join: quality river and canal sport.

Cost of membership: club books are only £17 for the year, which runs from April to April. Concessionary rates (£10) are available for OAPs and juniors. Local tackle shops stock the permits, but you can also buy direct from the club.

Contact: Martin Warne on 07771 986849 or visit www.doncaster-and-district-angling-association.co.uk

Recommended by Ian Chapman

DURHAM CITY ANGLING CLUB, Co. Durham.

Key details: the club controls six lengths of the River Wear around Durham, and the Braside Ponds complex. Members can access the Tyne Alliance waters and the Dunelm Club waters.

Interesting fact: if accompanied by a member, a spouse and children/grandchildren under the age of 16 are allowed to fish DCAC waters.

Why you should join: one of the fastest growing

clubs in the North East of England.

Cost of membership: seniors pay £50; senior citizens, students and the disabled pay £35; intermediates pay £20 and juniors £10.

Contact: call Mr J Hepworth on 0191 3866000 or visit www.durhamanglers.co.uk

Recommended by Ian Chapman

EXETER AND DISTRICT ANGLING ASSOCIATION, Exeter.

Key details: the club has stillwaters at Sampford Peverell, Abbots Pond, Feneck Ponds and Kia Ora. River stretches include the Culm, Creedy and Exe. The Exeter Ship canal is on board too.

Why you should join: EDAA now control over 26 miles of fishing in and around the Exeter area.

Cost of membership: full senior membership is £34 per annum, while juniors are just £4.

Contact: call Terry Reed on 07970 483913 or visit www.exeteranglingassociation.co.uk

Recommended by Brian Gay

FARNHAM ANGLING SOCIETY, Surrey.

Key details: Farnham is the largest angling club in Surrey with venues in Berkshire, Hampshire and Surrey. There are plenty of stillwaters plus the River Whitewater, four sections of the River Loddon, Winchfield Pond, Mill Lane and River Valley Lake.

Prime venue: the River Loddon has produced big chub and barbel to top 16 lb.

Why you should join: venues to suit most tastes.

Interesting fact: a separate fly fishing section.

Cost of membership: for the 08/09 season senior membership costs £70 plus a £25 joining fee.

Contact: Mike Borra at 'The Creel', 36 Station Road, Aldershot, Hants GU11 1HT. Call 01252 320871.

Recommended by Bill Rushmer

GLASTON MANOR ANGLING ASSOCIATION, Somerset.

Key details: the club's stillwaters are Burtle Road Lakes and Moorlands. Rivers feature the River Brue plus the Sheppey and River Hartlake, Whitelake and Redlake plus the North and South Drains.

Prime venue: the River Brue for some of the best roach, chub, bream and pike fishing in Somerset.

Why you should join: first class fishing on a variety of waters in the Glastonbury, Mid Somerset area.

Cost of membership: it's £28 a year for the senior permit, £9 for a junior and £14 for OAPs and disabled adults. A junior disabled card costs £4.50.

Contact: call Adam Mitchell on 01749 673786 or visit www.fishinginsomerset.com

Recommended by Brian Gay

GODALMING ANGLING SOCIETY, Surrey.

Key details: waters on offer include Broadwater in Godalming noted for carp over 30 lb. Other waters include Johnson's Lake, Bramley Park Lake, Marsh Farm and Busbridge Lake. The club has lots of the River Wey some of which have very big barbel.

Prime venue: Marsh Farm at Milford, which has crucians running to well over 4 lb.

Interesting fact: the management team battled to secure a lottery grant to develop Marsh Farm into a top fishery to match the best commercials.

Why you should join: the fishing on offer is exceptionally good.

Cost of membership: for the 08/09 season adults pay £65 plus a £65 joining fee.

Contact: call membership secretary Bernard Miles on 01483 424796 or visit www.godalminganglingsociety.co.uk

Recommended by Bill Rushmer

HULL AND DISTRICT ANGLERS ASSOCIATION, East Yorkshire.

Key details: Hull DAA is one of the longest established angling associations in the Yorkshire region. They have some cracking stillwaters plus the Aire and Calder Canal, River Derwent, the River Rye, the River Trent at Carlton and other waters.

Why you should join: some of the best fishing in East Yorkshire.

Interesting fact: Motorway Pond is home to sturgeon to over 25 lb.

Cost of membership: a Hull book costs £34 for adults, £11 for juniors and £17 for seniors over 65.

Contact: Hull DAA is at PO Box 188 Hull, East Yorkshire, HU9 1AN. Call Alan Tunley on 01482 706 332 or visit www.hdaa.freeseerve.co.uk

Recommended by Ian Chapman

KING'S LYNN ANGLING ASSOCIATION, Norfolk.

Key details: KLAA has a kaleidoscope of venues such as Tottenhill Pit and Snetterton Pits, literally miles of Fen drains and also the River Wissey.

Prime venue: the mighty Great Ouse.

Interesting fact: most of the top predator anglers in the country are or have been members, including top pike man Neville Fickling.

Why you should join: this club has one of the hardest working committees in East Anglia.

Cost of membership: £36 for seniors, with concessions for OAPs and juniors.

Contact: call Mick Grief on 01553 671545 or visit www.kingslynnaa.btinternet.co.uk

Recommended by Jim Tyree

KINVER FREELINERS ANGLING CLUB, Worcestershire, Shropshire and Staffordshire.

Key details: formed 30 years ago the club has a wide variety of exclusive waters, including estate lakes, prime stretches of the Middle Severn, Teme, Avon and sections of the Staffs-Worcs Canal.

Prime venue: Dudmaston Hall Estate lakes, near Bridgnorth, Shropshire, which offer superb tench, carp, roach and pike fishing.

Interesting fact: Kinver Freeliners AC has Des Taylor on their membership list.

Why you should join: Dudmaston Hall is never booked for matches. This means you have an exclusive three lake venue.

Cost of membership: current membership costs are: adults £95; OAPs £85; under-18s £20. The new fees for the 08-09 season, starting June 16, are subject to an AGM but should stay at under £100. Membership fees can be paid for in three stages

during the Close Season.

Contact: call Graham Wright on 01384 291281 or 07962 260425 or e-mail grahamwright@blueyonder.co.uk or visit www.kinverfreelinersac.com

Recommended by Tony Keeling

LEEDS AND DISTRICT ANGLERS ASSOCIATION, West Yorkshire.

Key details: Leeds DAA has over 2,500 members, and over 200 affiliated clubs. They offer over 30 river venues, 13 lakes, six lengths of canal.

Prime venue: the Catterick complex is a country park with four lakes and 1.5 miles of the River Swale.

Why you should join: fabulous river sport, plus plenty of quality stillwaters, plus a top notch HQ.

Interesting fact: the Club in Leeds city centre has one of the best social scenes of any club, with entertainment, bingo and social nights always on.

Cost of membership: membership runs from January 1 to December 3. Adults pay £42, intermediates (16 to 18s) £18, juniors £11 and senior citizens £18. No joining fee.

Contact: call 0113 224 9721 or visit www.leedsdasa.co.uk. Postal address is Leeds DASA, The Anglers' Club 75, Stoney Rock Lane, Beckett Street, Leeds LS9 7TB.

Recommended by Ian Chapman

LINCOLN AND DISTRICT ANGLING ASSOCIATION, Lincolnshire.

Key details: dating back to 1868 the Lincoln club controls stretches of the Rivers Trent, Till and Upper Witham plus three stillwaters. They are also in the Witham Joint Anglers Federation.

Prime venue: the tidal River Trent at North Clifton and Laughterton offers bream, barbel, roach, pike and big carp.

Interesting fact: along with Leeds DAA Lincoln has won the National Championships the most times.

Why you should join: the club is very active, especially on the junior and senior citizen front.

Cost of membership: £25 for adults with concessions for under-16s, intermediates, OAPs and disabled. You get a full 12 month membership from the day you pay, whatever time of year it is.

Contact: call Frank Butler on 01522 534174.

Recommended by Tony Keeling

LONDON ANGLERS ASSOCIATION, London.

Key details: founded in 1884, the association has a terrific selection of waters extending into the Midlands, including the Grand Union Canal, the River Thames, Suffolk Stour, the Great Ouse, Hampshire Avon, River Lea, River Cam, Fisherman's Brook, the River Stort, the Wissey, River Beult and River Tiese. Plus a selection of stillwater venues.

Prime venue: the Hampshire Avon at Britford produces some monster roach with 3 lb fish.

Interesting fact: the club possibly offers the greatest amount of river fishing in the country.

Why you should join: there's a vast range of venues on offer at a good price.

Cost of membership: for the 08/09 season adult associate membership is £42, while under-16s pay £24 and OAPs and the registered disabled £25.

Contact: call the LAA office on 02085 207477, e-mail admin@londonanglers.net or log onto www.londonanglers.net

Recommended by Bill Rushmer

LONG EATON VICTORIA ANGLING SOCIETY, Derbyshire.

Key details: the club was formed in 1880. They control the fishing on lengths of the Cranfleet and Erewash Canal, two sections of the River Trent, two sections of the River Soar and two local stillwaters.

Prime venue: the River Trent at Meadow Lane has huge barbel.

Interesting fact: on their membership list are dual National Champion winner Alan Wright and Ivan Carrier, who has won the coveted event once.

Why you should join: the club does everything it can to promote the junior angling scene.

Cost of membership: 08/09 adult membership costs £22; OAPs and registered disabled pay £11 while under-16s pay £7.

Contact: call 01159 728547 or visit www.levas.co.uk

Recommended by Tony Keeling

LUTON ANGLING CLUB LTD.

Bedfordshire.

Key details: formed in 1922, it has fishing on the Grand Union Canal, the famous Wyboston complex, plus several other stillwaters and river stretches.

Prime venue: it would be a close call between the Grand Union Canal and Wyboston complex.

Interesting fact: Bob Nudd and Mark Pollard do a lot of their video and feature work on the canal.

Why you should join: the club suits all abilities.

Cost of membership: current membership costs are: adults £42; joint £55; OAPs and the registered disabled £23; 16-17s £26; under-16s £15. Starting from June 1 costs are subject to the AGM.

Contact: Get membership via Joanne Edwards, PO Box 1210, Luton, LU1 9DB or visit www.lutonac.org

Recommended by Tony Keeling

MAIDSTONE VICTORY ANGLING SOCIETY, Kent.

Key details: the club controls six miles of the River Medway plus two sections of the River Beult. There are quality stillwaters too.

Prime venue: Spider Hall has bream to 15 lb and tench over 11 lb.

Interesting fact: the club was formed by the joining of two clubs - Maidstone AC and the Victory public house club.

Why you should join: it's good value for money.

Cost of membership: for the 08/09 season the joining fee is £20 plus £68 for adults or £35 for OAPs.

Contact: call the membership secretary on 01303 255221 or log onto www.maidstonevictory.co.uk

Recommended by Bill Rushmer

MARAZION ANGLING CLUB,

Cornwall.

Details: stillwaters at St Erth, Wheal Grey and Sharkey's Pit.

Prime venue: Wheal Grey possibly holds Cornwall's largest carp over 30 lb.

Why you should join: some of the finest coarse fishing in Cornwall.

Cost of membership: full adult male membership is £55, while ladies pay £40, juniors £18.50, families £85, OAPs and the disabled £40.

Contact: call Barry Little on 01736 756767 or visit www.marazion-angling-club.110mb.com

Recommended by Brian Gay

MERTHYR TYDFIL ANGLING ASSOCIATION, Mid Glamorgan.

Key details: two reservoirs and three lakes around Merthyr Tydfil; two reservoirs on the Brecon Beacons for trout fishing; the River Usk between Abergavenny and Crickhowell for coarse, trout and salmon fishing and 17 miles of the upper River Taff.

Prime venue: Pontsticil Reservoir is a big water with big fish in a peaceful setting.

Interesting fact: world renowned American jazz guitarist Wayne Duchane is a member.

Why you should join: it's great for all-rounders.

Cost of membership: residents of Merthyr Borough pay £50 plus a £10 joining fee. Non-residents pay £140 each year for the first two years, and then pay the resident rate; 12-18s pay £25 and under-12s £15.

Contact: call secretary Tony Rees on 01685 723520 or visit www.fed-welshanglers.co.uk

Recommended by Ron Cousins

MILTON KEYNES ANGLING ASSOCIATION, Buckinghamshire.

Key details: Milton Keynes AA has rivers, canals, stillwaters and smaller pools, all for a one-off fee.

Prime venue: Furzton Lake is very popular with pleasure, match and specimen anglers.

Interesting fact: the late Ken Ball was a prime instigator in setting the club up.

Why you should join: the club has a huge range and variety of venues.

Cost of membership: £30 with £15 concessions; starting from June 16 08/09.

Contact: call Stuart Pemberton on 01908 660579 or visit www.mkaa.co.uk

Recommended by Tony Keeling



Bill Rushmer with a perfect tench from Godalming AS's Johnson's Lake.

MONTGOMERYSHIRE ANGLING ASSOCIATION, Powys.

Key details: the club offers two lakes, one mile of River Severn, a mile of River Vyrnwy and seven miles of the Montgomery Canal all around Welshpool.

Prime venue: Moel-y-Garth Pools on the outskirts of Welshpool provide comfortable angling for all ages and also for disabled anglers.

Interesting fact: when Wales entered the international scene in the 1970s the club provided a high proportion of members.

Why you should join: you get the chance to fish an unspoiled canal with little boat traffic.

Cost of membership: for the 08/09 season it's £22, or £16 for pensioners and the disabled. It's £11 for 12-16s and £2 for under-12s.

Contact: call secretary Bernie Jones 01938 554971.

Recommended by Ron Cousins



NEWPORT ANGLING ASSOCIATION, Gwent.

Key details: the association offers four lakes and the River Ebbw at Newport; the River Wye at Symonds Yat and Bigsweir and three miles of the Monmouthshire Canal.

Prime venue: the River Wye at Symonds Yat - the most scenic part of the world famous Wye Valley.

Interesting fact: for many years the president was the late Lionel Sweet, a famous River Usk salmon angler and World Salmon Fly Casting Champion.

Why you should join: incredible value for money.

Cost of membership: for the 08/09 season it's £35 plus a £10 joining fee. For the over 60s it's £15, and for juniors under 16 it's £12.

Contact: call secretary Gerry Lock on 01633 852601 or visit www.cymfishing.com

Recommended by Ron Cousins

NEWTON ABBOT FISHING ASSOCIATION, Devon.

Key details: this club's numerous stillwaters include Rackerhayes, Bradley and Presto Ponds, Rocombe Ponds, Wapperwell Pond and West Golds Pond. Also the River Isle and the Somerset Levels.

Why you should join: the Association has fishing rights to over 20 waters in the Newton Abbot area.

Cost of membership: it's £75 a year for full membership, disabled and OAP is £30. Juniors pay £50; senior Associate membership is £50. Disabled and OAP associate membership is £25.

Contact: call Adam Bojar on 01626 834032 or visit www.newtonfishing.com

Recommended by Brian Gay



You too can try for whackers like this mirror from Bawburgh Lakes if you join Norfolk Anglers Conservation Association.

THE NORFOLK ANGLERS CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION, Norfolk.

Key details: the club has some of the finest big fish venues in the country, including Bawburgh Lakes, home to 40 lb-plus carp, double-figure tench and record busting bream.

Prime venue: the River Wensum for barbel.

Interesting fact: the Wensum at Lyng houses the heaviest barbel in the country - known as The Beast.

Why you should join: NACA is not just an angling club - it has its roots firmly in fishery conservation.

Cost of membership: costs £12.50, with concessions for juniors, OAPs and fishing clubs.

Contact: write to membership secretary John O'Conner, PO Box 61, Attleborough, Norfolk NR17 4AL including an SAE, or visit the club's website at www.norfolkanglers.com

Recommended by Jim Tyree

NORTHAMPTON NENE ANGLING CLUB, Northamptonshire.

Key details: formed in 1846 the NNAC has a wide selection of venues including almost 22 miles of the Grand Union Canal, five stillwaters, about 14 miles of the River Nene and stretches of the Great Ouse.

Prime venue: the Great Ouse at Turvey is home to huge barbel.

Interesting fact: Bob Church is a longstanding member of the NNAC.

Why you should join: the varied venues and diverse range of fisheries suit all members.

Cost of membership: current membership fees are: adults £33; OAPs and registered disabled £14; under 16s £2.

Contact: Stuart Eggleton on 01604 582362. Visit www.northamptonneneanglingclub.co.uk

Recommended by Tony Keeling

NORWICH AND DISTRICT ANGLING ASSOCIATION, Norfolk.

Key details: the association has a leaning towards the river angler with holdings on the River Thurne and River Bure. There's also the Ranworth Inner Broad and Woodbastwick Decoy Broad.

Prime venue: Wensum Fisheries has fine carp, bream, tench and pike, with safe angling behind locked gates.

Interesting fact: the club has one of the longest serving committee members in the country - 83-year-old treasurer Cyril Wigg.

Why you should join: this club prides itself on its affordable fishing for all.

Cost of membership: it's £15 for new members and £12 for existing members, with concessions, allowing access to rivers but with additional fees for the club boats and Wensum Fisheries. Membership runs from June 16.

Contact: call Cyril Wigg on 01603 423625.

Recommended by Jim Tyree

NOTTINGHAM ANGLERS ASSOCIATION, Nottinghamshire.

Key details: Notts AA was formed in 1895. They have 15 miles of the River Trent, sections of the River Soar and the River Maun plus 16 lakes.

Prime venue: Notts AA own the whole site at Bestwood Duck Ponds. It has been developed from one swampy pond into five lakes.

Interesting fact: former England International and Trent legend John Dean is a member.

Why you should join: the club has a very friendly attitude and if you like river fishing you can fish a peg on the Trent that has been untouched for years.

Cost of membership: adults pay £31 plus a one-off joining fee of £8; OAPs and the registered disabled

pay £21 and £8; under-16s pay £5 and £4.

Contact: call David Turner on 01159 199500 or visit www.nottinghamanglers.co.uk

Recommended by Tony Keeling

PULBOROUGH ANGLING SOCIETY, West Sussex.

Key details: the club has 11 lakes, a three mile section of the tidal Adur plus a one mile section of the Rother holding massive chub and big barbel.

Prime venue: in the winter there are some big pike to be caught on the River Arun.

Interesting fact: they're a cracking bunch of fellows who never appear to stop working!

Why you should join: the river sections are under fished and have great specimen fish potential, though they're not easy fishing.

Cost of membership: for the 08/09 season adults pay £70, OAPs and the registered disabled £38.

Contact: call Mick Booth on 01798 831525 or log on to www.pulboroughas.com

Recommended by Bill Rushmer

READING DAA, Berkshire.

Key details: this association has 13 sections of the River Kennet, seven sections of the River Thames and a section of the River Loddon, plus seven sections of canal and 14 lakes.

Prime venue: most of their sections of the Kennet have produced barbel to well over 12 lb plus big chub.

Interesting fact: the club appears to control most of the Lower Kennet.

Why you should join: they have a vast amount of top quality venues with something for everybody.

Cost of membership: for the 08/09 season associate membership is £58 for adults, with OAPs and the registered disabled paying £33.

Contact: call Mr D Miller on 01189 874882 or visit www.rdaa.co.uk

Recommended by Bill Rushmer



Reading DAA offers great trotting swims on the River Kennet.

RINGWOOD DAA, Hampshire.

Key details: this club gives access to 11 stillwaters including the club owned Northfield Complex and Hightown Lake. Rivers include the famous Hampshire Avon Royalty, other Avon stretches, the Dorset Stour featuring the legendary Throop waters, and Moors River.

Prime venue: the outstanding Dorset Stour Throop fishery.

Why you should join: the club has access to almost 13 miles of the legendary Hampshire Avon including The Royalty, Severals and Ibsley, plus more than 20 miles of the Dorset Stour including the Throop fishery.

Cost of membership: the joining fee is £20 and then on top it's £125 for an adult membership, £80 for OAPs and the disabled, and £40 for the 'special disabled' category. Juniors pay £50, but it's £7 for the under 12s. A night permit is £32, and a third rod is £30.



Good bags of bream come from the Tring Anglers' Wendover Arm of the Grand Union Canal.

Contact: call Darren Smith on 07702 300384 or visit www.ringwoodfishing.co.uk

Recommended by Brian Gay

SALISBURY DAA, Wiltshire.

Key details: Salisbury DAA offers Steeple Langford Lakes, Petersfinger Lakes, East Wellow Lakes, Walden's Farm and Witherington Farm. Rivers include several stretches of the Avon and Nadder around Salisbury, and the Dorset Stour at Wimborne.

Prime venue: the River Nadder and Avon stretches are particularly noted for cracking chub, roach, grayling and dace.

Why you should join: the club offers quality coarse fishing on the Hampshire Avon and River Nadder, and great stillwater fishing.

Cost of membership: a coarse full and associate annual membership costs £75, OAPs £58, juniors £27, plus a registration fee of £20 for first time members.

Contact: call 01722 321164 or visit www.salisburydistrictac.co.uk

Recommended by Brian Gay

THE TRING ANGLERS, Hertfordshire.

Key details: the club controls over nine miles of the Grand Union Canal, Aylesbury Arm and Wendover Arm, with three prime sections of the River Thame, Rislip Farm Lakes, Ford End Farm plus waters shared with Barnett DAC including River Windrush, River Ivel, River Ouse, River Thames, Broad Colney Lakes, Lowbell Lane and Shepherds Way Lakes. They have a new water share with Verulam AC for their Moor Mill site. Reading DAA and Milton Keynes AA tickets are available through the club.

Prime venue: the Cook's Wharf on the Grand Union Canal is the prime venue as it's prolific and produces some very big carp.

Interesting fact: they have a section of the Wendover Arm of the Grand Union Canal that isn't shown on maps as it was dug only recently – but it's full of bream.

Why you should join: it's a top value club with an excellent range of waters.

Cost of membership: for the 08/09 season senior membership costs £48, while OAPs and the registered disabled pay £28, and juniors £17, plus a £5 joining fee for all.

Contact: call Dick Pilkinton on 01582 841985.

Recommended by Bill Rushmer

WARRINGTON ANGLERS ASSOCIATION, Cheshire.

Key details: joining WAA gives you access to around 30 different rivers, lakes and canals, which provide secure parking and good access to excellent sport, from as local as the Bridgewater Canal to as far afield as the River Severn down in Shropshire, and the River Derwent in Derbyshire.

Interesting fact: according to the logo, the club was first formed in 1891, but documents have been unearthed that indicate a date prior to 1846, when their members took part in the first ever recorded fishing match in the country.

Why you should join: vast amount of venues.

Cost of membership: it's £36 for seniors with a £34 joining fee (there's no joining fee for the over 65s and other categories). It's £21 for ladies, £21 for 16-18s, and £14 for juniors.

Contact: call Frank Lythgoe on 01928 716238 or visit www.warrington-anglers.org.uk

Recommended by Ian Chapman

WIGAN AND DISTRICT ANGLING ASSOCIATION,

Greater Manchester.

Key details: Wigan DAA is a long-established angling association consisting of nearly 40 smaller fishing clubs, but it also welcomes individual anglers as members. The association controls fishing on some great waters in Greater Manchester and Lancashire, including stretches of the Rivers Ribble, Wyre and Douglas, about 25 miles of fishing on the Leeds and Liverpool Canal and the Rufford Canal. Add to this over 20 lakes, reservoirs and ponds.

Why you should join: the club offers great value sport on a host of local waters.

Interesting fact: the club rules on its website are in six foreign languages including Albanian and Russian!

Cost of membership: membership is open and yearly permits are available from local tackle shops. It's £22 for adults, with concessions at £16.50. OAPs pay £8, and juniors £4.

Contact: call secretary Jimmy Pidgeon on 07757 600162 or visit www.wigandaa.org.uk. You can write to Whelley Labour Club, Northumberland St., Wigan, Lancashire, WN1 3PZ.

Recommended by Ian Chapman

WINDERMERE AND AMBLESIDE AND DISTRICT ANGLING ASSOCIATION, Cumbria.

Key details: the Association stocks and manages five smaller tarns and secluded estate lakes which hold carp in excess of 20 lb together with big tench, bream, roach, pike, perch, rudd and eels.

Prime venue: the club match record of 70 lb was set at Ratherheath Tarn.

Interesting fact: WADAA has a number of exchange permits with other Associations giving members access to some top class trout, sea trout and salmon fishing.

Why you should join: stunning scenery and top class sport in wild waters are the big draws to this club.

Cost of membership: memberships run from January 1 to December 31. A £30 joining fee applies to all new local and associate memberships. Coarse membership costs £45, youth membership (under-18s) £40, and junior membership (under-16s) £15.

Contact: call Chris Sodo on 015395 35630 or visit www.lakedistrictfishing.net

Recommended by Ian Chapman

YORK AND DISTRICT AMALGAMATION OF ANGLERS, North Yorkshire.

Key details: the club controls the River Ouse, Derwent, Nidd and the Rivers Foss and Rye. It also has various lengths of the Pocklington Canal, Aire and Calder Canal, Selby Canal and Barton Hill Beck (trout fishing). There are plenty of stillwaters to fish too.

Prime venue: the lovely River Ouse.

Interesting fact: Vikings were good pole anglers and used to fish the Ouse and Foss.

Why you should join: there is so much under-fished water on the club's rivers - it's a goldmine!

Cost of membership: adults pay £32, senior citizens (65 and over) £16, the disabled £16, and juniors £12.

Contact: the club HQ is at St. Clements Club, Count de Burgh Terrace, York, YO23 1HH. Call the general secretary on 01904 651346.

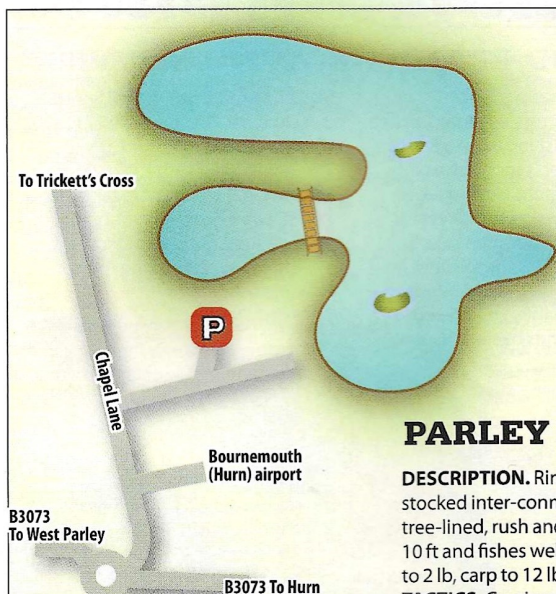
Recommended by Ian Chapman

NB. All ticket prices may be subject to change.

STAR VENUE GUIDE ****

Please check any information including Telephone emails etc before going

Tactical Briefing



PARLEY LAKE, PARLEY, DORSET

DESCRIPTION. Ringwood DAA control these two well stocked inter-connected lakes spanning 3-acres. The tree-lined, rush and weed fringed venue has depths to 10 ft and fishes well all-year-round. There's crucian carp to 2 lb, carp to 12 lb, tench to 6 lb and bream to 5 lb.

TACTICS. Crucians to corn, bread or caster. For bigger carp try meat or two or three grains of corn in the edge, or pick the bigger fish off with floating dog biscuit. Bream and tench to corn, maggot, soft pellet or worm.

GOOD SWIMS. Try the shallower area in the summer and the deeper parts in the winter.

TICKETS. Members Only. Season £125 adult, OAPs/registered disabled £80, both fees plus a one off £20 joining fee, 12-18 years £50, adult accompanied 8-12 years £7, both with no joining fee. Members can buy

a guest ticket. Memberships are for 12 months from when you join and are available from the tackle shop or website listed, or 01202 871496. Fishing 7am to one hour after sunset only. Southern byelaws. Open all year. Check out www.ringwoodfishing.co.uk

LOCAL TACKLE SHOP. Christchurch Angling Centre, Bournemouth, BH7 6SH. Tel: 01202 480520.

LOCATION. From Christchurch take the B3073 to Hurn roundabout. Turn left on the B3073 and pass the airport to the next mini roundabout. Turn right into Chapel Gate then after 200 yards turn left into Chapel Lane. Cross the speed bumps, to the Fencing Centre. Opposite the Fencing Centre turn right onto the gravel track; go down here and bear left to the fishery car park.

SAT NAV. BH22 8SQ (nearby pub).

TOP TIP

When crucian fishing use a dotted down pole float, look for any sign of movement, then strike.

Tactical Briefing

TOP TIP

Fly tactics have caught carp to 15 lb here, thus opening up another option.



HIGHAMPTON LAKES, GREENACRE FARM, HIGHAMPTON, BEAWORTHY, DEVON

DESCRIPTION. Set in the delightful valley of Wagaford Water this fishery comprises two trout lakes and a 2-acre mixed fishery coarse lake. This lake has a central island and average depths of around the 6 ft mark. The venue has sensible stocks of carp to 20 lb, tench to 5 lb, bream to 3 lb and a good head of roach and rudd to 1 lb 8 oz.

TACTICS. Carp are caught on legered hair-rigged boilies and large pellets. Floating crust or dog biscuit is a thrilling way to tempt carp on the

warmer days. Float fish corn for tench and bream. Bream, plus the odd other species, will also show to feeder. Float fish maggot, caster or bread for plenty of roach and rudd.

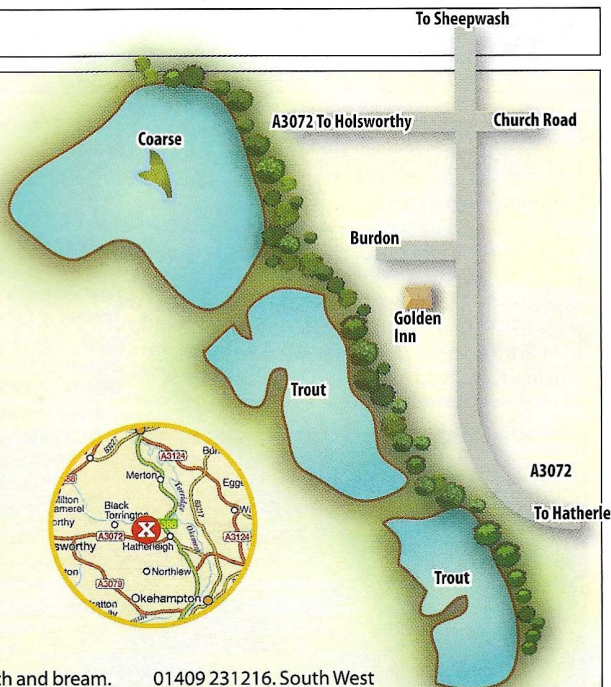
GOOD SWIMS. The island provides useful natural cover for the carp.

TICKETS. £6 from the kiosk on the way in, not on the bank. Fishing dawn until dusk only. No nuts or pulses. Barbless hooks only. No keepnets. Food outlet nearby. Disabled access. Toilets. Tel:

01409 231216. South West byelaws. Open all year.

LOCAL TACKLE SHOP. CP Angling, Okehampton, EX20 1EX. Tel: 01837 53911 or Waterfront Fishing and Shooting, Bude, EX23 8LG. Tel: 01288 359606.

LOCATION. From Hatherleigh take the A3072 to Highampton. Turn left in Highampton and follow this road for 1.5 miles and the fishery is signed on the right. **SAT NAV.** EX21 5LU.



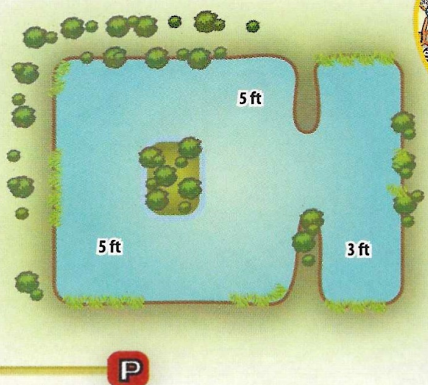


South & South West

with Brian Gay. Tel: 07768612872. e-mail: Brian62@mac.com

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 down 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.

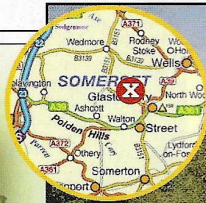
LOCAL TACKLE SHOP. Street Angling Centre, Street, BA16 0ER. Tel: 01458 447830.

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

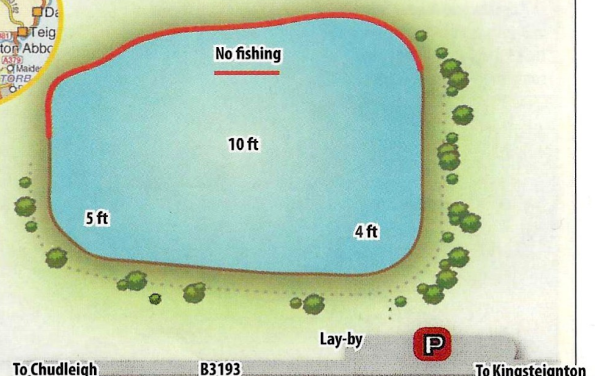
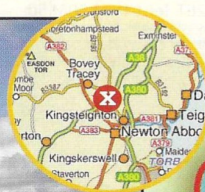
Donaldson on 07764 340268. South West byelaws. Open all year. Check out: www.newtonfishing.com

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.





South & South West

with Brian Gay. Tel: 01278 794196 or 07768 612872 e-mail: Brian@anglingimages.demon.co.uk

Wholly Trinity for ton-up bags

THE cracking hot weather has turned on the sport in the west country with ton-up bags across the region.

At **Chilton Trinity**, Bridgwater, Somerset, the Trinity Waters Lakes complex maintains good form with the Woodland Lake producing match and pleasure bags topping 100 lb. These nets are carp based boosted by good numbers of skimmers. Long poling paste or pellets at 13 m or along the side is scoring well. Corn is also working.

Wildmarsh Lake produces silvers and skimmers to waggler with maggot, caster or corn over crumb.

Hawthorn Pond is full of carp, bream and tench with pellet, corn or maggot effective. Try the Chandos carp lake for fish to 24 lb with the car park swims popular. The venue now boasts a bigger shop for bait and refreshments. For more call Sue or John on 07720542141.

Devon's **Creedy Lakes'** Main Lake near Crediton has produced many 20 lb carp and up to 24 fish in a session! The margins are producing some of those bigger specimens with maggots proving popular along with pellets and boilies.



Feed regularly at Walter's Lake and a 100 lb bag is achievable.

One of the best recent commons at 24 lb 8 oz was banked by Tony Knight. Meanwhile, Exeter steel piler Pete Durnian fished at the top of the left hand bank amid shallower water in the margins and tempted two commons to 22 lb 9 oz. Taunton angler Jon Cole fished the far bank for a pair of tench plus a 22 lb 5 oz common. Fellow Taunton angler Glen Cornish fished the point swim of the far bank and landed six commons all of which were double-figures. Topping his bag was a 21 lb 14 oz common followed by a pair of 18s, a 15 lb 8 oz, one of 14 and one of 10 lb 14 oz.

One of the largest bags of the week fell to Wayne Grinney who matted 24 carp to 21 lb 12 oz plus four tench. His five-year-old son Jack banked seven fish to 18 lb 8 oz too! Call the fishery on 01363 772684

Wiltshire's **Ivy House Lake** complex at Grittenham, near Swindon is in good form with match bags over 50 lb from the Main Lake and 30 to 40 lb bags from the Canals.

Carp show to pellet or corn on the Main Lake. Catches are boosted by tench, bream and roach.

Smaller carp and F1s are the main biters on the New Canal while the Old Canal offers larger fish but don't overfeed - little and often is good.

The Small Lake is favoured by pleasure rods

seeking double-figure carp, plenty of singles and decent roach. Full details are available from 01666 510368 or 07748 144788.

In Gloucestershire's **Cotswold Water Park** Jim Ridgway's Walter's Lake (left) is a safe bet for a busy day with smaller carp which make up bags of over 100 lb. Even a leisurely approach should see plenty of bites but you must feed regularly. Top tactics include short pole with a soft or banded pellet on the hook. Corn also tempts a lot of bites including tench too.

If the short pole isn't working try fishing towards the island margins with a long pole or the waggler. Full details on 01285 869800.

Cornwall's big weight day ticket pool **Mawgan Porth**, just along the coast north of Newquay, is showing excellent form.

Recently west country based expert Simon Poynter won a Friday match with 210 lb-plus of small carp on poled pellet from peg 38.

Generally it's short range speed work but as the venue is popular for matches ring them and check if it's booked before planning a pleasure or practice session. You can contact them on 01637 860770.

Wiltshire's picturesque **Shearwater Lake**, at Crockerton near Warminster is 37 acres and offers some superb carp and bream fishing. Carp from 2 to 26 lb satisfy pleasure and specialist rods while the bream often make up 50 lb-plus nets. The feeder scores for carp and bream with pellets and corn very effective. Night fishing is available from the main road side only. For details call Nick Robbins on 01985 844496 or 07889 625999 from 8am to 6pm.

Somerset's vast 200-acre plus **Cheddar Reservoir** is noted for big tench and now is the time to start

seeking those big tincas that have been caught to double-figures. A Method feeder with popped-up corn hook bait works well. Fishing is from dawn to dusk and there is no fishing near the yacht club round to cheddar tower. Tickets are £6 per day per adult and £3 for concessions in advance from Broadway House Caravan Park or most of the local tackle shops. For more details call 07974 705044.



ASK
Brian Gay

Somerset grassies

Q I've never caught a grass carp. Is there anywhere in the Somerset area where I can realistically catch one?
J.Shore, via e-mail.

Brian says...

This is very hit or miss because while I have no hesitation in recommending the **Tadham Specimen Lake** at Lands End Farm, Heath House, Somerset (07977 545882) actually hooking a grass carp is not easy. They are in Tadham generally in the low to upper doubles range but their numbers are few in comparison to the other carp. However, they do get caught. Best bet is to put in several evening sessions and fish the pole by the island margins with pellet up in the water. You will obviously get loads of 'normal' carp but you may just hit a grassie. A word of warning though, fish with stout gear 'cos man those grassies fight!

BRIAN'S WEEK

Things didn't quite go to plan on a recent trip to the Canal after the tincas. It was a bright hot day but even fishing 'til late I failed to tempt a single tench - just a few bits. Just shows this game is so unpredictable!

CLUB CALL

SHEFFORD AND DISTRICT ANGLING ASSOCIATION

Members of Shefford DAA, Shefford, Bedfordshire have access to 29 different waters. The new permits are in local tackle shops and all can join. Stillwaters include Airman Pit, Broom Lake and Willington Lake. Add to this the Grand Union Canal (in agreement with MKAA). On the

rivers list are the Hit, Flit, Ivel Navigation, the Ivel itself and the Great Ouse. Tickets: adults £55; husband and partner £90; concessions £35; under-16s £15. Application forms from The Registrar, Shefford DAA PO Box 59, Shefford, SG17 5UZ or www.shefforddaa.org.uk

BUY NOW!



Bring me sunshine!

WHEN Joy from **Sycamore Lakes**, Burgh le Marsh, Lincolnshire, rang me with a catch report I just couldn't help but laugh at the Morecambe and Wise connection.

Two anglers, Walt Patefield and Ken Murray, travelled from Morecambe to fish the **Static Park Lake**, where Walt pole fished meat or corn on a small 20 hook to bag 47 lb of mainly tench with the odd carp and big perch. Ken was fishing similarly with caster on the hook to net 44 lb of tench, roach and rudd.

A Manchester visitor, Geoff Wiseman (Ernie's former surname), poled corn over pellets on the Specimen Lake to net lots of really good sized roach plus small carp in his pleasing 52 lb bag. Before that Ken tried the Roadside Lake and had 30 carp, all around the 2 lb 8 oz mark, to pellet and corn.

It's £5 for one rod and £9 for two; OAPs and registered disabled pay £4.50, while under-16s pay £4 and after 5 pm sessions cost £3. There is a tackle shop and restaurant on-site and there are all the facilities for long stays. Call Joy on 01754 811411.

For the canals this week the Awbridge stretch of the **Staffs-Worcs Canal**, near Wolverhampton, is a peach of a venue where you can get really big bags of chub. Steve Cope, son of well known West Midlands-based angling journalist Ken Cope, pole fished caster

to win a Wolves AA contest with 11 chub for nearly 40 lb. These chub are showing to caster, generally fished in twos but a fair few of them are also coming out to red maggot.

The Wolves AA Awbridge section also holds a good head of roach with some of them going big by narrow canal standards. Use all the usual canal tactics but you will need to beef up a bit to get the chub out.

It's £3 on the bank but it makes better economic sense to join Wolves AA. You can join at the local Wolverhampton tackle shops or call Bill Turner on 01902 457906.

Worcestershire-based **Shatterford Fishery**, just ten minutes drive from Kidderminster on the Bridgnorth Road, now boasts a tackle and bait shop on-site plus the availability of hot snacks.

Stuart's and Stella Lakes are the general lakes with a mix of carp, bream, roach and the odd decent catfish. These are the easier waters on the complex, but if you want to sit it out for the fish of a lifetime then I'd recommend Eric's and Masters' Lakes. Catfish of 45 lb and 40 lb recently came out for Jack Morris on Eric's.

On Masters Daven Percival, from Halesowen, had a 43 lb catfish on a big pellet and prior to that session

had one of 27 lb on a popped-up boilie.

Day ticket costs are: Eric's and Masters' £15 for three rods, Stella and Stuart's £6 for one rod. For longer stays call the fishery on 01299 861597.

Next to Bedfordshire and the impressive **Browning Tigrith Fishery**, Toddington which offers everything you would expect, and much more, from a present day fishery.

There are disabled facilities, a tackle shop and a café. You can even book coaching sessions with the likes of Dave Vincent, Bob Nudd or Mark Pollard or of course the resident PAA coaches. The venue offers three very attractive lakes with Orchid, 40 pegs, and Cherry, 25 pegs, offering sport for all with the chance of big carp, especially from Orchid which also holds the odd huge catfish.

Over on the 20-peg Fringe Lake expect lots of bites and there are that many different species you simply don't know what will surface next. There are lots of carp, golden orfe, brown goldfish and crucians with one angler catching 75 lb of all crucian carp in three hours. There are also roach and rudd in abundance in this highly productive lake.

Costs are £9 a day for one rod or £12 for two, under 16s, OAPs and registered disabled are £5.50/£8.50. For more dial up 01525 714012.

TONY'S WEEK

“By the time you read this I will be back from my usual week at Mahon's Hotel in Irvinestown, Northern Ireland. I will let you know how we got on but I gu(inn)ess it will be a good week, come what may!”

Your shout TERRY BLYDE

Aldridge, West Midlands based Terry is a top class angling coach and an all round good egg.

WHERE? CURBOROUGH FISHERY, Lichfield, Staffordshire.

WHY? 'There are four different waters to pick from - Oak, Swan, Match and Canal. There are all sorts of species here including lots of very bright and good sized goldfish. Any method can score on any particular day at this delightful and prolific venue.'

WHAT'S WORKING? 'Whatever discipline you are best at should catch a wide variety of species.'

WHAT BAITS? 'Keep things nice and simple. You won't go far wrong with soft pellets, maggots or corn.'

TICKETS: £6 for a day for adults, concessions available. There is a café open at weekends. Tel: 07890 333227.



EAST ANGLIA

with Jim Tyree
Tel: 01603 427592

THREE different county stillwaters to consider this week starting at **Manor Lake**, Tydd St. Giles, Cambridgeshire (01945 871007) where it is fishing off one bank only as the other skirts the golf course. Sport can be intense with carp from just a few pounds up to 20 lb or so. As well as the carp, you can tee off with koi, ghosties, tench, bream plus a kaleidoscope of cross and exotics. Use maggot, casters and soft hooker pellets for plenty of bites but meat or corn for the larger samples. Day tickets from the golf club at £6 seniors and £4.50 concessions.

Next to Lincolnshire and **Priory Lakes**, Ruskington, (01526 834444) where this two-lake venue is well worth a visit as, with 60 pegs to choose from, it is unusual not to find room to fish. Carp run to 8 lb with bream and roach on corn, meat and pellets. Most pegs have fish in them but chop and change hook baits if sport is unusually slow. Day tickets on the bank.

Finally, **The Old Stables**, North Walsham, Norfolk (01692 250427) is a fine tench and crucian carp lake nestling in the quiet north Norfolk countryside. There are 16 pegs and disabled anglers will find this a friendly venue to fish. The tench average 3 lb 8 oz but larger specimens are reported every season. Other species include king carp to 15 lb, crucian crosses to 3 lb plus roach and rudd to a specimen size. All the usual baits will pull fish. Booking is in advance only as there is a limit of five anglers per day.



North & Wales

with Ian Chapman Tel: 07974 642921 e-mail: ianchappy@yahoo.co.uk

A fair chance of bagging up

UP IN West Yorkshire **Fairview Lakes** in Cottingley near Bradford are fishing very well at present.

Purpose built and set in attractive countryside, the lakes are heavily stocked with a wide variety of carp, many of which have grown large in recent years. There are also extensive stocks of chub, barbel, roach, tench, bream and golden orfe.

The pole tends to dominate with catches to 80 lb possible from many pegs, using a size 14 barbless hook to 0.14 mm line under a light pole float. Try corn, pellets or meat on the hook. Use a pole pot to feed accurately and fish tight to the features, which is where you will encounter most bites. With the warm temperatures it will also be possible to catch shallow at times, so try caster or banded pellet.

Call Mick on 07790 881323. Tickets are £6, or £4 after 4pm, which is great value for after work sessions.

I had a call from an angler in Edinburgh, giving me the heads up on **Duddingston Loch**, Edinburgh.

Duddingston lies within the scenic grounds of Holyrood Park offering limited free fishing along a 100 yard stretch of bank, but it sounds like it's really worth a go at present.

The loch has a maximum depth of 7 to 8 ft and is shallow at a range of two rod lengths out from the bank. Roach and perch are the main target, and this

venue has produced some good catches including individual roach to 2 lb and perch to 3 lb. Carp have been recorded to 26 lb.

For the roach and perch, fish fine and try maggots, caster or chopped worm. If targeting the larger carp, a more specialist approach with dark boilies is the key. Call 0131 6573258.

Rosemary Wood, Haskayne, Lancashire, is fishing well with carp to around 7 lb dominating catches.

Use the pole with 0.16 mm lines and a size 14 hook with corn, pellet and meat all doing well when fished close to the island or down the margins when the venue is quieter. Catches are topping 70 lb at times, and you are best advised to check for match bookings at weekends by calling 07957 434325.

Hampton Springs, Hampton Heath, Cheshire, is always a first class, reliable venue offering a wealth of fishing across lots of well-stocked pools. Weekends will be busy now during the summer with lots of club matches, but there are plenty of pegs usually free for pleasure anglers too.

You will find the bigger carp coming to corn and

meat and you can try for them on the pole or with more specialised gear. Some of the carp are now well into double-figures.

All of the lakes are terrific really, though my favourites are the Rock Pool and Alice Springs. A café is now open. Call William on 01948 820789 or visit www.hamptonsprings.co.uk

Aston Park, near Sheffield, South Yorkshire, is now under new management, and the four lakes have been re-stocked with over 10,000 fish, including carp to 30 lb-plus, tench to 3 lb, bream to 4 lb, roach, perch, barbel and crucians.

Try the Lilly Pond especially for lots of carp and bream on the pole and pellets. Call 07743 845737.

One last hotspot for those in East Yorkshire is **Risby Park**, Walkington near Beverley, which is fishing really well at present.

The Folly Pool is producing up to 100 lb catches of hard scrapping carp on pole and pellets.

The Carp Pool is also producing some sizeable carp with shallow presented baits doing really well on warm days. Call 07860 25598 or visit the Risby website at www.risby-park.co.uk

IAN'S WEEK

“I had a trip over to **Hayfield Lakes, Doncaster, South Yorkshire**, where I learned loads about banding bait from **Alan Scotthorne**. I also had a trip to the **Haven, at Stainforth** where golden orfe show to maggots. Call 01302 842857.”



ASK Ian Chapman

Lancashire carp lakes

Q Could you recommend a venue or two for specimen carp in Lancashire?

Dave Macleod, Preston.

Chappysays...

We don't have the wealth of specimen carp lakes that they have in the Midlands and the Southern regions, but places like **Wyreside Lakes**, near Lancaster (tel 01524 792093) and **Borwick Fishing** near Carnforth (07984 399637) both have outstanding specimen carp stocked in their various lakes. You can't go far wrong at either of these places, but of course to catch the massive fish requires a lot of effort and a big slice of luck!

WALES

with Ron Cousins
Tel 01291 420001 or 07831 242820

THIS is a big year for **Celtic Lakes Resort**, Creuwydn Bridge, Lampeter in West Wales (01570 471010), which will host all six qualifiers for the Wales Carp Masters and the final from August 29-31, followed by the final of the Welsh National Team Championship on October 12. The fishing is rising to the occasion with lots of carp to high doubles coming out. Kevin Hosie had a great day on Lake 6 with a 16 lb catfish, tench to 4 lb and 33 carp to 15 lb on boilies. Corn, meat, pellets and maggots are all catching well. The other lakes are turning up carp to double-figures, while float anglers are catching bream, roach and tench.

If heavy weed doesn't put you off, a visit to the 36-acre lake at **Bryn Bach Country Park** at Tredegar in Gwent (01495 711816) could be worthwhile. Carp syndicate members are regularly catching fish to nearly 30 lb. Tench to 5 lb and outsize bream close to double-figures have also come to the net.

Just a few months after pollution wiped out large numbers of silver fish, little **Lamby Pond** in the Rumney area of Cardiff (07720 924704) is fishing better than ever with almost 40 lb winning a two hour evening match. Floating baits are catching carp to double-figures while meat is best when they're feeding down in the water. Pole and chopped worm has been working for the tench, which are running to 5 lb and there are also some big eels.

SANDBECK LAKE, MALTBY, SOUTH YORKSHIRE



DESCRIPTION. The local Maltby Colliery AC control the fishing on this attractive 3.5-acre lake averaging around 6 ft deep. Sheltered, it has bush surrounds and is a mixed fishery with carp to 16 lb, winter pike to 16 lb, bream and tench to 3 lb, perch topping 2 lb, crucians to 2 lb and newly stocked ide.

TACTICS. For carp leger hair-rigged meat, two or three grains of corn or

a large pellet. Bream show to feeder fished redworm, red maggot or corn over a good quality fishmeal groundbait. Tench to float fished corn. Plenty of silver fish, including decent perch fall to float fished chopped worm, maggot or caster.

GOOD SWIMS. The stagings often produce good tench and perch.

TICKETS. Day tickets are available in advance only at £4, OAPs £2, under-16s

£1.50. Permits before fishing from MG News, Maltby (see below) - they open early. No boilies. Keepnets are not allowed in the old Close Season. Barbless hooks only. Disabled access. There's currently a waiting list to join Maltby Colliery AC. Fishing dawn until dusk only. Enquiries: 01709 813789. Anglian byelaws. Open all year.

LOCAL TACKLE SHOP. MG

News, 10 Grange Lane, Maltby, S66 7DA. Tel: 01709 817121.

LOCATION.

From Maltby take the A631 towards Tickhill. After about two miles, just past the brow of the hill, turn right. Go down here for 0.75 miles and turn right onto the private road just after the last house. Follow Folds Lane down to the car park.



TOP TIP

■ Fish tight up against the stagings for tench and decent perch.

Tactical Briefing

OAK TREE LEISURE, HUBY, NORTH YORKSHIRE

DESCRIPTION. This established, modern day fishery boasts four moat shaped lakes - all with reed and tree features and similarly stocked. Depths are 5-6 ft with shallower margins. Carp go to 30 lb, tench to 9 lb, bream to 8 lb, barbel to 7 lb, chub to 5 lb, crucians to 3 lb, perch to 2 lb 8 oz, ide, roach and orfe to 2 lb, plus rudd to 8 oz.

TACTICS. For carp float fish corn, pellet or maggot, the bigger carp are likely to accept home-made paste or cat food. You can be selective using

floating crust or dog biscuit to pick off the better carp in the evening. Float fish corn, maggot, caster, pellet, chopped worm or meat for excellent bags of silver fish, including bream and barbel. The latter are showing very well on Lake One.

GOOD SWIMS. Those facing into a warm wind on any of the lakes.

TICKETS. Adults £5, OAPs, registered disabled and under-16s £3, on the bank. Fishing dawn until 9pm or dusk, whichever is sooner. No night

fishing. No nuts, pulses or boilies. Food at weekends. Barbless hooks only, no keepnets. Disabled access. Toilets. Tel: 01347 810686. North East byelaws. Open all year.

LOCAL TACKLE SHOP. Acomb Fishing Tackle, Acomb, York, YO24 4PL. Tel: 01904 785237.

LOCATION. From York head north towards Thirsk on the A19. At Cross Lanes turn right towards Huby. After about 1.5 miles turn right again to the car park and fishery.



TOP TIP

■ Don't ignore the margins, especially the reed features.



London & South East

with Bill and Virginia Rushmer e-mail: Billrushmer@hotmail.co.uk

Tactical Briefing

LOGGIES LAKE, CHILHAM, KENT

DESCRIPTION. Loggies Lake is a stunning 15-acre former gravel pit, (formerly two) under the jurisdiction of the Mid Kent Fisheries. This members only water is tree fringed and has a few feature islands. It has a good stock of big carp with commons and mirrors running to 35 lb. There's a sprinkling of tench and a few decent pike too.

TACTICS. This is one for traditional carp tactics with legered hair-rigged boilies and pellets accounting for most of the fish, corn is also worth trying. There's a very good chance of a 20 lb fish here. When it's warm floating crust and dog biscuits are well worth a try.

GOOD SWIMS. Check out the gravel bar feature, it runs from one car park to the other.

TICKETS. This is a Mid Kent Fisheries Tier 2 water, (all venues except Conningbrook). Costs are: adults £275; partner or under-16s £140; OAPs and registered disabled £250. Tier 2 members can apply for membership of Tier 1 (includes Conningbrook) after 12 months in Tier 2. Contact: 01227 730668 or 07967 226953 or 07967 339152. No keepnets. Disabled access. Toilets. Food outlet nearby. Southern byelaws. Open all year.

LOCAL TACKLE SHOPS, Blean

Angling, Blean, Canterbury, CT2 9HP. Tel: 01227 789700. Ashford Tackle Shop, Ashford, TN23 6LZ. Tel: 01233 630914.

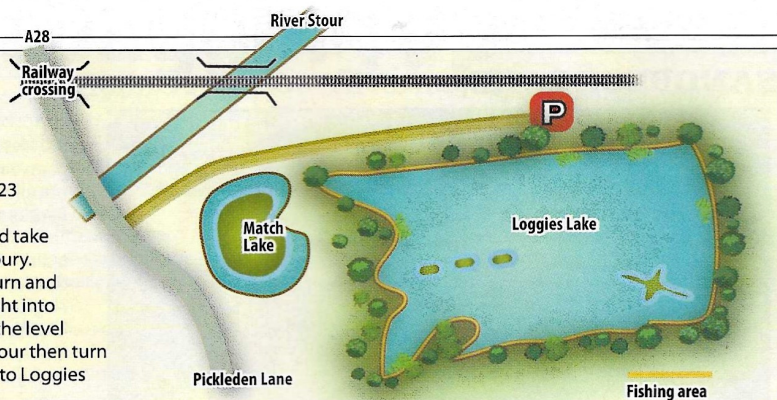
LOCATION. From Ashford take the A28 towards Canterbury. Pass the A252 Chilham turn and keep on the A28. Turn right into Pickleden Lane, go over the level crossing and the River Stour then turn left. Pass the Match Lake to Loggies Lake and parking.

SAT NAV. CT4 7RY (nearby pub).



TOP TIP

■ The margins are always worth trying here.



Tactical Briefing



TOP TIP

■ Fish to any feature and make sure your gear is up to getting these carp out, they're a bit on the wild side!

MASONS LAKE, NORTH CHAILEY, EAST SUSSEX

DESCRIPTION. This natural shallow lake, averaging only 2 ft deep, is one of many under the control of Hassocks DAS. The 60-peg venue has a decent head of hard fighting carp, topping out at around 12 lb. The other main species are roach and rudd to 1 lb, the venue also contains some perch, eels and crucians.

TACTICS. Surface fished crust and dog biscuit can work well when it's warm for the carp. Try a small Method feeder with soft pellet, corn, meat or maggot or pole or waggler fish the same baits to reedbed or lily pad features. For roach and rudd try float fishing maggot or caster over loose feed.

GOOD SWIMS. The far bank pegs, 20-50, often produce.

TICKETS. Members only. Adults £60 plus a one off joining fee of £5, joint man and wife £84/£5, family, man, wife and two juniors £104/£5, OAPs £27/£1, joint OAPs, man and wife £44/£1, under-18s £22. Under-12s must be adult accompanied. Members enquire about a night permit. A member can purchase a Guest Ticket. Membership via local tackle shops, the website or call: 07915 302354. Food outlet nearby. Barbless hooks only. Open all year excepting for a two week period. Check out: www.hassocksfishing.co.uk



LOCAL TACKLE SHOP. Burgess Hill

Angling Centre, Burgess Hill, RH15 9AB.

Tel: 01444 232287.

LOCATION. From Chailey head north on the A275, going over the junction with the A272. Keep on the A275 and fork left onto Warrs Hill Lane. Keep on this road and turn left at Lindfield Farm to the fishery and car park.

SAT NAV. BN8 4DH (nearby pub).

Sean Ashby

Match Reports

Last 2 days I've been at the On the Flyer 2 day silvers match at Meadowlands. Drew a 44 on the pump bank first day next to 5X.

Started short on casters to catch roach and then later small skimmers. Switched to pellets at 14m after around 2hrs and caught well in spells but no bigger fish. Finished with 38lb which was 2nd by 2lb to Lee Wright.

Needed a good peg second say and drew a disaster in 27 on Lambs, Des had struggled to 6th in section day before, the wind was also a lot stronger. Decided to go all out for a section win so only set up to fish pellets long with a feeder as a back up. After 30 mins it was impossible to hold the pole so fished feeder for the rest of the match. Caught in spells and was probably 1st or 2nd with 90mins to go. I was hoping for a big finish but the peg petered out. I weighed 22lb with only 25lb 2nd.. ended up 4th and missed out framing on weight. Another great festival by Gary Rogers and massive well done to Lee Kerry and all the other framers. Roll on Sunday for the 10k final.



Great couple of days fishing this weekend. First up a small knock up at Ryecroft. Drew a great peg in 21 on Carp lake. Fished pellets at 14m and casters down the edge for perch to finish with 31.12, exactly the same as Cam!. That was enough to win.

Today I've been back at March for the final WL practice, drew 60 at oxbow. The rover was pushing through. Caught 172 fish for 26.2, great stamp.

Won section by default.



This years World Feeder Championships will be held on the Guadiana River in Merida, Spain, on the 4-5th May 2024.

Manager Dean Barlow has picked the same experienced team of Mick Vials (Capt), Rob Wootton, Will Freeman, Steve Ringer, Adam Wakelin and Lee Kerry.

Having won a Silver medal in Belgium and a bronze medal in Serbia last year, this team comes with high hopes for more success.

Along with the anglers, the key support staff will be travelling with the squad.

Consisting of Jamie Harrison (assistant manager), Rich Wilson and Graham West will be joined with some of the younger squad from the Euro Cup, lending a hand and gaining valuable experience.

Dean commented...

"First of all, after years of great service to the team, we would like to extend our thanks to Eddie Bridon and we all wish him the best for his future endeavours."

"We already know a little bit about the venue, following The Masters Feeder trip in 2022, and to add to that, the lads will be travelling out to fish The Merida Masters in early April to get a feel for the venue."

Being slightly earlier this year, the team are already well underway with preparation, hoping to start the international year off with a bang!

Lee Kerry Wins On the Flyer Meadowlands Silver Cup

Looking back at a fantastic couple of days at Meadowlands for the On the Flyer TV Silver Cup.

As it's been said on many posts, this is a brilliant festival with an incredible standard of angler.

Gary Rogers has looked to bring match fishing into the light with these high level festivals, and did a great job to get Bresbet involved to help promote match fishing too!

Meadowlands is brilliant venue for this competition. Loads of fish, central, good access to pegs, and owners that do all they can to help the fishing. My first day put me on Warren lake peg 7.

This lake has apparently been fishing that bit harder. But with less anglers and a run of mild nights, there was an optimistic feel that it could be a good lake to be on. This was proved bang on, as I had a fantastic days sport fishing pellets on a long pole for skimmers, and casters with groundbait as a short line.

Had a great battle with young Brandon George next peg. He had a great attitude and certainly has a big future in match fishing! Bait wise, it was fishery micros, with Sonubaits pro expanders in 4mm for hook and the old faithful f1 green and thatchers dark for groundbait.

The better stamp skimmers definitely seemed to be on our side of the lake. With my catch of around 80 fish going 54lb 4oz. This gave me the lake win and 2nd in the match, just 4oz behind Steve Seaborn! 🏆

Onto day two and unbelievably I drew back on Warren again on peg 5. Next to where I had been and a peg I'd drawn twice in the last festival! It's a lovely peg, stuck a good 2m out from peg 7, which was occupied by none other than Matt Godfrey Fishing. Who by this point I had spent 4 days with as we shared every bit of fishing information possible!!! Fortunately for me, my peg is much better than his, so this gave me a fighting chance against one of the best there is! The conditions were completely different too. A strong wind made presentation so difficult, so fishing shorter was important. I had a lovely early run, but as the fish got less and less, more carp came in and I lost my way with just an odd bonus fish.

I could see Tyler Bird smashing the match up on the opposite bank. He finished with a brilliant 55lb to win the match. I was fighting it out for a very important 2nd, and my 41lb was just enough and left me 2nd on the lake and in the match. As the results came in, it looked like 3pts was the top score, and my 95lb catch was enough to win it on weight from the awesome ADAM WAKELIN FISHING and Lee Wright. Well done lads. Very pleased to win such a great event.

Absolutely no chance I could have done it without Matt, as sharing all the information is such a big help.

On top of which we have a brilliant time too! Recorded the ins and outs for a Live Match that will be on The EDGE YouTube channel soon! Sunday see the big one, the On The Flyer Winter Classic back at Meadowlands.

Someone will walk away with a cool £10,000.

This is backed by Bresbet again, so why not check out the odds. All that after the AT winter league final on Saturday in! Crazy times. But wouldn't change a thing!

Good luck to all those competing.





BLACKHORSE WIN 2024 ANGLING TRUST WINTER LEAGUE FINAL

PRESTON Innovations Blackhorse have won the 2024 Angling Trust Winter League Final in a tough contest on the Fenland drains and Decoy Lakes.

Blackhorse's victory came courtesy of a solid team score of 52 points headed by section seconds from Alan Oakes and England U20 international Alfie Nicholls plus thirds for Andrew Rayment and Dan Theakston.

Over 70 clubs and match groups fished through 13 regional leagues starting last October to earn an invite to the big final, with 30 teams going head-to-head in what is the first 'major' of the new year.

Signs were promising for an action-packed final with the drains around March and Benwick and Whittlesey's prolific Decoy Lakes hitting top form in the weeks prior to the match.

However, torrential rain and widespread flooding in the lead up, coupled with one of the hardest frosts of the winter so far, greeted anglers on the day of the competition. It meant bites were at a premium for many.

That wasn't the case for Nicky Crooks and Zak Wolby-Smith though who took the individual honours on the drains and Decoy, respectively.

Fishing for Drennan Barnsley Blacks, Nicky weighed an impressive 26k 525g from the Old Nene at March's allotments section where he picked off silvers steadily on the long pole.

Second on the drains was Peter Vasey. Leading the way for Matrix Dynamite Image, the former England international's catch of 23k 525g of rudd came to his waggler and corn fished to a moored boat downstream of the Health Centre bridge in March town centre.

Over on Decoy, Sensas Hotrods' Zak powered past the opposition with a flying start which saw him reach the 100lb mark after the first hour at his peg in the middle of Elm lake and finish the day with 81k 150g of carp.

Runner up on Decoy was Chris Jones, Sensas Starlets, with 64k 050g from the freshly-stocked Oak Lake.



Drennan International

Article By Peter Drennan

Bill Lane was our first World Champion, winning the title when fishing for England in 1963. He's seen here in animated discussion on floats with a young Peter Drennan circa 1968.



Bill was unquestionably the stand-out, dominant matchman of his era, writing books and publishing articles in the old Anglers' Mail where his encyclopaedic knowledge of float fishing was shared with us all. The float fishing systems he developed were refined to a remarkable level of efficiency and many of them, particularly those for flowing rivers, work well and catch fish to this day.

Lanes tackle shop at 31/33 London Road, Coventry remains one of the country's premier retailers and still offers some of the best maggots and casters available.

Peter said: 'This photo was sent to me this month by local angler Bruce Vaughan. I had no idea any photos of Bill and I existed and no record of my own. Bill was generous with his knowledge, massively influential to me personally and a whole generation of anglers.'



Drennen International

Two years ago, Leigh Holman landed a 2lb 14oz roach from his local club water, from which stemmed a thought that there could be something a little bit special hiding in the venue's depths. Since then, he's been figuring out how to single-out the larger roach. Having being pestered by smaller fish and other species throughout summer, he finally cracked it with this 3lb 4oz redfin.



On the successful session, he'd arrived at 11am, armed with around a pint of spicy red maggots and damp bloodworm pellets, which he'd fish through feeders over two spots at 40 and 50 yards. He recast every 15 minutes and he was soon catching bream before bites slowed. Leigh kept the feeders going in, and at 3pm his persistence was rewarded when his rod at 50 yards registered a positive bite and he hooked into a fish that gave plenty of headshakes as it headed to the net. When the fish surfaced a few rod lengths out, he knew it was the one he'd been after.

Back in 1984/85 season, Greg Buxton was crowned the first-ever winner of the prestigious Drennan Cup with a 14lb 1oz barbel. The following year, he finished runner-up with a 12lb 14oz barbel and a 7lb 1oz chub before giving up coarse fishing entirely, having caught fish beyond his wildest dreams.



But, in 2017, he started serious specimen hunting again, focussing on chub, in particular. He's landed numerous good fish since then, with the biggest being this 8lb 2oz specimen he recently caught from the Dorset Stour. The fish fell to quiver-tipped cheese paste, which he fished on a link leger setup. Interestingly, Greg presents this over a homemade groundbait mix containing liquidised bread, garlic granules, grated cheddar and blue cheese. To help it sink, Greg squeezes the mix around small pebbles found on the riverbank and lobs the balls a tactical distance upstream. On entering the water, a cloudy scent trail is created, which draws the chub to his hookbait.



Clive Roberts Memoirs

Part 3

Late sixties and early 70s

The late 60s & early 70s saw anglers of my generation starting to own their own vehicles, and this opened the matchfishing circuit to a wider variety of venues. In those early days most matches were attended by the anglers using coaches, there was three active match fishing clubs in the Cardiff area (My home town) and most matches were fished on either the river Usk or the river Wye (lower). These venues were full of chub and dace in those days, and along with the Bristol Avon, I found myself fishing many different venues and methods, with little success.

My main successes in those days were on my local Lake in Cardiff, Roath Park. It became very important as a budding match angler to concentrate on this venue, and I would win my fair share in those early days. As fishing places such as the Bristol Avon was very hard to beat the local anglers in those early learning years.

During these learning years in the 70s it was very interesting as developments of tackle were constantly being developed, in particular was the float fishing developments, and to get the edge I would make my own, unlike today where you can go to your local angling store and simply purchase any float off the shelf. I tried many floats in those days (See Picture)

Most float fishing was top and bottom attached which made control much harder as wagglers had not been introduced to the South Wales area, and most fishing was done with a running line as poles and whips were also a method that was not used in those days.

The first time I saw the waggler fished was in the early 70s by a couple of midland anglers, two brothers called the Ryders. Perhaps they were pioneers of this method as they were certainly winning their fair share on the Bristol Avon at that time. Soon the waggler became the method for many anglers, including me.



It was during the 70s that I first met the most successful angler of our generation, and angler called Larry Powell. He lived just around the corner from me and, and he took me under his wing so to speak, where I learnt a lot from him. Larry was a speed angler especially with the rod and reel. He would win many competitions on the matchfishing circuit including the Bristol Avon, River Usk, River Wye and even the River Severn. Larry taught me a lot, but unfortunately he passed away as a young 42 year old, he was surely a great angler and miles ahead than others of his time. I put this down to his preparation, something we must all learn to do to become successful.



Looking back in my record book.

Looking back at my records it was interesting to see that in the early 70s I fished a match on the River Wye at Belmont and the match was won with just a single chub of 1lb 4oz. How so much different than today when Just recently I came 2nd with 134lb, it does go to show how the standard of angling has improved.

Other memories during that time was a match on the River Usk that I won with just 9lb, and another on the Bristol Avon in a semifinal winter league match I caught 5lb for a section win, and the match was won by Topper Haskins with 8lb. Another match I remember was Bristol angler Colin Golding who came to my own home water at Roath Park Lake and won the match with 4lb 3oz. At that time Some Bristol anglers were coming to South Wales and doing very well in our waters.

Also during the 70s we had big turnouts on our local matches, and a venue called Rhos Las near Merthyr Tydfil had over 80 anglers fishing, and I won it with just 1lb 11oz of Perch, winning 10 pounds 4 shillings. (Old money)

In 1971 Our Match Group Cardiff Nomads entered the Bristol Avon Championships that was fished on a place called ladydown. Our team won the event thanks to our captain Ron Moore, who amassed 29lb catching bream on a slider. In that match the team champions was decided by weight. (Ron was also a former Cardiff City football player, Sadly Ron passed away a couple of years ago.)

In September that year was also the last of the National competitions that was decided on weight, and as mentioned in my last article Robin Harris won the match on the River Severn, it was also the first time I had caught a barbel, all of 4oz that when playing I thought it felt over a pound, just goes to show how much strength a barbel has when playing it on a rod and line.

I learnt a big lesson when I fished a South Wales Winter league on the River Wye at a place called Bigsweir. I drew a peg that was so shallow I could see right across the river, it must have been only a foot deep, I was so disconcerted that I never had the heart to tackle up, and was cursing the pegging, when suddenly below me another angler had just swung in a dace. I hastily set up a shallow waggler and went on to fish the peg. To my amazement I went on to catch 23lb in just 2 hours, and came second in the match. In those days most matches were only 4 hours long, I was ruining myself not to have started on time, as 28lb won the match.

In 1973 the Huntspill was the venue to be, and with 300 peg matches taking place there. The division National events did help as they were pencilled in for future matches. This is where we learnt the skills of swing tipping. I did manage to catch 40lb of Bream in one match to make the frame.

Also during this period the River Usk matches were in full swing, and I won two matches on the tro using ledger tactics. First with 19lb and the second with 20lb, mostly big dace. We used to call them cock dace as most would average 12oz a piece.

However, when the frost came the dace become much harder to catch, and matches were switched to the lower River Wye at Redbrooke. This venue became very popular and the South Wales winter leagues were fished. The matches also attracted a lot of midland anglers, and this is where the Lower Wye Championships was held. *More next time...*



Blast from the Past (Where are they now?)



SHAKESPEARE brand manager James Robbins with just a taste of some of the new Agility and Sigma rods and reels coming your way this autumn.

SHAKESPEARE BRING BACK SIGMA IN EXCITING VFM PUSH

THERE'S some big news from Pure Fishing: Shakespeare are consolidating their sub brands into three clear price points.

Talking to *Angler's Mail* at the EFTTEX show in Paris, they explained how they will be launching Omni, Sigma and Agility ranges of rods and reels, across coarse, game and sea categories. The quality and value for money sounds exciting.

Just on the coarse side, there's a dozen new Agility rods from a 9 ft wand up to a 13 ft Power Match, including barbel and specimen tools, with RRP's up to £59.99. There's 13 Sigma rods from pike to match up to £39.99, and seven new Omni rods

including an 11 m pole mainly up to £29.99 except for the pole, which is £99.99.

Add to that seven new Agility reels, up to £44.99, a dozen Sigma designs up to £29.99 plus 13 Omni models up to £19.99, in front, rear drag and freespool formats, and you can see that Shakespeare have been very busy.

Resurrecting the popular Sigma brand, there's even a new Sigma Wand on its way, a ten-footer with a similar action to the sought-after original.

Shakespeare's James Robbins explained: 'people always say our rods and reels represent great value for money. I really believe they will be the best in

their class at their respective price points.'

Agility rods will include a new satin matt finish, Zirconium Oxide guides that are very light but strong, and ergonomic reel seats.

Agility reels will come with seven ball bearings, single and double handles and two aluminium spools. Sigma reels will come with five ball bearings, an aluminium spool, double and single handle on the match and a spare graphite spool. Even the Omni reels will come with three ball bearings, a graphite spool and a graphite spare.

Look out for them from September. For more, visit www.shakespeare-fishing.co.uk

Hadrian Whittle Match Reports

14 February

Milo Wye spring festival day 1!

Not really sure what to make of today if I'm honest... faced with a high slowly rising river bleak chub and barbel were expected to dominate and they did! Not many pegs at Hereford I've not fished let alone not seen... peg 72 for me today top peg behind the railings very rarely used and I think generally poor on a low river but high coloured waters a great leveller so no concerns there in fact I quite fancied it for a barbel weight!

Simple plan 4 m with pole bleak whips a short feeder line and a meat feeder line about 1/3 out. Tbh I was hoping not to need to resort to bleaking and after a promising start on meat feeder it looked like I might not but things never panned out after 2 hrs I had 7 chub and 150 tiny bleak after 2 looks but word was a coupe of anglers in the section had their heads down so I dug in and waded through the micro bleak to get runs of weights to finish up with 32-8-0 enough for the crucial 1 point bit a bit off the pace on weight... I'm pretty sure we struggled to line fish up on the feeder as there were many being fired into such a small area! I fully expect 3/4 or 5 anglers to tie on 2 points tomorrow so it's going to be a tight one this, good to be in the hunt though!

Milo 2 day spring festival day 2!

Going into the draw this morning I knew I'd need a big weight to win I actually considered asking for a re- draw when the peg no one wants 97 on the courts decided to glue itself to my mit! Second year running I've pulled this one out in this festival blanking last year... completely different river today though with still over 2 m on! Tbh the peg looked lovely and despite it poor form in recent winters (it's a flier when it's up early November) I couldn't help but feel a section win was possible . I settled on 1 feeder / bomb line and 1 flat float line while the later only produced 1 perch and 1 bumped fish I felt it was the line which had the potential of putting a big weight on the scales I needed should some big chub rock up they never... luckily the feeder was decent producing 3 barbel and 13 chub to clinch the required section win if not the required weight weighing 24-6-0! With so many contenders drawing good pegs I wasn't even sure I'd frame luckily I managed 4th miles off the top 3 who also had 2 points but much bigger weights! Although I'd hoped to win this one framing with 2 pegs I'd happily never see again is defo a result! I have to say a huge well done to Joe Holloway on taking it clean out today with 59lbs perfect performance and Riggers drawing 2 great bleak pegs and putting in 2 great performances to end up 2nd Riggers lives a bleak match!

Fair play to Dave David Roberts on running another superb festival and all his helpers lastly thanks to Milo for their great support... top event this as our river



CARP WORTH A CARBON

ONLY a quarter of the 145 line up caught fish on the Sanky-St. Helena Canal at Warrington in the Lynne AC Fur and Feather Open. Even though the dishevelled weather sent the shoals in to cold storage - the canal received a 20,000 fish stocking five days earlier - Christmas came early for Wigan's Ray Aston.

A single carp of 3-13-9 in the coloured water at the Newby end of the length earned him a carbon rod and £100. But it was a close-run contest. Salford's Tommy Mycock had 3-11-8 and Tony Maloney (Manchester) 2-6-15.

MELBOURNE PICKS UP MORE MONEY

IT WAS tough going for all the competitors in Nottingham AA's big Open at Shalford, but it didn't stop Les Melbourne. The Nottingham angler is the biggest money winner on the Trent this season with well over £2,000 to his credit, and he ran away with this one.

Drawn two below Stoke Weir, Les tempted just three chub on legered lo-worm, the biggest 4 lb 2 oz, which would almost have been enough on its own. Barnsley's Keith Ashmore took second with a chub and some small stuff weighing 4-5-0 from the Shalford Shallows.

Result: L. Melbourne (Nottingham) 7-4-0; R. Ashmore (Barnsley) 4-4-0; D. Hayes (Cottingham) 4-6-0.

Stef is top scratcher

NOTTINGHAM Federation's Saturday Open at Burton Joyce produced the worst result of the season. The Trent was running 3 ft up and highly coloured, reducing the entire field to scratching for anything going.

Stef Joske (Nottingham) did that better than anyone, taking six chub for 9-15-0 from the top end of the road. He got two on float and maggot, two on legered maggot and two on legered worm.

Sean Butler (Nottingham) took second with 8-0-0 of chub, all taken laying on down the edge at a peg in the ferry field.

Others: R. L. Clegg (Barnsley) 6-10-0; T. Green (Nottingham) 6-4-3; J. Handford (Nottingham) 4-4-0.

GUDGEON GALLOP

GOODYEAR matchman Steve Evans came off best in a gudgeon battle on the Ruffe-Worcester Canal at Wombourne when he topped the 87-strong turn-out with a catch of 3-2-11.

He was pegged just above the Waggon and Horse and worked with a pole and stick for his £70 prize.

It was a good win, second place going to Jay Whooler from the Abec Probables with 1-9-5 from a Bratch Lock swim, and as was followed by Wolverhampton's Paul Turner who scaled 1-7-13 from a peg near to the winner.

CAMMELL WILL THINK AGAIN

THE Cammell Ltd series of Open matches came to an end with a low winning weight of 1-8-0 by Liverpool's Terry Maloney.

The Shropshire Union Canal at Backford has not proved the attraction it has been in previous years and although Cammell Ltd AC have decided to run the series again in 1983 they are to review the length of the series and their blood-worm ban.

Others: Keith Wilson (Liverpool) 1-0-4; Ken Reader (Liverpool) 0-14-0.

Early rush was enough

A LEVEL 10-0-0 by Doncaster matchman Alan Evans gained top place in the J.H. Rods Open on the Trent at Long Eaton.

He was at peg 40, just above Ene-wash mouth, and used a quiver-tip with maggots, casters and worms. Most of his catch was made up of six chub which he caught in the first hour.

He added a bream, but could then interest only odd smallish fish for the rest of the match.

Redditch skipper disqualified for leaving p

SAD DAY FOR NEWELL

WARWICK OPEN

By Gordon Holland

PAUL NEWELL, former Wye champion and skipper of this year's Redditch National team, was disqualified in the Warwick Open for leaving his peg during the match.

In a hard contest, fished in poor conditions, he netted 2-11-8, the second best catch among the 108 competitors on the Warwickshire Avon at Hampton Lucy, Grove Farm and Fullbrook.

An official complaint was lodged, and upheld by association officials, who decided that Newell was in breach of the rules, and must be disqualified.

Warwick match secretary Ron Bennett told Angler's Mail that it was clearly stipulated both on entry tickets and weight cards that competitors cannot leave their pegs during the match. "We had to enforce the rule in view of the complaint, and perhaps this will be a warning to others that the regulation has to be complied with," he said.

Dave Buckle from the M & B Kingfisher squad topped the struggling turn-out with 3-12-8, a record low winning weight for these events this term. He was pegged at Hampton Lucy and used a quiver tip rig to

leger bronze maggots, and pocketed £90 for the effort.

With the disqualification of Paul Newell, Alan Sutton, also from the M & B Kingfisher group, stepped up into second place with 2-6-0. He was at the opposite end of the length at Kullbrook D peg, and caught chub.

P. Ross (Redditch) 2-3-4, J. Watson (Birmingham) 2-3-0 and G. Moreen (Coventry) 2-3-0 completed the frame.

BREAD BEST AT WHARF

DESPITE snow and freezing winds there were some reasonable catches in the Avon Commercial League match, switched from the flooded Avon to the Kennel and Avon Canal at Darlington Wharf.

League secretary John Hatherall had around 50 small roach on punched bread for a 3-10-5 winning total.

Slurp runner-up Tony Cambridge took another roach catch on bread for 3-0-0 and Terry Norris (Team Fishcraft) was third on 2-10-8.

Teams: Team Fishcraft 47 pts; Bristol Telephones 45; Fish and Boat 40; Stroud 39; Clarke 35; Bath A 26; Bath B 19; Bristol PO 16; Chippingham Telecons 16; S & P 14.

League tables: Bristol Telephones 28; Stroud 32; Fish and Boat and Fishcraft 31; Bath A 27; Clarke 16; S & P; Bristol PO 12; Bath B 11; Chippingham Telecons 10.

Dismal Warleigh

WITH the Bristol Avon's Warleigh section only just within its banks, it was a dismal day for competitors in Sunday's Bristol Commercial League match.

Norman Holsley (Balls Bridge) needed just 1-10-8 of roach and dace, taken on quiver-tip bronze maggot and a swim-feeder rig for top spot. Jeff Davis (Sun Life) had 1-4-0 for second spot and Mike Nicholls (Jaynes) followed on 1-3-5.

Top teams: Division "A": Balls "A" 38; DRG 31½; Wills and Jaynes 31.

Division "B": Resins "B" 37; Fry's 34; Bristol Telecons 26½; SWB "B" 25½.

League tables: Division "A": Resins "A" 35½; DRG 31; Wills and Jaynes 25½; Division "B": Division "B": Fry's 30; Bristol Telecons 26½; SWB B 28; Balls B 27.

Hour of delight

A FREE-CATCHING opening 60 minutes put Exnington matchman Clive Worthington in an unassailable position in the Burton Mutual Open and he went on to win easily with 3-10-4 of small roach and gudgeon.

On the Trent and Mersey Canal at Shotnall, he was pegged at the Branton end of the stretch and used a pole, with pinkies on the hook. He caught a big proportion of his catch during the first hour, and scooped the top £60 prize for the performance.

Runner-up among the 92 competitors was Nigel Winfield (Burton) with 1-8-8 of roach. He was at the opposite end of the stretch and beat into third place match manager Bob Faxon, also Burton, who was at a middle peg and scaled 1-1-8.

Allerton was on his own

BARNESLEY National Championship angler John Allerton was the only man to break double-figures in Bradford No. 1A's Barkhouse Cup Open on the Rive Calder at Brighouse.

Drawn below the Pipe Bridge, John picked up 12-2-0 of roach on the waggie float, alternating between maggot and caster on the hook. Best of the rest was Stan Haigh (Leeds), with 9-12-5 of roach from the Kossell length.

Results: J. Allerton (Bally) 12-2-0; S. Haigh (Leeds) 9-12-5; A. Byrner (Leeds) 6-13-0; M. Hirs (Bradford) 6-5-0.

KETTERING OPEN

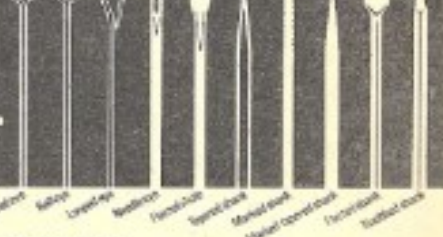
LEICESTER anglers figured prominently in the Kettering, Thrapston DAA Open on the Nene between Thrapston and Barnwell. Ivor Wilson took top spot with 4-6-0 of roach, while Gary Sadler was third on 3-7-5 and Richard Keeney fourth at 3-7-0. Splitting them was Round's angler Alex Rice who had 4-2-4 for second.

LISTERHILLS OPEN

LISTERHILL'S AC's Open on the River Swale above Topcliffe Weir was a disaster, only one man topping the pound mark on a river running 6 ft high. Andy Dowel (Thirsk) drew a slack and caught 1-8-12 a tiny gudgeon and dace on float-fishie maggot.

Results: A. Dowel (Thirsk) 1-8-12; P. Nicholson (Yarns) 0-15-12; J. Juddewich (Borough bridge) 0-15-8; J. D. Illingworth (Bradford) 0-14-0.

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THE NAKED CHOD RIG

THE NAKED CHOD RIG HAS BECOME ONE OF THE MOST POPULAR AND MOST EFFECTIVE TACTICS FOR CATCHING CARP OF ALL SIZES, MASTER THIS APPROACH AND SUCCESS WILL FOLLOW...

The Naked Chod Rig is designed to be fished with an ultra-buoyant pop-up hookbait and is used for fishing over weed and/or soft debris such as thick silt, dead leaves etc. It is based on a Helicopter rig design whereby your hooklink is situated on your main line, with your lead tied to the end of that line. This means that your lead will land on the lakebed first with your hooklink following behind and due to the buoyancy of the hookbait the hooklink will slowly sink down through the water and land on top of any debris leaving perfect presentation. You can fish the hooklink 'fixed' a set distance above the lead using the Edges Tungsten Chod Bead, which grips the line very securely (make sure this distance is greater than the depth of 'Chod' you are fishing on) or fished free running on the line with a 5mm Edges Tungsten Bead positioned on a Tapered Main Line Sinker set above the hooklink a few inches deeper than the 'Chod' or weed you are fishing on.



MAIN LINE COMPONENTS

When fishing the Naked Chod Rig you will simply fish your main line straight through to the lead. In order to counter balance the buoyancy of the pop-up hookbait we recommend that you use a fluorocarbon main line such as the Illusion XS as this is a heavier line than monofilament. When fishing a running Naked Chod with your hooklink swivel on the main line previously you have had the risk of the swivel cutting through the line when playing a carp. However, by using the Edges Chod/Heli Buffer Sleeve you can offer your line maximum protection as the hooklink swivel slides onto the sleeve during the fight.



HOOGLINK

To create the perfect Chod hooklink you will need to use an ultra-stiff bristle filament material such as RIGIDITY in 20 or 25lb. You can set the length of the hooklink to your preferred choice but a good starting point is 2.5ins. At one end of the hooklink attach your hook with a knotless knot and create a 'D' Rig whilst at the other end attach a size 11 ring swivel. On the 'D' place a Mini Hook Ring Swivel, which you can then attach your hookbait to. It is important to create a nice progressive curve in your short hooklink so that it can grab hold of the bottom lip when a carp sucks it in, this is made very easy by using a Steam & Store Chod/Withy Bin, which allows you to create the perfect curve over a steaming kettle every time.

THE COMPONENTS YOU WILL REQUIRE TO CREATE A CHOD HOOKLINK.

HOW TO CREATE A CHOD HOOKLINK



1 Cut 4ins of RIGIDITY and attach a hook to one end with a knotless knot leaving a short Hair.



2 Place a Mini Hook Ring Swivel onto the tag of the Hair as illustrated in the image above.



3 Place the end of the Hair through the back of the eye of the hook to create a 'D' shape.



4 Carefully blob the tag end of the Hair with a lighter to set the 'D' into position.



5 Attach a size 11 Flexi Ring Swivel to the end of the hooklink with a 2-Turn Blood Knot.



6 Mould some Power Grip putty over the eye of the swivel to counter balance the pop-up.



7 Place the hooklink onto a Chod/Withy Bin and hold it over a steaming kettle for 4 seconds.



8 You have now created the perfect hooklink to be fished on a Naked Chod Rig.



ATTACH YOUR HOOKBAIT WITH THE BLOB METHOD



1 Pass some floss through the swivel and thread hookbait onto floss.



2 Slide hookbait onto swivel so the swivel barrel plugs inside.



3 Carefully burn the tag ends with a lighter so they set on fire.



4 Blob the molten tag against the bait with the lighter to secure!

CREATE A FIXED NAKED CHOD RIG



1 Start by threading the tungsten bead from the Tungsten Chod Bead Kit onto the main line.



2 Now thread your Chod Rig hooklink section (see page 9) onto the main line, as shown.



3 Thread the second half of the Chod Bead on. This will grip the line very tightly so add saliva to the line first.



4 Place the swivel of your Chod Rig hooklink onto the recess on the bead as shown.



5 Now place the two parts of the bead together, as illustrated in the image above.



6 Thread the buffer sleeve from the kit onto the line with the female end towards the bead.



7 Tie on your lead and slide the buffer sleeve into position over the swivel of the lead.



8 Set the Chod Bead to the distance above the lead that you require and the 'Fixed Chod' is complete.

When playing a fish the bead will slide down the line and connect into the buffer sleeve to offer ultimate protection and shock absorption during the fight.



**THE COMPONENTS
YOU WILL REQUIRE
TO CONSTRUCT A
RUNNING NAKED
CHOD RIG.**



SETTING UP THE RUNNING NAKED CHOD RIG



Start by threading a 5mm Tungsten Bead onto the Illusion XS fluorocarbon main line.



Thread a Tapered Main Line Sinker onto the line and place the bead onto the sinker.



The small Chod Rig hooklink (see page 9) is then threaded onto the main line.



Next, thread one of the Edges Heli/Chod Buffer Sleeves onto the line, thin end first.



Now tie your chosen lead onto the end of the main line with a 5-turn Grinner Knot.



Slide the Heli/Chod Buffer Sleeve down the line and into position over the top of the lead.



The Chod hooklink can now sit on the Heli/Chod Buffer Sleeve like so offering the line protection.



Set the top bead and sinker to your chosen depth and your Naked Chod is complete!



TOPEDGE

When fishing with the Naked Chod Rig, use semi-slack lines with a Slik bobbin to ensure your hooklink sits nicely on top of any debris and maximum bite indication.



A Chod Rig stunner!

The Year Lead Shot was BANNED 1987

ED

■ NO LEGER WEIGHTS UNDER 2 oz

THE GOVERNMENT is set to ban the sale of lead shot from January 1, 1987 — but dust shot has won a reprieve.

The move came last Wednesday, just two days after the angling trade and controlling bodies met and decided to stop selling shot from July of the same year.

Dust shot — size eight and smaller — plus leger weights over 2oz will be exempt from any legislation as it is widely accepted that the smallest shot does no harm to the birds and they are unable to pick up larger legers.

The Government will step in if angling organisations don't voluntarily phase out lead. Draft bylaws have been issued to water authorities so they can ban lead in their areas if they wish.

An immediate ban on the use of lead shot in Royal Parks comes into force with the issue of all new rod licences and the Government has started work on preparing a total ban under the Control of Pollution Act so they can enforce it from January 1, 1987.

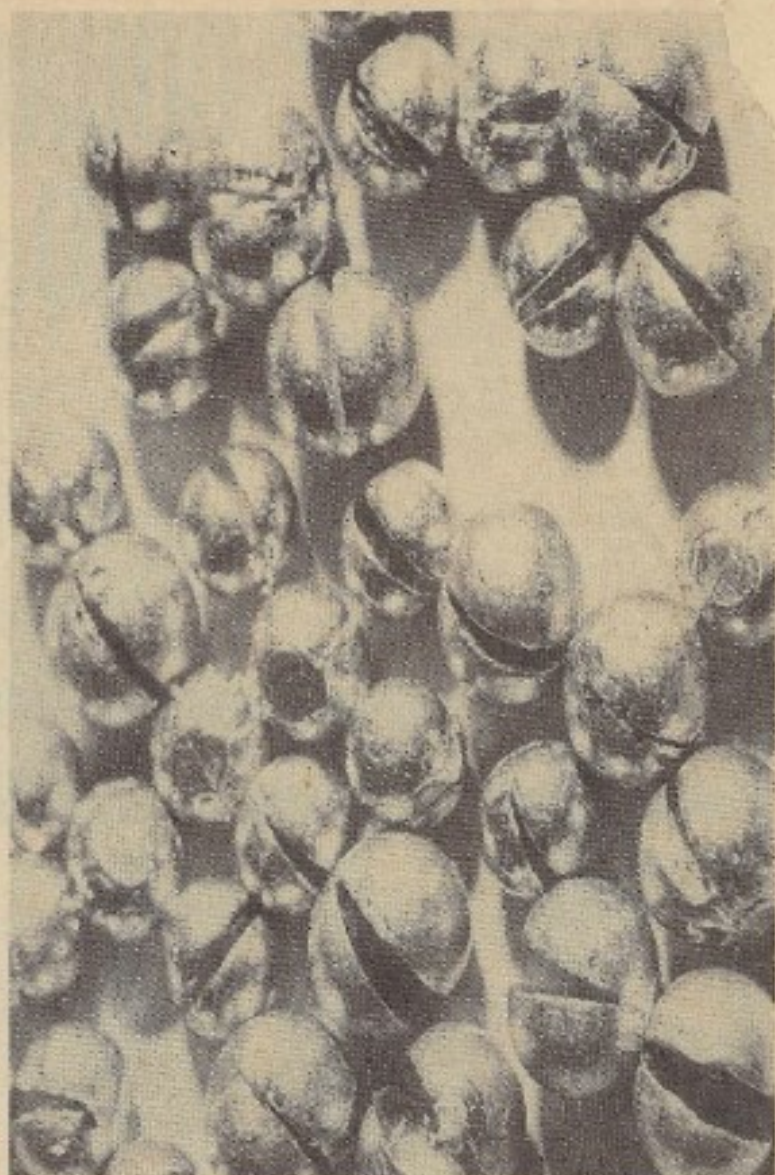
At a Press conference last week, Environment Minister William Waldegrave said: "We realise we could never enforce a ban on the use of the weights because

people will always get round it somehow. We have to try and persuade them to use the alternatives and I think most will be persuaded. We should then see a very quick effect on the swan population.

"There are now alternatives on the market and in the last couple of weeks we have seen an endorsement by the angling organisations of one of these products, but there is still a real commercial opportunity for firms to step in and produce other alternatives.

"People will still complain about the cost or the difficulty in using them but I think the marginal inconvenience caused is far outweighed by the advantages — the saving of swans," he added.

He stressed the Government were not talking about a five or even a two year programme, but wanted to see something happening this year.



They have asked the Nature Conservancy Council and the Sports Council to campaign throughout the coming season against the use of lead shot, and they are hopeful that lead will go voluntarily.

The trade took their decision to stop selling when they held an all-day meeting in London last Monday.

It was backed by leaders from various bodies, including the National Anglers' Council, the National Federation of Anglers and the various angling trade bodies.

They had met to discuss

the problems angling could face over the next few years, not only from the deaths of swans from lead shot poisoning but also from various anti-angling groups.

Anglian Water's Regional Recreation and Conservation Committee met on the same day as the Government made its announcement and called on the authority to take action to ban lead shot.

The AWA's present policy is to promote a voluntary changeover by 1986 and then bring in legislation to stop manufacture and sale of shot.

One water authority source last week said it was possible that many of the country's ten authorities could bring in a ban before 1987.

They could not ban the use or sale of lead shot but would have to print on licences that they were sold to anglers on the understanding that the buyer would not use lead shot. Since you need a licence for everywhere you fish the effect would be the same as a total ban.

Continued over ►

TWO SUBSTITUTES ON THE WAY

THE wraps are due to be taken off two new prototype substitutes set to fill the gap left when lead shot is banned.

The first is from Tackle-time, a North London tackle company. They say it is safe and goes right down to No.13.

The second, by Thamesly Tackle, looks exactly the same as split in appearance and is used in the same way.

Both alternatives should be released within the next fortnight to add to the five already on the market, including the Sandvik Safeweight

which has now got official backing.

Gerry Hart, of Tackle-time, welcomed the Government's ban. "It's good news as it had to come."

"Anglers might as well volunteer to use something other than lead rather than wait for the official ban in 1987", he said.

"Until a good alternative appears I think anglers will use a mixture of makes to achieve their aims. That won't make the swans reappear on our rivers — only curbing boat traffic will do that."

COUNCIL GETS LEAD WARNING

ANGRY anglers from Doncaster have warned South Yorkshire County Council they will take a battering at the polls if they introduce a ban on the use of lead weights.

The warning was sounded by local angler Jack Purchase who denied lead shot was causing a massive reduction in the number of swans.

"In fact, we have figures which prove the number of swans is on the increase — they are only changing their habitat

and that's because of the upsurge of interest in boating," said Jack.

"Most anglers do care about the countryside and the county council ought to hold a proper investigation of all the facts before they bring in this measure."

"If they don't investigate they face defeat at the polls. There are a hell of a lot of anglers who vote and they have long memories — councillors should think about that."

Mr Purchase, an angling travel agent and top junior coach, said he did not object to more controls on the use of chrysoidine dye.

His comments come in the wake of a decision by the authority's recreation, culture and health committee to introduce a total ban on the use of lead shot and chrysoidine during all fishing matches taking place on waters owned or managed by the council.

Careless

The move, yet to be adopted by the full council, follows a report on the "careless use of lead shot and the dye."

The county admits it has no direct evidence of lead shot causing problems at its water sites although it wishes to see an end to the "decline in the swan population" on local waters.

A committee spokesman said: "We would be failing in our duty if we did nothing to protect swans and other aquatic birds."

"The banning of lead shot and the use of this particular bait dye on our waters during fishing matches, is for the protection of the county's birds, flora and fauna and is also in the interests of the health of our anglers."

Stories by Beverly

Adams and Geoff

Wagh.

What they think about the ban



JOHN WILSON, NORWICH TACKLE DEALER: "I welcome the ban on lead shot because it will take some of the pressure off angling. I have been using Sandvik lead alternatives since the start of the season and it hasn't affected my fishing whatsoever."

"It's up to the tackle dealers to encourage their customers to use an alternative. Dealers that don't rate any of them aren't doing angling a service."



DAVE BROGDEN, ENGLAND INTERNATIONAL: "It's about time anglers stopped burying their heads in the sand because the problem won't go away. We must do something between now and when the ban is imposed and it must be positive. It's up to the NFA as our governing body to take up the issue and set up a committee to try every alternative then recommend guidelines for anglers to follow. This sort of thing gives more power to the elbows of the anti's so we must be seen to be doing something."

"It's easy to find alternatives to olivettes and legers but the normal shot is harder to replace. I would think my area, the North West, is

least affected because we use dust shot and olivettes more than anything. It may devastate stick float anglers."



KEN GILES, SHAKESPEARE SUPER TEAM: "There's no need for panic stations. Anglers are resourceful enough to come up with a suitable alternative — just remember that split shot is a spin-off from shotguns and wasn't actually devised for angling — fishermen just used their brains and put a slit for the line. Alternatives don't have to be as dense as lead."

"There are some anglers who deserve a rap on the knuckles for misleading the public, through TV and the Press, that anglers were being bloody minded and that there were alternatives available. We know there were no substitutes that came up to scratch then. If we save the lives of swans we have done our bit."



REG COOKE, LONDON AA CHAIRMAN: "To be honest, anglers have got to get used to using something else. This ban has been on the cards for a long time and the figures can't be disputed. There is no way to rebel against the ban

because that would just make angling more unpopular. We must do something to take the platform away from those that criticise us."

A great deal of LAA waters are designated as nature reserves so it is important that we do something in our case. I shall recommend to our delegates that an alternative to lead shot be encouraged."



KEN COLLINGS, LEADING MATCH ANGLER AND TACKLE DEALER: "The ban was inevitable. We had enough time to put our shop in order but nothing happened. The fact is that we've now got to adjust. I'm just thankful that we have a little time for a really good alternative to come onto the market — if the ban was immediate anglers would be struggling."

"Anglers will never reverse this decision so it's a case of having to change now. I know I can fish with coiled shot but I don't want to be forced to use it until there are more alternatives. Over the past month more people than ever have asked for lead alternatives."



DAVE COSTER, LONDON TACKLE DEALER: "I'm sick-

ened by the whole affair. The Government are going to ban lead shot yet they offer no support for finding a good alternative. I know of at least one man who has a decent substitute but can't get it out because of a lack of funds — he needs finance from the Government for this sort of project."

"I would definitely use a substitute but I have not seen one that is half as good as split shot itself. The most disgusting thing is that some manufacturers of lead alternatives are forcing bans simply by pushing their products so hard. We have businessmen wanting anglers to stop using lead to boost their interests."



DAVE THOMAS, FORMER WORLD CHAMPION: "These people would have anglers locked in a dungeon to keep them off the countryside. To ban lead shot completely is a bit extreme — in my area there are few venues that have swans on them. I don't think the majority of anglers will abide by the law in this case simply because there are no acceptable alternatives."

"As far as I can gather, the substitutes offer sizes down to a No. 4 and the ban allows No. 8 to be used. This dispenses with the No. 6 which is probably the most popular shot size for stick and waggler work. As a match angler I need to slide strings of shot around the line in seconds which can't be achieved with any alternatives. The right answer is to educate the careless, not a blanket ban."

Des Ship

Facebook

Match Reports

Sunday was the winter classic £10,000 On the flier tv silver fish final at meadowlands fishery. couldn't believe the wind had turned around to a full easterly that was towards us on this bank. Drew peg 24 on the big lake that I felt it had a chance at least. Decided with the conditions to chance it and fish the feeder at the start and after feeding my pole lines I went straight out on the feeder, caught a 2 lb skimmer first cast and had a few more decent ones. Gary took to my left only had a few small skimmers so I felt that things were going ok but after about a good hour or so I looked on my long pellet pole line expecting skimmers but only roach. Back on the feeder then and it was proper frustrating as you got indications/ liners

but struggled to get a bite as did Gary next door, had a look on my 11 mtr ground bait line that I looked after from the start and this was brilliant fishing firstly catching 2 really good skimmers of around 1.5 lb



and plenty small ones, took a gamble to stay on this until the end as I felt anytime it could kick off with quality fish but it didn't, Gary to my left gambled to stay on the feeder and at the finish there was 2 oz in it but my 27lb 10 oz from his 27lb 8 oz got me the section by default as Matty Dawes framed in with 35 lb a few pegs away, well done mate. the venue fished amazing considering the pressure it's had but for me the stamp of fish cost me in the end. Massive well done to Andy May Angling for winning with 45lb and ADAM WAKELIN FISHING just missing out by 2 lb, also to everyone else that framed. Big thanks to Gary Rodger's for running these match's and I'll be trying again next year.



Sorry so late catching up as I've been getting back so late from my recent matches, but here we go 📷. Tuesday and it was the second day of the on the flier two day mini silver fish festival at meadowlands for me it was helping me get ready for the £10,000 final this Sunday. Day 2 draw put me on peg 40 pump bank, Lansdowne lake, not where I wanted to be to be honest but you never know, there was 30 lb plus weights in this section on Monday of good skimmers and bream so was hoping they would still be in the area but the wind was smack in my face and pretty strong all day, it was pretty obvious very early on in my area that it was going to be a completely different day and was struggling to catch anything on anything but conditions were pants, had a run late on the long pole and finished with a disappointing 14 lb for nowhere, well done to Andy Bennett taking the section out from the other end and felt all I learnt was not to draw here in the final and were I drew on Monday either but seriously the fishing was brilliant with weights of 50 plus lb again in the right areas. massive well done to lee Kerry that had two lovely days fishing on Warren lake to take victory, Adam wakelin coming second and lee wright coming 3 rd, going to need a very good draw for certain Sunday to stand a chance especially looking at the weather.

Talking of the weather yesterday I went to shearwater on the open matches that I've set up with Rob hughes. sold out so a great turn out, got Steve to draw for me and he pulled peg 12 road bank, one I wasn't to put in but had no choice 📷. Had the power next door so i was in for a battle for sure. Decided to fish two lines, 60 meters and 75 meters both with 12.6 distance masters and with med XR elasticated steam feeders. Fed the 60 with a mix of 2 mm fins, 2 mm stikki krill & squids and match method mix with plenty of particles in, long I literally just started as it's normally a very weird area. caught my first bream after about 30 minutes, had around 4 and with Andy not catching fishing over his heavily baited area I thought I started the right way. Dropping on my baited area a little later and catching 2 bream and this ghost carp of 20lb 6 oz that made my day to be honest and fight, OMG i felt I was in with a chance of framing even though word on the bank they were catching well up on the low numbers, Andy started catching a few bream as the day went on but I was ahead and then I hooked another carp that was actually tangled on a carp line, need a little luck at the moment. Went on to fish over the two lines and finish with around 15 bream for 49 lb for a total of 86lb that manage to win the day, well done to Mike brown second with 74 lb and Roy worth 3 rd with 72 lb and all that braved the torrential rain for basically 6 hours, on that note, please stop raining I'm sick of it. Used 8 mm bandums in banoffee flavour, 14 KKH tied to 017 power line

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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.

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.



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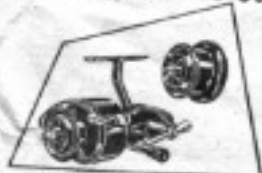
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Letters To The Editor

The Editor welcomes articles of 500-1,500 words and letters of interest to fresh- and salt-water anglers. Letters should be as short as possible and to the point. A stamped addressed envelope should accompany MSS., which will be returned if unsuitable.

SIZE LIMITS IN SOMERSET

Sir,—For some time past it has been felt that the minimum sizes for the taking of fish in the Somerset area have been too low, and since the Somerset River Board has come into being it was thought that something might be done to remedy the position. The Somerset River Board, after hearing the views of the South, East and West Somerset Federation of Anglers (Bridgwater, Glaston - Manor, Highbridge, Weston - super - Mare, and Yeovil), the Taunton A.A., and Bristol clubs who have water in the area, has decided to apply to the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries for his approval of the following scale of minimum sizes relating to fish taken during angling in the Board's area: Bream 14 in.; carp 14 in.; chub 12 in.; tench 12 in.; perch 9 in.; grayling 10 in.; roach 9 in.; trout 7 in.; rudd 8 in.; dace 7 in.; pike 22 in.; gudgeon, no limit.

Trout were retained at 7 in. in view of the fact that there are a number of small streams that contain the smaller brook trout only. A size limit has been put on pike to stop the indiscriminate taking of mere tidlers of a couple of pounds or so, as it is considered that a certain number of pike are essential for the well-being of waters. The pike size limit will, of course, not apply on trout waters.

It was suggested in one or two quarters that there should be a 4 in. or 5 in. limit on gudgeon, but it was decided to impose no limit partly because it was considered the youngsters' fish, and also that in the majority of cases they would be over 4 in. in any case.

Mr. T. J. M. Barrington has been appointed Clerk to the Somerset River Board in place of his brother who has died suddenly. He had been acting as deputy-clerk during the illness of his brother.—R. Perrett, Bridgwater, Somerset.

TROUT FISHING AT TUNBRIDGE WELLS

Sir,—As I have received several inquiries regarding trout fishing in this area, which have been passed on to me by The Pipe Shop, High Street, Tunbridge Wells, I should like to correct the information given in the issue for March 22nd. The correct address is A. R. Woodhams, 19, Park Street, Tunbridge Wells, not The Pipe Shop, which does not now sell fishing tackle or tickets.

Day tickets, 2s. 6d., for our Stonegate water can be obtained from the Bridge Hotel, Stonegate and a Rother Fishery Licence is required for this water, price 1s. per year. Tickets for the Lamberhurst water, 2s. 6d. each, can be obtained from the Chequers Hotel, Lamberhurst, where accommodation and meals are also obtainable. Tickets for coarse fishing on the Medway at Ashurst are obtainable from the Bald Faced Stag, Ashurst, 2s. 6d. each.—A. R. Woodhams, Hon. Sec., Royal Tunbridge Wells A.S.

WINTER TENCH

Sir,—In reply to part of Mr. Roberts's letter about tench, I have caught some thousands in

meter," and the tabulation of a year's fishing, noting these readings every day, by Capt. Parker, is one of the best things ever published on angling.

Fish are liable to be caught at any time, anywhere, in any conditions, and there is no argument.—Idler, Nottingham.

FISHING NEAR MINEHEAD

Sir,—My own personal experience may be of some help to your reader's inquiry for fishing at Minehead. I refer to the same pools mentioned by Mr. J. Newby of Gloucestershire, as I fished them in 1949. The pool nearest to the road should be ignored unless wishing to obtain crab for bait. The second pool, and a third one which is con-



The recent cold spell gave this part of the Royalty Fishery, Christchurch, a Christmas card effect.

some sixty years fishing canals and rivers in many parts of the country, and they are definitely the earliest fish of the coarse fish season, and it is never too warm in June, early and late in the day. At a dark hour, if a suitable temperature and when all is still, tench can be taken with any sort of worm on very coarse tackle at almost any depth; they virtually commit suicide.

That they are very occasionally taken in winter is freakish, as any practical angler should know. Recently a pike was taken on bait in the sea at Gorleston (not the first one) and a good plaice on one of the Broads some fifteen miles from the sea. A large tench in March this year was caught near Wroxham Bridge in icy cold water, taken to Norwich on show, and then released in the river Wensum there.

So these unusual catches go on, but it does not alter the fact that tench are summer fish. Getting them in winter is interesting, but does not alter the general rule.

As to temperatures, I think I coined the axiom "fish with the thermometer and the baro-

meter" by a small channel, hold the bass and mullet referred to by Mr. Newby.

Ragworm can be obtained on the spot by delving in mud on the pool side of the culvert which connects the pools to the beach.

Three of these on a No. 14 hook to 6x nylon (in fact with roach tackle throughout) should be fished from 3-4 feet below the surface, just over the edge of the weed which grows round the road side of the second pool.

The weather was hot on the occasion that I fished there, and the mullet were sporting on the surface and no doubt feeding on the life found in the weed-beds.

The bite of the mullet is roach-like, but the strike should be delayed until the float has been submerged for about 3-4 seconds. If the strike is made as the float goes under, as with roach, the fish will not be struck. This is due, I think, to the size of the mullet's mouth, which is too small to take the bait completely at once.

The mullet seem to be very shy and may disappear after a few of them have been taken. They will then be found in the third pool, but this is difficult to

BIG pike are very uncertain, they do not feed very often and they love to lie concealed in that underwater nightmare world of reed root forests that fringe our broads and lakes. When they are really hungry they will take almost anything from a wild duck to a four-inch roach, and on these days sheer terror must stalk beneath the quiet bays and waterways. They are

My host was waiting on the shore when I landed. I said, "I've seen a pike as long as this bath." I had to draw a chart and mark the spot with a pencil dot. "It's your fish," he said. "We'll give it a week to get hungry. Come again next Saturday."

The following Saturday was fine and there was very little wind. A pike struck as soon as we were on the broad. I had him at the

and I spun with, by now, the famous blue wagtail. The blue wagtail produced a 7-pounder very quickly and then four small jacks; the live-bait nothing. Then there came a lull and no strikes on either tackle, though we tried all the likely spots. The water was deep and dark, and rather menacing. After a while I had a heavy strike and a spirited battle with a 10-pounder that chased the wagtail right up to the boat. A small pike ran at the livebait but failed to get hooked. "You are just about due for a monster," I said to Bob. "I've had all the luck so far. Let's move over to that bay in the reeds."

Nothing happened for a time. A few mallard passed overhead and once a small flock of tufted duck. The wind which was southerly made a slight lull on the water and the sky was cloudy. It was the perfect pike fishing day. Time passed, then Bob suddenly said excitedly, "My float's going—it's gone." "Count ten and strike—no better count twenty—make sure of this one." Bob struck and nearly went over the side. "It's a whopper—I can't hold it." "Reel in he's coming towards the boat. Stop it. Give it some slack. Don't let it play you." "I can't, my reel's jammed." His reel had jammed too!

JUST IN TIME

The sun looked out of the clouds for a moment and down in the murky depths, its red gills snapping as it tried to spit out the bait was a dark shadow that looked as big as a retriever, a fearsome thing. It kept boring down into the deep and Bob could not get its head up. I prepared to help him in the battle and smartly got the mooring weight up and manned the oars. For half an hour the fish swam deep down and round and round the boat. Bob managed to free the reel, but his top joint had been spliced and began to look a bit sick. I rowed the boat and tried to keep tension on the line while he sorted out the reel.

Every now and then the pike would surge up to the surface and shake its head and snap its great jaws. Then it started to roll and plunge. Bob said "If he doesn't pack up soon we'll lose him. The rod has just about had it and I'm not feeling too fresh myself. Can't you gaff it now?" "I dare not make a mistake!"

After some more plunging we saw the fish turning on its side, but deep down. Gingerly I reached down with the gaff and then in one rush slipped it through the base of the gill covers and brought it up with one long heave and over into the boat. Then we sat on the fish to stop it going over the other side. It was a great hog-backed-brute and weighed 24 lb.

It was a real battle and the biggest fish Bob had ever caught.

ANGLING BOOKS

River Pollution, Buckland Lectures, by H. D. Turing. (Edward Arnold & Co. 7/6.) Mr. Turing, who died at the end of 1959, was one of the leading authorities on river pollution. Shortly before his death he gave a series of lectures (sponsored by the Buckland Foundation) on this subject, and these have now been published. A lot has been talked about pollution during the past couple of years, and although new Acts of Parliament have been passed to deal with it, the matter will continue to be of vital interest to anglers as long as fish are killed and waters devastated by poisonous effluents. Mr. Turing's book gets on in simple language the main aspects of the whole question, and to all those who want to know briefly what pollution is, how it affects fish life, and what can be done to control it, this is a useful little volume.

Fly Fishing, by H. D. Turing. (Nicholson & Watson, 5/-.) At this time of year, many anglers turn longing eyes towards trout fishing as giving an opportunity for sport during the coarse fish fence months. "Fly Fishing," written by the late H. D. Turing, and recently published, is a useful and inexpensive book for all those who want to try their hand at this branch of the art. It sets out simply the details of necessary tackle, knots, and methods of casting, the subtle differences of wet and dry fly and when to use them, natural fly and artificial fly tying, lake fishing, and all the other essentials for this type of angling. There is also a useful chapter on fly fishing for coarse fish.

TWO LARGE PIKE . . .

by . . . ALAN SAVORY

most ferocious just before the end of the coarse fishing season when they are getting ready to spawn. When they are not hungry nothing seems to excite them, and little fish swim over their heads as they lie like sunken logs on the mud. On days when pike are not feeding it is not a bad plan to shove the boat round the reed beds and try to drive the fish out into the deep water. It is always worth trying, although if a pike is not hungry there is little one can do, but on the days when big pike are really feeding they are devils.

My own personal experience of the big ones was nothing at all until last season. There had been some very good days amongst the smaller ones. One day of eighteen fish of from 6 lb. to 2 lb. and another of fifteen, but all of them small except one beautiful specimen of 8 lb. And lots of days of nothing at all and days of two or three small ones. There was a red-letter day on which I caught a 14-pounder, but that was my record for three seasons.

I like to spin with a thin steel rod, a Mitchell threadline reel and a Luron line of 11 lb. breaking strain and a six-inch wagtail bait. With this outfit I can cast a long way and get the maximum amount of play, and it is possible to search out the entrances of the dykes and the lay-byes and entrances to the channels in the reeds where pike lie waiting for prey, without disturbing the water too much.

One day this last February I was fishing a small broad which is private and where we keep all the small pike we catch, alive in a galvanised bath and transfer them to other places where pike are wanted. It is a delightful place, quiet and peaceful and sheltered by alder trees. The water is clear and only about three feet deep over the mud. There have been large pike caught there, but the 14-pounder was the biggest fish I ever had. On this day the pike were taking the wagtail well and giving good fun on the light tackle. There was nothing over 5½ lb., but they were just the size my host wanted. We got twelve and the bath was full of fish splashing about. There was a large shoal of bream on this broad and several times one got foul-hooked through the dorsal fin on the bottom triangle of the wagtail.

THE MONSTER SIGHTED

I went again next day and caught six during the morning, all small ones, then my host left me with instructions to bring the boat back when I got tired of fishing towards tea time. He had only just gone and I was quanting the boat through the floating rush roots or "hoves" as we call them, when I saw a huge pike lying on the mud not a foot below the starboard side. It was a real monster and the biggest pike I had ever seen alive. It was quite as long as the bath and had a head on it as large as a big dog. It seemed to be about six inches across the back, and just lay there like a sodden log, its great bullock eyes glaring.

I must admit I felt more than somewhat shocked for a moment or two. I was not certain what to do and the boat was drifting away, but I pushed the quant into the pike's face and it lazily moved off into the deep water. I fished madly for the rest of the afternoon with my heart in my mouth, had one good run and got a 17 lb. fish, but nothing more.

second cast, a 3-pounder. We had two new wagtails, a spotted one with a golden underside and a blue barred one with silver underside, and the 3-pounder was on the spotted one. We fished for an hour without another strike, though there were several small pike swimming about as we poled the boat to fresh places—little six-inch jacks. I said to my host who was acting as gillie, "That big one cannot be feeding with those small ones showing themselves." "You



Bob and his 24-pounder.

never know," he said. "It might suddenly come on. We'll push all round the reeds and try and find it."

We saw a pike move at one end of the broad, but there was nothing in the deeper water. "Put on that blue wagtail," said my host, "and cast over the soldier weed where it looks blackest." Something took the bait at the extreme end of the cast, and when I struck, struck back. "That's it—that's the one—here's your 20-pounder," shouted my host. "Now give him some stick and keep his head up." "Look out he's coming towards the boat. Get up the quant pole and let the boat drift." We saw the pike then. It looked as big as a torpedo. "That's the one all right. Play it can't you. Stop it going under the boat. Stick the rod straight down and round the bows."

ON TOW

The pike went on a long steady swim up the broad and incredibly enough the boat started to move after it. Every time the fish gave an extra sport the clutch on the reel slipped. We went up the broad and round and back again for eight minutes. Then the pike started to roll and I got it near the boat and my host gaffed it. It weighed exactly 20 lb. and was in perfect condition being thirty-seven inches long, just about as long as the bath.

On the Monday, March 3rd, a friend and I went fishing on the waters of the river Bure. He was live-baiting with small roach

AT THE BACK OF THE ISLAND

by . . . D. FLETCHER

EVERY sea angler has a favourite haunt and back of the Isle comes high on my list of places to be remembered. First of all, may I make it quite clear that this is not an angler's paradise, and with regard to the number of fish caught it can only be regarded as average. However, it is a pleasant retreat whenever a little solitude is deemed necessary, and I should like to pass on my observations on boat fishing off the Isle.

The most important thing to remember whilst on a boating expedition is to take along a variety of baits. My three favourites whilst fishing from this coast are ragworm, mackerel and that effective old standby, the rubber sandeel. Indeed, these can be recommended for any part of the coast, and can take care of most fish.

My companion is always a local man, who knows all there is to know about the fish of these waters. Local advice is always necessary for the best fishing and his rowing leaves nothing to be desired.

Pollack abound on this part of the coast and although these fish are not highly regarded in the kitchen, they can provide good sport. To all anglers I can say that of all three baits tried, good-sized ragworm has proved the best for these fish.

As the identity of the pollack is often confused with the coalfish, perhaps a short description will settle any arguments that may occur. The most important distinguishing mark is that the lower jaw, devoid of any barbel, protrudes considerably beyond the upper. The colouring is an olive green above, and silver below, with the whole of the body being dotted to a varying degree with tiny black spots. So much for the description. The best pollack caught were taken only a few hundred yards from the shore and afforded thrilling sport on a fairly light rod.

CRASH-DIVING POLLACK

With the boat anchored over the pollack ground and a float slowly drifting with the tide, several fish have been accounted for with the bait a little off the bottom. A long gut trace is essential; about nine feet attached to a No. 6 hook.

As soon as a pollack is hooked it is necessary to keep a tight line, for the fish invariably makes for the rocky sea bed. You will need all your skill to bring it in should it be successful in reaching the sanctuary of the weed-covered rocks. A quiet sea, devoid of any rolling breakers is best for pollack fishing. Mid-day too is the best time, apart from hours of darkness, when pollack often feed eagerly.

There are two good signs that denote when these fish are about. First the sea birds that have their home in the sheltered ledges of the island, dip and scream with evident delight. Secondly this coast often has large masses of seaweed floating about and the fish can be found lazily swimming amongst it. You may say that gulls crying and wheeling about could be a sign of any fish. This might be so of many coasts, but here all has been quiet when bass and

mackerel have been encountered.

The bass has been rightly described as a noble fish. Its salmon-like appearance and almost unparalleled fighting qualities make it a test of strength and skill for the most experienced of sea anglers. Whilst I cannot say that bass caught here have gone beyond the 3 lb. mark, there is a great deal to be said even for this size when taken from a boat.

A sandeel often proves a good lure for bass providing it is kept on the move. Just



A pick-a-back ashore after a late return from the fishing grounds.

sufficient weight is needed to keep the bait, which is carried by the tide, a little beneath the surface, care being taken that no slack is permitted. Another most useful method here, and one which can, of course, be employed anywhere, is trolling. A long gut is required, and lead adjusted to keep the bait below the surface according to the speed of the boat. My favourite tackle for bass consists of a single hook on stout salmon gut, a Jardine lead, large pike float and a good fine line.

For bait I use a strip of silvery mackerel skin, making sure, of course, that this is fresh. The float is placed a few feet above the bait, although on some occasions, due to weather conditions, it is necessary to fish a little deeper. The check is left off, and the weight of the float and lead, plus the tide, carry the bait to the fish.

SILENCE IMPORTANT

My left hand clasps the rod below the reel, the right hand above it with the small finger pressing gently on the side of the reel and acting as a check. The line will run off the reel quickly and easily, and a good deal of ground can be covered without movement from the boat. This is very important for bass fishing. The slightest sound will send the fish far away.

A bass will do its utmost to smash your tackle, so the strike must be quick and the hook pulled well home. Watch out for the final bid for freedom. Bass are noted for this and often a good fish is lost at the last moment. Beware, too, of the prickly dorsal

fin, which can cause a great deal of pain to the hands. One fellow angler had three months away from fishing as a result of this.

With regard to the best weather for bass fishing, I have caught them in all weathers. Wet or fine, seems to make little difference to the roamings of this fish.

One other fish that gives good sport from boats is the mackerel. No description of this well-known fish is necessary, for it is often caught in large numbers from many parts of the country.

SPORTING MACKEREL

From my Isle, and I regard it as mine, mackerel can be found close in shore during the summer months. This fast swimming surface feeder is capable of offering you excellent sport if the right tackle is used. That means fish with light tackle and a light pliable rod. A trace of light nylon, six to eight feet in length, No. 9 hook and a very light spiral weight is the best tackle to use.

Once a shoal of mackerel is found, the boat should proceed at a very slow pace, so as to give the best sport. If the boat is moving too fast the fish will simply be dragged through the water and offer very little resistance when hooked. The most tempting lure for the mackerel is undoubtedly a moving bait, and none is better than a strip cut from one of its own kind. If you have a mackerel with you, there is nothing to worry about. Should you need to catch one first, it is best to spin from the boat with a bright spinner.

Ragworm answers sometimes, but I find that it is not bright enough to attract. A few miles from here, pier anglers caught several on worm bait, so if you lack a spinner and meet with a shoal of mackerel you may be successful using this. The right weather for mackerel fishing is well known; a bright warm summer's day.

Other fish accounted for off the Isle are the scud and garfish. Both caught on the same bait as for mackerel they give good sport on light tackle.

The scud, known by many as horse mackerel, are not good to eat owing to their very bony nature. The relation to the true mackerel is rather remote, and the two sharp spines on each side of the body near the tail should be avoided. These fish have mostly been taken after dusk and in the warm summer evenings.

To those readers who have never seen a garfish, may I say that it is a very curious fish to look at. Long and slender, a greenish hue, it has a large bill or beak, along which are rows of wicked-looking teeth. When caught, it often leaps well out of the water and the angler is treated to a somewhat acrobatic display. Tireless energy is one of its assets, and the angler should be wary of this when bringing it in.

The eating qualities of this fighting fish are usually a matter of opinion. Personally, I have found them extremely tasty, and not unlike the mackerel. Some anglers despise it, perhaps because of the brilliant green bones. Should you catch one, do not let this put you off, because these bones are quite harmless despite the colour.

Whatever fish I have caught here, and may catch, there is something very satisfying about my Island. Where is "back of the Isle" did I hear you say? Does it really matter? May I simply dedicate this article to all quiet and peaceful fishing waters and may they always remain this way.

Bob Nudd Match Reports

This mild spell encouraged the fish to feed much better today, had some great fishing 37 ide and 25 F1's for 69lbs 14 ozs it was still only enough for 4th on the lake, caught off bottom in the deep water at 12 mts and then tight over at 14 mts for the last half of the match, .15 gram DT steady float strung out with number 10 shot single maggot just nicked through the middle cupped in and loose fed over the top. Saturday Winter League, Meadow Farm Fishery Norwich Norfolk



4 February

Section win today 298 fish for 19lbs 12 ozs, I've never experienced it before but no one else turned up in my small section so really just one fish would have been enough. Caught most of my fish 5 mts to hand 1.5 gram DT Nevis float 18 hook number 5 slip elastic it was running hard at the start so cupped in 3 balls laced with pinkies, single pinkie on the hook, loose fed when the flow eased, a really enjoyable match. March open River Old Nene 115 pegs



10 February

3rd on my lake today 79 ide for 67 lbs 10ozs, caught all my fish just off the far bank some on the drop and some on bottom it was never hectic and I had to really work for bites loose fed 2.5 pints of Flouro mags with single maggot on the hook, just hooked through the pointed end was best, 4x10 DT steady float 18 hook to .12 Meadow Farm Fishery. Saturday Winter League. Norwich Norfolk



17 February

Lake win today which also helped me finish 4th in the league, caught 113 Ide, 6 F1's and a 3 lb carp for 117lbs 4 ozs, it really was an all action day fished 2 lines one at 6 mts the other on the far bank loose fed big flouro maggots with single maggot hooked through the pointed end 18 hook to .12 .16 main line .15 DT Steady float caught some on the drop and some when it settled, lovely days fishing catching quality fish. Meadow Farm Fishery Saturday Winter league final day Norwich, Norfolk



24 February

Lake win and 2nd in the match today 121 Ide and 2 F1's for 121lbs 9 ozs fished 2 lines one at 6 mts where I could loose feed a few maggots by hand and the other close to far bank again loose feeding with catapult as it was about 12 mts .2 gram DT steady floats .16 main .12 hook length 18 hook single maggots lots of bites so I just hooked the maggot through the point. Peg 49 silvers lake Saturday open. Meadow Farm Fishery. Norwich Norfolk

3rd in the section yesterday 432 fish for just over 19 lbs the river was in perfect condition with some colour and running perfectly, fished all the match at 5 mts to hand 18 hook 1.5 gram DT Nevis float the fish never left me in fact it just got better, fed small ball of groundbait with my left hand every other fish, the whole venue has fished incredibly well with 58 lbs of big Rudd winning on the bypass stretch. On the team front my team Stanjay Gold were 2nd on the day. HAJAC winter League 66 pegs River Old Nene. March Cambridgeshire





Another great day on silver lake finished 2nd on lake and 3rd in the match with 119 Ide and 2 F1's for 115 lbs 10 ozs caught nearly all my fish 20 inches deep 4 number 10 shot bulked together just above hook length .15 DT Nevis steady float .16 main .12 hook length single flouro maggot on 18 hook caught at 6 metres but most in the shallow water on far bank. Meadow Farm Fishery. Saturday open Norwich Norfolk.

Bob who is now sponsored by Preston, Matrix and sonybaits, is currently having a great run of success
Follow 4 x times World Champion on his facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/hashtag/bobnudd>

HOT PROPERTY



The best fish of Paul's session for the Angler's Mail camera, a fish of nearly 5 lb.

A familiar sight as Paul gets ready with the net for another chub from his super swim below Stoke weir.

Peg two is Number One for record breaker Paul

The hottest swim on the Trent produced a sizzling 245 lb pleasure catch for Nottingham's Paul O'Carroll last week when he fished the same Stoke Bardolph weir peg that has produced two record catches for him in as many weeks..

The pest control officer from Bestwood whipped out 40 lb of fish an hour to prove decisively that his two previous Open match record catches were no fluke.

Two weeks ago Paul hauled out 107 lb of chub to set a new five hour match best for the river. Last week, he drew the peg again and had 67 chub and a skimmer for 130 lb 5 oz. His latest haul contained 117 chub.

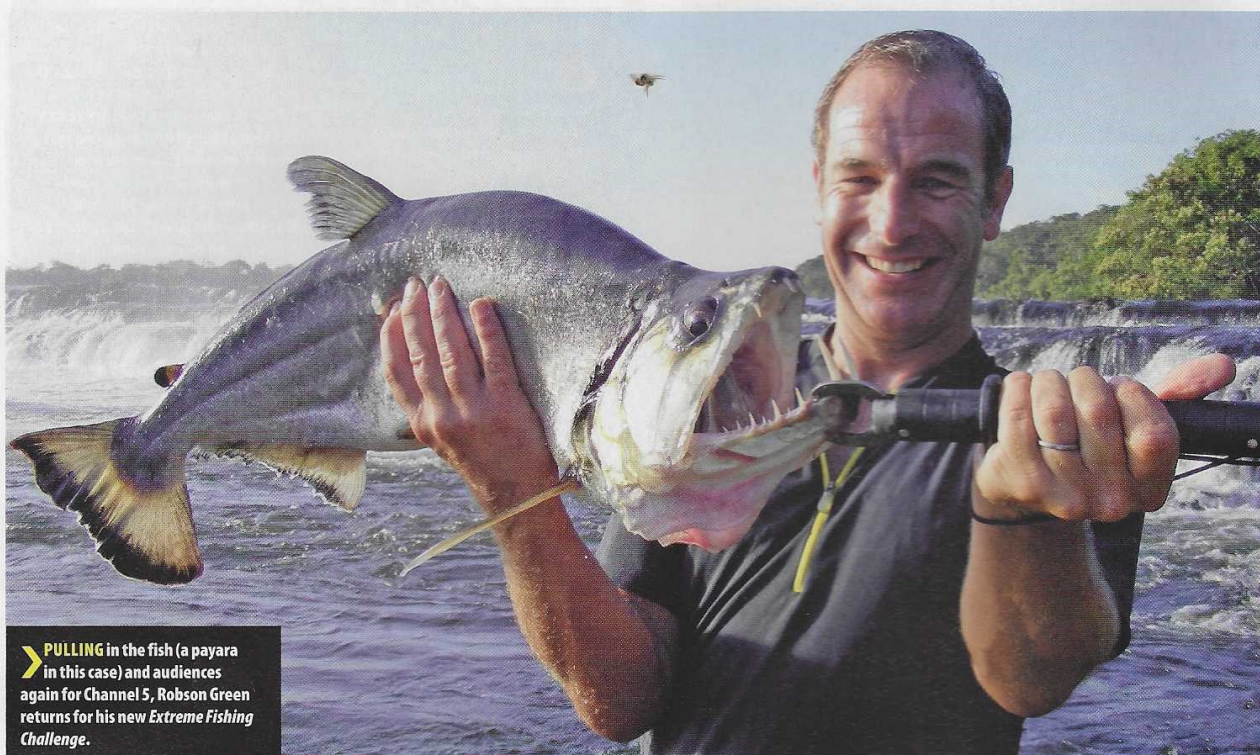
"It is just impossible not to get a bite-a-cast and the big chub clearly grab the feeder at times instead of the hook bait," he said.

The dream swim has never been put in for Shelford Open matches in previous years so no-one knew its full potential, but suddenly everyone wants to draw peg number two and walk the one and a half miles to the shallow swim below the weir.

"The next time I draw the swim I will definitely get 170 lb", claimed Paul who fished four rods out in slack water when the fish should be seven to eight rods out in the steady flow.

Paul explains: "There are so many snags further out that you would lose all your tackle in an hour if you fished there - in any case you can expect to use a gallon of casters, half a gallon of hemp and lose a dozen feeders and hooks during five hours."





PULLING in the fish (a payara in this case) and audiences again for Channel 5, Robson Green returns for his new *Extreme Fishing Challenge*.

Robson starts "ultimate fishing adventure" on TV

THOMAS PETCH reports

ROBSON GREEN fans can count down the days before a fishy treat, with his fifth Channel 5 angling series appearing very soon.

Energetic Geordie actor and keen fisherman Robson has eight one-hour episodes in the new series called *Robson's Extreme Fishing Challenge* starting at 9pm on this coming Monday, April 9.

Robson has now had the most ever prime-time angling exposure on national terrestrial television after the great John Wilson MBE but, if he

keeps up the current rate of filming, he could overtake the Norfolk legend.

A Channel 5 spokeswoman said: 'Robson has caught fish most anglers have only dreamed of. He's spent the last four years travelling the globe, and has done it all from catching half-ton sharks off Ascension Island, to the fastest fish on earth in Costa Rica.

'He's fished the world - but this time it's one Geordie against the world.

'In *Robson's Extreme Fishing Challenge*, he's out to take on the best - and win. Each week, he'll be in a different place with the same extreme

challenge - a competitive fishing tour against some of the best anglers out there.

'In eight brand-new episodes, he faces the anglers of the USA, Canada, Mexico, Brazil and Peru. It's his ultimate fishing adventure.

'Episode 1 is Brazil. For the first challenge of the series, Robson travels to the land of sand, samba and soccer to fish against Brazil's finest along both the 5,000 miles of Atlantic shoreline, and the mighty Amazon river system.

'Can this Englishman gain revenge for countless years of World Cup

defeats?' added the Channel 5 man.

Robson has been on social network Twitter commenting on his latest series.

He recently Tweeted: 'On April 9, I take on five of the best anglers Brazil has to offer. I even go head to head with a dolphin called Batman! I do, honest.

'So the new series kind of goes like this... Brazil, Great Lakes, Mexico, Canada, Texas, USA east, Peru and Alaska!! TV gold.

'First episode on April 9 on the best Brazil has to offer as I try to avenge 50 years of hurt!'

FISHING ON TV GUIDE

In association with www.onlinefishing.tv

At last a TV channel just for anglers

online
FISHING.TV

Tight Lines

Keith Arthur's guest is Ian Huntington, manager of Korda Carp Team England and man behind new Goo additive. Ali Hamidi's out on the bank.

► SKY SPORTS 3, Friday 7pm



Thinking Tackle Special

A whole day of Danny Fairbrass, Ali Hamidi and Adam Penning on satellite TV - can you handle a long stint with the mighty Korda boys?

► DISCOVERY SHED, Saturday, starting 6am



Fishing For Specimen Roach

Duncan Charman targets big roach using self-hooking helicopter set-ups and maggots at River Farm lake in Hampshire.

► FREE TO VIEW online, on iPads and iPhones, www.coarseandmatchfishing.com



Will Raison Match Reports

5 February

Two matches to report on ,, firstly the Thursday league on middle lake at gold valley,, really needed to draw one of the corners,as a lot of the fish have been in them ,drew peg 93 right in the middle of the lake,as far away from the corner's as you can get,,had 4 fish for 7 lb ,, definitely the hardest bit of the lake as the two angler's to my left had less than me ,,must draw better!!!

Rushmore league today ,drew peg 104 on syndicate lake,,the whole place has fished well with the rise in temperature,,ended up with 66 lb , mainly on the pole ,nice day's fishing but way off the good pegs!!!!



12 February

A very frustrating weekend at gold valley, Saturday I drew peg 126 ,which is a very good area ,, decided to just fish for carp ,big mistake!!!! , only had 3 bite's for 18 lb ,,with the angler's either side of me only catching one carp and two ,,should definitely have fished for Skimmers,, lesson learnt!!!!. Sunday was the Rushmore league and I was in desperate need of a good draw ,,I said before the match that 134 would be the worst peg in the match,,big mistake,,you guest it !!!!!134 !!!!!. Had two bites on the method in the first two casts and my next bite was with an hour to go ,,put 25 lb on the scales, didn't fish the best match if I'm honest,, probably should have had closer to 40 lb if I just fished for carp ,,,,but my net of Skimmers did win the silver fish pool !!!!!.



19 February

Been a busy few days ,,had a couple of days at the lovely meadowlands with Carl ,,caught loads of fish ,, really can't believe how good the place is ,I'm going to have to go on a few matches for sure !!!.

Sunday was the last round of the Rushmore league and I found myself on peg 22 , really fancied the peg as it's one of my favourites,,kept it simple,waggler,bomb and long pole ,,had a fantastic start catching 45 lb in the first 40 minutes!!!. Unfortunately it didn't stay like it ,,still had a great day ,,caught on the pole and bomb ,, winning the section and the silver pool and 3 rd in the match with 102 lb , advantage bait's green bream on the pole ,with maggots and loose fed 8 Mm pellets on the bomb !!!.



21 February

Wednesday open on gold lake today, drew peg 27 ,close to where I was Sunday ,,had a lovely day catching 80 lb on the pole,,3 carp ,1 F1 and a nice net of bream ,,all over advantage bait's green bream and loose fed maggots!!!!.

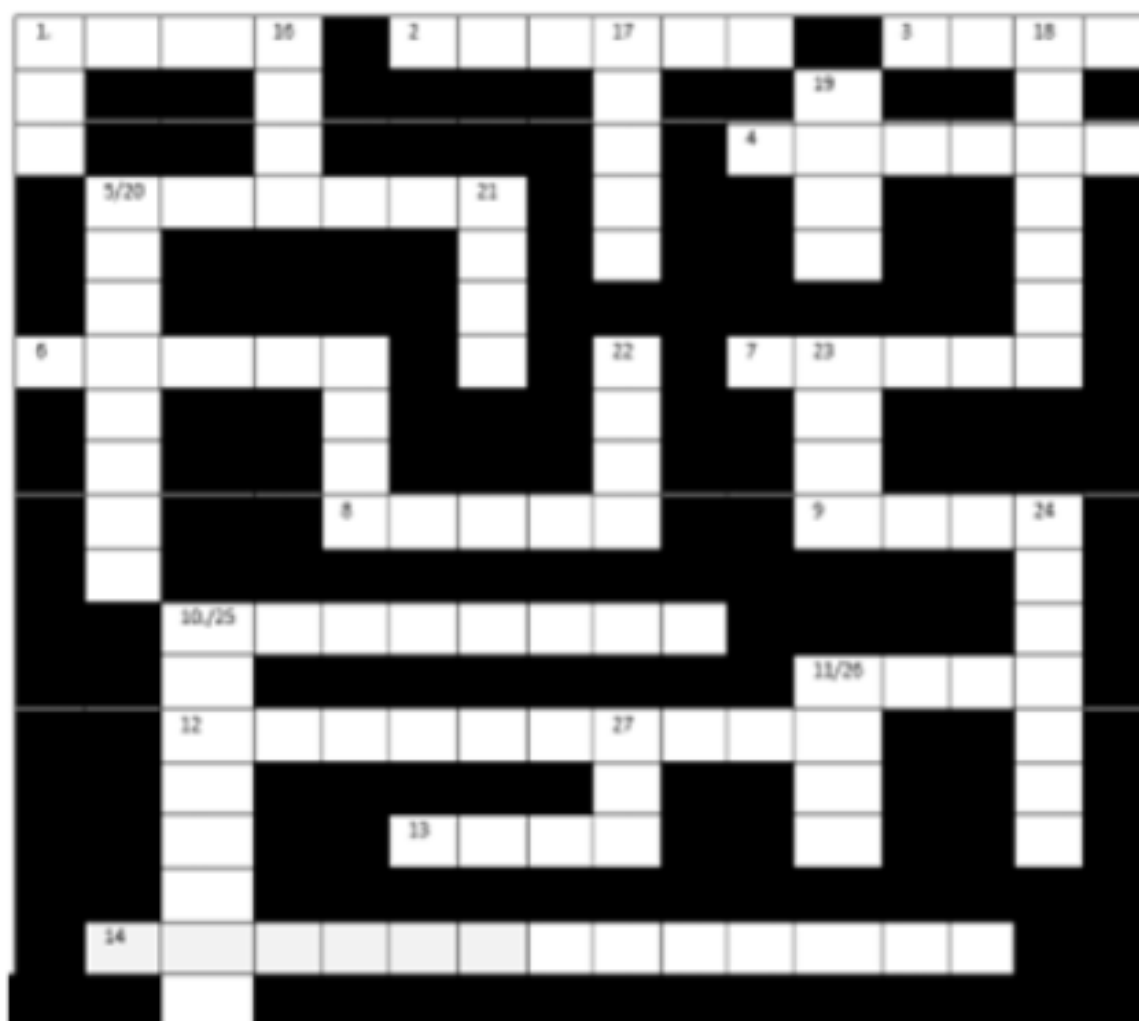
Ended up second on the day and also won the silver's pool!!!!



Couple of busy days, firstly my first visit to Southend farm for a practice for the fish south final , lovely place with lots of fish and everyone was very welcoming can see why John picked it as the final venues, seems like there are lots of fish and iv got a few matches coming up, so hopefully I can work something out!!!!.

Yesterday was the last match on middle lake for the John cook league,, really thought I was going to draw a corner,but didn't!!!!, peg 87 , decided to just fish for carp ,had 3 on the bomb and a few down the edge late on the pole ,, finished with 57 lb ,one out of the money,6 th in the league, which I'm happy with,needed to draw an end or corner to compete as the league was decided on weight,,, well done to Ian Dixon on the win and a massive thanks to John Cook for running a fantastic league!!!!

Fishing Quiz Crossword Puzzle



Across

Several species such as the various goldfish
 Sabrina
 Vast amount of water
 Prevents fishing line from twisting.
 A device used to introduce bait into the water.
 artificial waterways
 A device used to suspend bait
 Type of a sweet corn
 Also used in a bath
 Alternative to groundbait
 Famous Chub bait
 Protects fish during the unhooking process.
 Attracts fish to your hook.
 Simple way of bottom fishing

Down

1. Used as a visor.
 rod without a reel.
 a small immature catadromous
 A place to fish
 temporarily store caught fish
 having little or no attachment

 A grounbait additive
 Used on a fishing reel
 A type of Knot
 Sweet additive
 Izaac Walton line
 Used on a running line
 Bottom feeding species

May Potter Reports

5 February

Bomb and feeder individual league Saturday at Lindholme. I've drawn on Bonsai peg 43. I caught in spells on a feeder to weigh 53lb which was enough a section win 🏆

Back out Wednesday on the Aire and Calder canal



7 February

Aire and Calder midweeker at Pollington.

141 fish for 3lb and thanks for coming!

Next outing is the Pairs Bomb and feeder league Saturday



11 February

Winter Classic qualifier today at Lindholme. And home for the day has been peg 9 Beeches. Had a lovely day loose feeding casters and fishing small pieces of worms, catching a load of ide to weigh 33lb which has been enough to win the section and 2nd on the lake.

Well done to Andy Bennett and Lee Wright on qualifying

Back out Wednesday coaching

14 February

Out today coaching Steve on lures talking through match plans and changing tactics to get the most out of the peg as the day progresses.

We've had a lovely day with plenty of bites on rod and line tactics!



17 February

Individual bomb and feeder league today at Lindholme I've drawn 17 Beeches. No bites for the first 2 hours then a very steady match for 29lb and thanks for coming!

Back out tomorrow for the Teams of 4 at Hallcroft the skimbobs are having a chew!!

18 February

I've been to Hallcroft teams of 4 as a stand in for Tom Newton for the Team Notts

I've had a proper lovely days sport on Croft catching a few long on pellets then rotating 2 short lines pinging casters to weigh 24lb



21 February

Midweek open on the Aire and Calder at Pollington I've had a lovely day rotating 2 short lines for 111 roach to weigh 6lb for a big thanks for coming!

Back out Saturday for the last round of the Pairs Bomb and Feeder league we need to draw 2



25 February

Last round of the bomb and feeder pairs yesterday and I've been on 4 laurels

Had one early to the tree before an odd one on the corn line before finishing off with a good run in the edge for 42lb.

As a pair me and Micky had 94lb on the day which took our total to 511lb for the series and was enough to see us take the win!

Well done to Chicken and Elmo on 2nd and all the other framers

Keep an eye out for the video in the next couple of days



My African Adventure



There are very few places in the world where destination anglers, in search of bucket list fishing, could be happily accompanied by their non-fishing wives or partners but I've just returned from somewhere that ticks every box. Situated on the mighty Zambezi, just upstream of the national park, in an area famous for trophy sized tigerfish, Baines River Camp is an angling and wildlife paradise combining adventure with luxury in the heart of Africa

We were primarily targeting hard fighting tigerfish weighing anything from two to twenty pounds on either cutbait or spinners. Double figure fish are an achievable target here with the chance of trophy size specimens of 15lbs and above. Tigers are legendary for their leaping and ability to throw the hook so we were prepared for losing as many as we hooked, particularly on spin gear.

With a 15kgs luggage limit on the final flight tackle had to be selected carefully. Luckily the excellent daily laundry service meant that clothes required very little space in the cases. I opted to take a medium spin rod (20 to 50gm) and a heavier (50 to 100gm) version which I figured would double for bait fishing. As an afterthought I also packed a bait casting outfit. The reels were 4000 and 8000 Shimanos with a modest selection of spinners, spoons and a few favourite lures to complete the armoury. This all felt rather under gunned in comparison with most of my overseas trips but we were soon to discover that very little tackle was actually needed.

The lodge had recently acquired some top quality Daiwa Megaforce bait fishing rods and baitrunner fixed spool reels for use by guests so there was no need for us to bring any of the heavier outfits. However, the guides were still using stiff piano wire as traces which I really don't think work properly on circle hooks so I was pleased to have packed some of my own knotable wire traces in 30 and 40lbs. I also brought some 3/0 to 6/0 circle hooks for bait fishing which was done either at anchor or on the drift using just a couple of swan shot or a small drilled bullets to get the bait down.

I packed a couple of shallow diving and surface lures but most anglers seem to catch on either mepps spinners or copper and silver spoons with upgraded hooks. For some reason, while plugs and poppers are successful on the Upper Zambezi above the Falls, they are less effective on the lower river.

I also took some 1/0 & 2/0 in line hooks as some anglers find that these hook up the tigers a little more effectively than trebles. But I soon found out that they can jump off almost any hook known to mankind!

Apart from catching the bait fish, usually the bream-like chessa, the other fish most likely to make an appearance is the vundu catfish. These were made famous by John Wilson when he set about catching them on a bar of soap in one of his early films and smashed a rod in the process. The vundu are generally caught on bait in the slower, deeper spots and can reach 100lbs plus, although fish in the 20 to 50lbs range are more the norm. Now I fully admit to being a bit of a snob when it comes to these 'water slugs' or indeed any type of catfish. I like my fish to look good and these things might pull like hell but they ain't going win a beauty contest anytime soon.

Luckily I managed to avoid them for most of the week save for the penultimate day. However, a number of our group were pleased to catch them to 55lbs and even larger specimens were lost in the snags.

Keith and I eagerly volunteered to fish on the first afternoon while our wives went on their first game drive. We quickly realised that most of the fishing would be with bait from a boat and tried to get used to drifting down with the current while avoiding tangling each others lines. The trick is to remain in touch with the bait with the bait runner on to ensure minimal resistance to the taking fish. Whether through tiredness or incompetence we didn't quite get it right first time and returned with just a couple of dropped runs to show for our efforts.

The next day saw us drifting along the Zimbabwe bank and after one missed run I finally connect with a decent sized tigerfish. Unfortunately, Keith's line became wrapped around mine and the fish took advantage of the resulting slack line to make its escape. A while later I was into another before it leapt skywards and spat out the hook. Welcome to tigerfishing!

Natalie joined us for a bush lunch and as we made our way back upstream to the lodge I was pleased get off the mark with a small but obliging tiger that made it all the way into the boat. It was now time to stop messing about and catch the trophy fish we came for.

The next day I was due partner Dave and we started by spinning the edge just inside the park entrance. We were soon getting the odd hit on mepps and spoons with the inevitable jump offs. Luckily for me a nice fish of around five pounds decided to stay hooked along with a couple of smaller specimens. After a while we came to a fallen snag tree which provided a good deflection in the current. A perfect spot to fish at anchor. Swapping the spin rods for the lodge's excellent bait fishing outfit I pitched a large lump of chessa into the the stream and paid out enough line to enable the bait to trundle round and settle of the edge of the flow. Now all we had to do was wait and hope.

Some 20 minutes in I had a sharp tug and soon after the bait runner began to tick as a fish steady took line. As the rod loaded up I was determined to get this tiger to the boat. Playing it firmly but carefully with the rod kept low I managed to avoid any of those hook spitting jumps. Hardly surprising since the culprit turned out to be a rather unpleasant electric catfish!

BLAST FROM THE PAST

Junior sensation Alfie Russell wrote a series of articles for the Anglers Mail

CUP WINNER'S DIARY



Alfie Russell - the 13-year-old winner of the 2011 Specimen Cup - is back this week. The London schoolboy, one of the sport's hottest prospects, writes exclusively here in Angler's Mail.



Old 'uns spring to life

As it's now the river Close Season, my local park is now closed and the barbel and chubbing is over for a while, so I've recently been going around a couple different syndicate waters. Due to this crazy weather, it's a great opportunity to spot some fish during the sunny spells now winter is over.

Apart from the looking about I haven't really got much fishing in because of studies at school, but what I have managed to squeeze in has been awesome. Recently, I brought a new Titan AS brody from Nash and I've been using it on a few (accompanied) over nighters, here and there, including during my most session on Bayeswater near Chelmsford in Essex.

The weather really warmed up and spring arrived early and on these milder days my recent edge has been the zig rig. The lake I have been fishing on and off for about three weeks is a lovely old water with fish to over 40 years old! It's very clear, weedy and has a low stock.

Due to the amount of natural food in this water, I've been using the new Nash Zig plugs - these imitation insects are a great weapon to have in your armoury. Once I have found a shoal of fish, I will introduce some Nash Riser pellets, to try get them competing for the food.

Spotting signs of fish has been about 80 per cent of my fishing but I must say to be careful when climbing trees!

With half of the pellet's being buoyant and the other semi-buoyant, they will drag the fish up through the layers making them susceptible to a zig rig.

Here is one fish that I was after - a proper old English carp! I had this on a white attractor beetle fished on a zig rig over 2 kg of riser pellet.

Although it's a small water there were a lot of other fish worth catching, and I'll be targeting these over the next few weeks as the weather warms up.

Tight lines and wet nets.

Alfie

ALFIE'S Top tip



★ Take a compass with you when exploring a water so you can work out where the prevailing wind will be on the water and, usually, where the fish might be (on the bank or in the teeth of the wind, depending on if it's warm or cold).



■ We'll be bringing you regular updates this year with Alfie. Don't forget that our Specimen Cup has even better prizes this year, thanks to Pallatrax, so report your catches exclusively to Angler's Mail.

Tales from the riverbank

TRUE LIFE STORIES!

Readers stories. These stories once featured in the Anglers Mail. Now resurrected in Angling News



THIS WEEK'S STORY-TELLER IS:

ANDY MUSHROOM

Big fish all-rounder, from SW London, who regularly writes to Angler's Mail.

FROM STICKLEBACKS TO MONSTERS...

I ASSUME I am like most lifelong anglers, in that if you snapped me in two, it would read fishing. My own journey began like most with a stick, a net and a jam jar, at some point I lost the net and ended up with a stick, line tied to it and a hook and a worm.

I dangled that worm in many places before some unforeseen force tried to pull the stick from my hand. What happened next? The most enormous 'stickleback' emerged, as big as my hand with blood red fins and bold black stripes. I tipped this monster; still attached to my hook, head first into my jam jar and skipped along the riverbank to show mum.

Mum was pleased, full of smiles, but quickly made me put my monster back into the river, explaining it was cruel to keep it in a jam jar. Little did I know what that perch, and that jam jar would lead to.

I kept dangling my worm, catching real monster sticklebacks, all dressed in red with sergeant stripes. Eventually I was given a rod and a reel and a proper fisherboy was born.

By my first teenage year, I had steadily progressed along angling's evolutionary scale, and like all new teenagers was keenly seeking to improve my standing amongst my fellow maggot drowners. A friend and myself heard of a pond containing our teenage dreams, the problem were it was behind a fence and no fishing was allowed. Before too long we decided that even though we couldn't fish, we could look.

The chosen day arrived, meeting at my house, no rain, no tackle, just two lads on bicycles and four loaves of bread.

The journey like all journeys of anticipation took forever, but it

passed as quickly as we could pedal. We arrived and sharing a padlock, fixed our bicycles to the fence then duly sprinted to the pond.

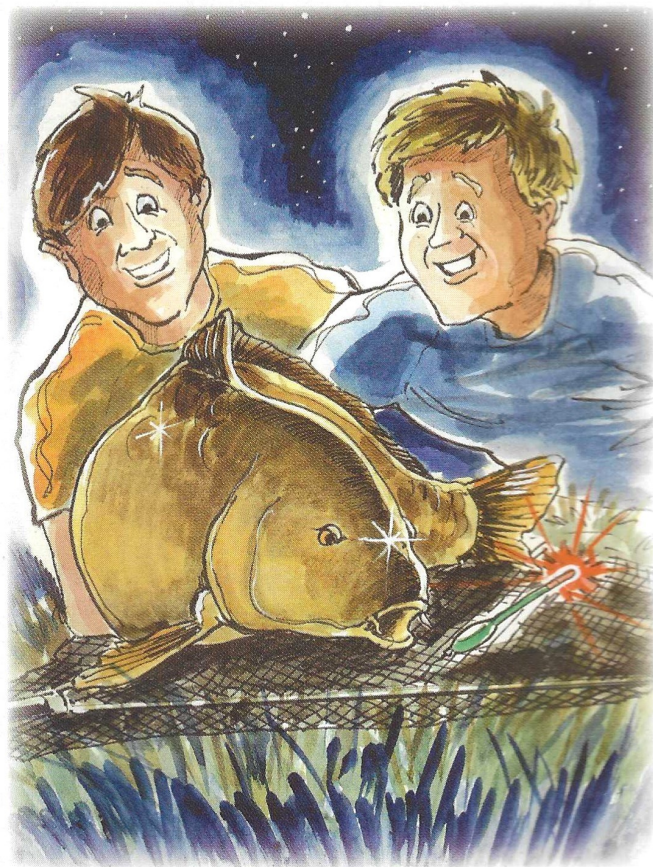
There it was, our Nirvana - full of monsters. We ran, crept and hopped from bank to bank, feeding bread as we went. All manner of ducks followed and squabbled, but, occasionally we spied our dreams, huge grey/black backs breaking the surface to engulf our bread.

Here and now we were looking at real monsters, big black shapes with fins. Best of all they liked bread. We sat, watched and planned. An overhanging willow would provide the cover needed, so swim selected the cover we made or way through the park to check the route for our assault.

Tackle was simple, no rod choice involved, we only owned one each, ancient cane with a fibreglass top section, reels were Intrepid Black Prince freshly spooled with 10 lb line. Together with the new line we both bought the latest night fishing float. No more luminous tips for us, instead, the latest hearing aid battery-operated job, complete with red diode on top.

Two days later as dusk fell we were padlocking our bicycles to the fence, and hastily shared an illicit cigarette thinking it would calm our nerves. When darkness arrived we climbed over the fence, rods rigged up with our new floats and a size 6 hook fixed to the 10 lb line.

Slowly we made our way through the trees, shrinking every time we heard rustling or movement. There in front of us stood the pond, reflecting on its surface the Victorian greenhouse that stood on the far bank, and close by the willow tree.



“ There it was, our Nirvana - full of monsters.”

We stood staring into the inky black, while the willow tree licked the surface of the rippling pond. As much as we squinted we couldn't see anything, so adjusting our floats to about three feet, we switched them on, impaled a piece of bread on our six 6s and cast out.

After another shared cigarette, cupped in the hand so it couldn't be seen, we heard a rhythmic squeak approaching.

Not daring to whisper, move or breathe, we hoped whoever or whatever was coming, wouldn't notice us, or our red lights out on the pond. It was a park keeper on a rusty bicycle who happily pedalled his way around the pond. When the squeaking had faded we wound in our breadless hooks, adjusted the depth and recast.

This time within seconds my float shot across the pond. A new cacophony of sound began,

somewhere a coffee grinder ground, a stair creaked and a banshee began her line-stretching scream - in my hand an orchestra, and in the pond an angry conductor. Gradually the orchestra quietened.

No great banging of drums or crescendo of symbols, more the controlled ticking of a clock, as the conductor was drawn to the net.

There in the net was my prize, a carp of gigantic proportions.

We lifted it onto the grass, peeled back the mesh, removed the hook and marvelled.

We had no weighing scales, boilies and the hair were still to come, yet here lay the most amazing sight in the world, a fish that would nearly fit a 13-year-old's fist in its mouth.

We gently put her back, lingering, not really wanting to, but knowing we must.

A fish, a friend, a moment etched into my memory.



NOT QUITE A PIKE – this is a Muskie, scaling 50 lb 8 oz. The species is a very close relative of pike and are officially called muskellunge (*Esox masquinongy*) and are the largest member of the pike family, Esocidae. They have been recorded to 70 lb. The British pike record is 46 lb 13 oz.

58 lb “super pike”

THOMAS PETCH reports

THAT’S one heck of a predator! UK pike anglers might make the USA a holiday destination, after seeing pictures of a new potential state record 58 lb muskie – and the stunning previous best of 50 lb 8 oz.

Portage, Michigan, resident Joe Seeburger, landed the recent giant at Lake Bellaire after a two-hour battle on just 8 lb line as he was targeting smallmouth bass.

The current record belongs to Kyle Andersen (pictured above) who caught his fish in Torch Lake in 2009.

Joe was fishing with his brother Chuck and friend Jason Grbeck, but the men faced an even bigger hurdle when it came time to land the fish, as it took three adults, two nets, two life jackets, and a

dock line to get the monster into the boat.

As soon as the crew got the boat out of the water, a county sheriff was waved down, who incidentally measured the monstrous muskie with a crime scene tape at 59 in. long with a 29 in. girth.

The fish was killed, but the captor defended himself and said it wouldn’t have survived after the long fight and if it had been caught on heavier tackle he would have returned it.

It took three men to hold it – the 58-pounder.



**Clive Branson
My
Autobiography**



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Champion Angler
2 x Gold 1 x Silver
1 x Bronze Medalist

Join me in my lifetime journey of match fishing and discover how from a daydreaming schoolboy to how I become a World Champion in this great sport. In my journey, I have met some great people along the way On Amazon.co.uk



BILLY & JAMIE

Long-time pals Billy Flowers and Jamie Londors are two of the World's most consistent carp catchers. The two England Carp Team members share their sessions and insight in *Angler's Mail*.

My best catch!

This week: Billy puts his newborn daughter on the scales after a productive winter carp session.

THE end of 2019 could not have been more eventful, and it has also been an action-packed start to the New Year.

In bitterly cold temperatures, I followed up a pukka 41 lb Cowlands mirror carp with a brace of 20 lb-plus commons, which I thought would be my last fish of 2019, as my daughter was due to be born.

With no signs of baby Flowers arriving, even after the due date, and with no work pencilled in my diary, I opted to get the 'sticks' back out for a short day session.

I knew that my fiancée, Charlotte, could call me at any minute to say that she was going into labour, so I had to stay close to Romford's Queen's Hospital. It was the perfect time to try a venue that I'd driven past hundreds of times without ever having fished it.

The Chase Fishery, in Dagenham, has two lakes, the Front Lake, the biggest, at 9 acres, containing carp to over 40 lb. But I chose to fish the seven-acre Back Lake, as it has a good track record for producing action in the colder months, having been stocked with a big head of carp to over 30 lb.

I arrived at 6.30am, and after walking around the lake in the dark with my good friend, Sam, and his dad, Bill, both having fished the venue in the past, I opted for a swim that had an island in front of it and open water to the right. The lads rated it, and it looked perfect to me, too.

When daylight emerged I was able to make out the island, and

I then decided that I would fish one rig tight to it and another just off it. After casting a lead on each spot, I wrapped my lines around some distance sticks, and then placed them in line clips for accuracy.

I then attached two solid PVA bags of Mainline Spod & PVA Pellet Mix to each hook, one baited with a 12 mm Mainline Salty Squid wafter and the other with a grain of pop-up fake corn.

My end tackle was all from Fox: a 3.25 oz lead, a size 7 Kwik Change swivel, 20 lb Camo hook link and a super-sharp size 6 wide gape hook. Once the rigs were in prime position, I sat down and put the kettle on.

It took only 15 minutes to get a bite, the right hanger indicating that a fish had taken the bait just off the island, at the bottom of a shelf. At first the fish felt a lot like a bream, as I was able to reel it in easily, but then it pulled back, and it turned out to be a white-and-black koi carp of about 7 lb.

It wasn't long before my right-hand rig was away again, this time with a lively, dark common carp of around 12 lb. The rig then produced another two bites, both low-double commons.

It was time to reel the other rig in, re-clipping the line so that I could cast it to the bottom of the shelf, as it hadn't produced a bite when tight to the island. I also changed the bait, from a yellow grain of corn to a pink one, and as soon as I sat down, the kettle boiling, it was snaffled by a fish. This one stayed deep, rather than going 'mental' like the 'nutty' commons. It was my first mirror of the session, a real scaly one, which weighed just over 20 lb. As Charlotte hadn't called, I stayed until 3pm, landing another three carp.

My daughter stayed warm



Billy's best catch yet. "I couldn't help myself. I just had to hold Olivia up like a carp!" he grinned.



Charlotte was the star, giving birth to her and Bill's first child, Olivia Mae Flowers.



Bill brought his 2015 World Team Gold medal to the photoshoot, won when fishing for England in Spain.

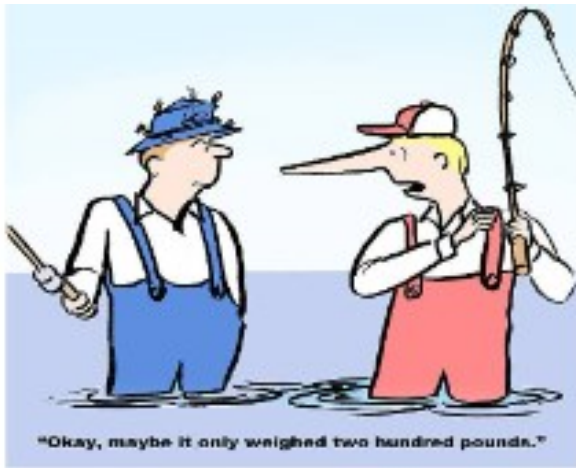


Billy caught eight carp on his first session at The Chase.

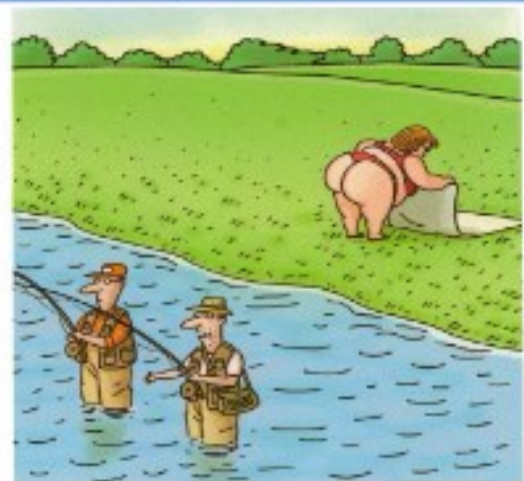
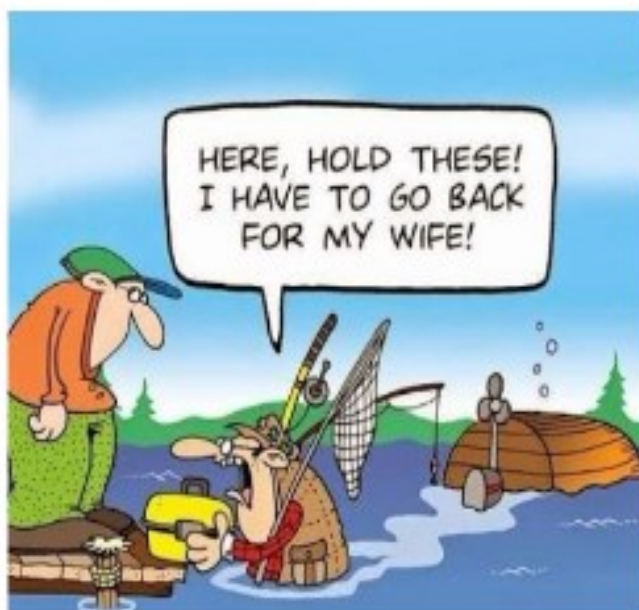
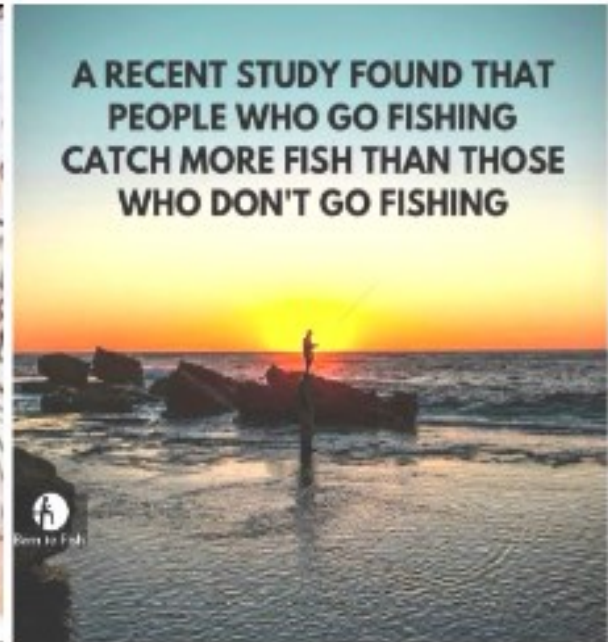
inside Charlotte for a few more days, allowing us to have Christmas dinner at home, spending quality time with the family. The birth eventually happened at 12.14am on December 29. Weighing a whopping 8 lb 8 oz, this was my best catch ever. I got to welcome my new daughter, Olivia Mae, into the world, and

it was the best experience of my life. Charlotte did amazingly well, giving birth with no pain relief at all.

Life has since been a blur. Friends and family have visited us, and professional photographer Amy Peak took some pukka shots for our new family album. I made sure that they had a 'carpy' feel to them!



Funny Picts



Last gasp sturgeon

THOMAS PETCH reports

MARCUS STEVENS tempted the second biggest sturgeon from Wales when he nabbed a 96 lb beast from Celtic Lakes, near Lampeter, West Wales – just in the nick of time.

The prolific day ticket venue produced a sturgeon, possibly the same fish, 4 oz heavier in the spring to Danny Hughes, but Marcus thought he might miss out.

Lift engineer Marcus, 40, explained: 'I've been after a sturgeon for about a year and a half here and never caught one, but often

one would come out while I was here.

'And I know they are having to remove them soon so I thought I might have missed my chance.

'I caught a 46 pounder the first night and was delighted, but then when I had the big one it was something else.

'It fought so hard, like nothing I've experienced before, and there was no chance of me netting it with a 52-in. net so I had to jump into a freezing lake up to my waist at 6am to get it out,' added the Tredegar rod.

The big one fell to a 20 mm halibut pellet

on a size 8 Korda Kurve hook to a 22 lb braided trace, cast with a PVA bag into open water while a baited area failed to produce.

Last month, predator angling coach Rikki Cooper recorded the biggest ever lake sturgeon in the UK when he caught a 121 lb 9 oz monster while holding a 48-hour catfish masterclass at Oakwood Park, formerly called Witch Lakes.

Again, the sturgeon in Oakwood are being removed from the venue and are being placed into a 'safe' no-fishing pool, as they are an alien species and can't be allowed to escape into a river system.

MARCUS STEVENS landed this 96 lb sturgeon from Celtic Lakes, near Lampeter, West Wales, using a 20 mm halibut pellet on a size 8 Korda Kurve hook to a 22 lb braided trace, cast with a PVA bag into open water.



Sean Ashy Reports

4 February

2 contrasting matches this weekend. Sat I was at Ryecroft for the Silvers lge, drew 16 9n old canal. Big fish or bust as the roach and skimmers done get down that far. After 2 hrs I'd got 12oz but another look at 7m down the edge saw me catch 2 perch for a pound and a half. Then it just went a bit mad with carp and odd counters. Finished with 6 tench, 3 skimmers and 2 perch plus about 10 bits to weigh 16.2 which just won the lake.

Today was the first look at March for the winter lge final. Didn't draw great 2 past the scout hut on a featureless bit but it was solid with small roach, perch rudd and pommies. Fished at 4, 6 and 8m to finish with 409 fish which went 24.6 winning the section. It has fished incredible, I'll be surprised if any 5 peg section was won with less than 20lb. Lost a massive rudd early, it had to be 2lb, that will keep me awake tonight!!



10 February

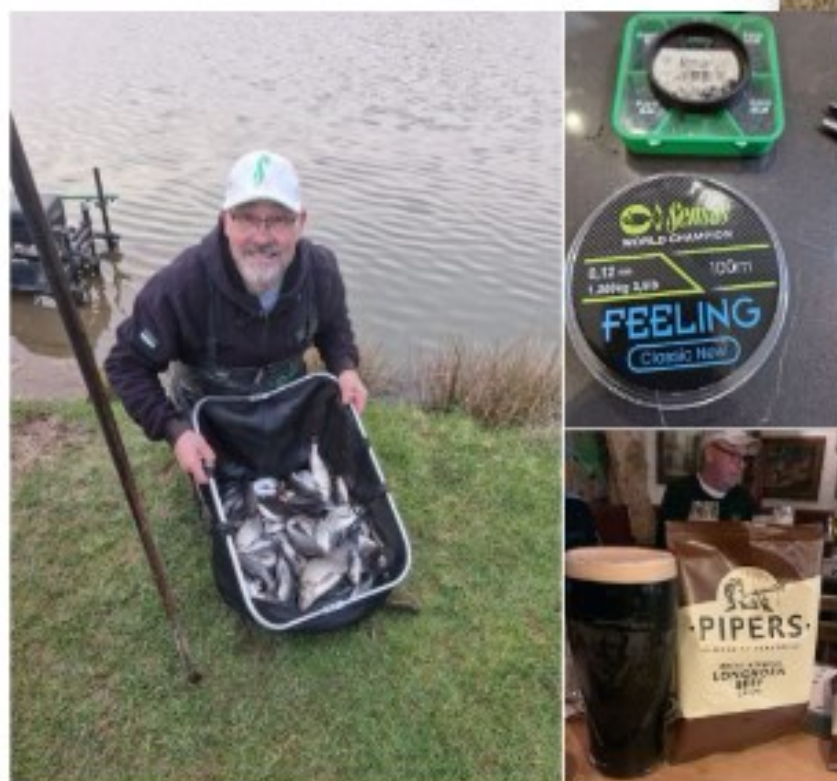
Meadowlands Rd 4, drew 29 on Lambs. Great small fish peg but not known for skimmers. Had a great day catching roach and small skimmers on casters but only finished 3rd with 33lb. Was second with 90 minutes to go but then Wako decided to empty it on pellet. He caught probably 35lb in 90 mins to finish with 44lb, incredible performance Pookie took the section out again with 49lb. Cam came 5th with 47lb so a few guiness tokens at least.

19 February

Great couple of days fishing this weekend. First up a small knock up at Ryecroft. Drew a great peg in 21 on Carp lake. Fished pellets at 14m and casters down the edge for perch to finish with 31.12, exactly the same as Cam! That was enough to win.

Today I've been back at March for the final WL practice, drew 60 at oxbow. The rover was pushing through. Caught 172 fish for 26.2, great stamp.

Won section by default.



After 30 mins it was impossible to hold the pole so fished feeder for the rest of the match. Caught in spells and was probably 1st or 2nd with 90mins to go. I was hoping for a big finish but the peg petered out. I weighed 22lb with only 25lb 2nd.. ended up 4th and missed out framing on weight.

Another great festival by Gary Rogers and massive well done to Lee Kerry and all the other framers.

Roll on Sunday for the 10k final.

21 February

Last 2 days I've been at the On the Flyer 2 day silvers match at Meadowlands.

Drew a 44 on the pump bank first day next to 5X.

Started short on casters to catch roach and then later small skimmers. Switched to pellets at 14m after around 2hrs and caught well in spells but no bigger fish. Finished with 38lb which was 2nd by 2lb to Lee Wright.

Needed a good peg second day and drew a disaster in 27 on Lambs, Des had struggled to 6th in section day before, the wind was also a lot stronger. Decided to go all out for a section win so only set up to fish pellets long with a feeder as a back up.

NFA DIVISION ONE NATIONAL FIRST TIME LUCKY



NORTHWICH'S Brian Oliver needed just 9-6-4 to win the Division One National title at his first attempt.

But some of the gloss went off his 4,120kg victory when stories circulated that he had lost as many as 11 tench.

Angry Brian, 52, from Altrincham, insisted: "I only lost two." He landed five tench between 1 and 2 lb plus three roach, two on 12 m.

Brian, who hooked himself with a fiveer at 500-1 was pegged opposite a moored far bank barge in F section, between the Running Horses at Maghull and the Ducks Length.

"At noon as I saw my peg I knew it was a good one", said Brian who tackled it with an 11 metre pole and castor light against the boat.

"I waited half an hour for my first fish, a tench, and lost it when it went under the boat. After that I caught steadily but had to wait long times for bites".

To counteract men losses of tench diving under the barge, Brian stood up and lifted his pole high to leave fish away from trouble.

Normally 4kg wouldn't make the first 12 on the canal but he many matches beforehand and the many spectators along the gin clear waterway were blamed for a slump in catches.

Runner up Phil Jennings (Goole) had just an hour's sleep "after a good night of

the bar" before taking 3,960kg (8-7-0) from the unfenced M section at Scarsbrick.

Opposite a leach on the Red Lion length Phil had three tench and a roach on pole and mugged over loose fed castor and bang. A switch to castor late on brought him an extra tench that pipped two big names, Russ Foster and Kevin Ashurst.

The real contest was fought out on the Ducks stretch which produced five of the top 12, with 1977 Champion Russ Foster fishing for Listerhills, having to borrow a pole to get to third spot.

Even though he hadn't fished the cut before, Russ still hooked six tench, dragging a couple out of a snag on 7 metres and castor for 3,770kg (8-2-0) which gave him a remarkable National record of a first, third and fourth.

He just edged out Kevin Ashurst (Stockport) who had the biggest gallery of the day but took six tench, had one in a sunken hopt, and added a roach on the long pole and castor from a peg one away from where the previous week's regional NFA championship was won with 13 lb.

"If I had been one peg to my left I would have won", said the Leigh supervisor who now has two National fourths thanks to his 3,550kg (7-8-0).



Russell Foster (Listerhills) (above) added a third placing to his impressive list of National results with the 3,770 kg net. Right: Champion Brian Oliver and runner up Phil Jennings (Goole), left with their haul of silverware



TACKLE STOLEN

EXPECTED trouble from anti-angling groups failed to materialise — but both sport and results were spoiled by thefts by local youngsters.

One set of scales was stolen, which meant a delay before the final results could be worked out by the NFA computer whilst at least one carbon roach pole and several nets were taken, and other poles smashed.

At least one car was broken in to and police were called in to investigate some of the thefts.

Problems did not end there as some competitors were left stranded on A section, the closer to the headwaters, where a coach failed to go back for them at the end of the match.

NFA officials had to

telephone the bus company and get them to send another coach. Before I got there some of the matchmen started making their own way back by taxi.

All competitors are supposed to travel back by the official coach or they will be disqualified. This time the rule was overlooked.

It was a bad end to a sorry day when the canal's prolific head of tench and other species failed to show in numbers because of a cold snap and gale force winds which ruled out the long pole on some sections and made it very difficult to use on others.

To add to problems at least 30 spectators received parking tickets.



A crowd gathers behind Kevin Ashurst as he pole fishes towards his fourth placed 3,550 kg

John C Essex

His take on the Close season

There has been a post about the renewed efforts to end the close season for fishing on rivers. I posted this but no-one seems to have picked it up. So here it is again.

Here is some detail about the close season from my personal archive but gleaned from others publications. The man behind the lobbying of Mundella was Sheffield's Thomas W. Guest who at a great anglers meeting in the "City of Steel" said "There are about 7000 anglers in this great city, and we are desirous that Mr A J Mundella, the member for Sheffield, should do his best to carry through Parliament a Bill that will provide a time which will permit of freshwater fish completing the procreation of their species in peace and quiet."

The Sheffield lads originally put forward some astonishing proposals that must be considered complicated by anyone's standards.

- 1) No Dace or Dare (what is this?) to be taken during months of March and April.
- 2) No Grayling, Pike, Perch or Jack, Ruff Pope or Gudgeon during March, April or May.
- 3) No Barbel, Carp, Tench, Chub, Bream, Roach, Rudd or Bleak in May or June.

Just try enforcing the law on that little lot! Its bad enough now with rivers, canals and stillwaters potentially having different close seasons.

As for the Piscatorial Society being the architects of the Bill, I believe more is owed to that angling stalwart and long serving President of the London Anglers Association, Mr Philip Geen. There was bitter disagreement between Sheffield and London over the closed period. Guest stayed in London at Geen's house and visited a number of London clubs to ascertain their views, which incidentally did not agree with the Piscatorial Society proposals. London had a weight of evidence for its proposals gleaned from evidence given by prominent anglers of the day such as Greville Fennell, Francis Francis and "Nottingham" George Holland of Windsor.

At the request of Sheffield, Geen went there to explain the differences between London and Sheffield's ideas on the "fence season" as it was called. He had originally gone there to persuade Sheffield to agree to London's ideas but a number of voices cried "split the difference, and make it 15th March to 15th June" and the dates were unanimously agreed.

A second meeting took place at the Society of Arts Rooms in London, where amongst a huge assembly of notables in the piscatorial world were Spencer Walpole, Frank Buckland and of course Mr Mundella. Unbeknown to London a change to the Bill had already taken place where Sheffield apparently had changed their minds and wanted March, April and May closed. Geen refused to take the platform with the Bills proposers because it would rob him of his chance to argue London's case. The day was won again by the chairman putting forward a proposal to split the difference and so the close season of March 15th to June 15th was born.

The first prosecution under the Act was on 14th April 1879 at Newark when Atkin and Birkett pleaded guilty to attempting to catch fish in the close season. They were fined 5 shillings and discharged.



John C Essex (History)

Here is something of interest from 1948. The program for a match run by the London Anglers Association on behalf of the Thames Angling Preservation Society for the George Plummer Shield on the Lea Navigation at Rye House. This program gives just a little glimmer into some of the London based Angling Clubs of that era with some famous names such as Lychnobite AS (aka night workers), Oxford and Cambridge AS, Paddington Civil Defence AS, Sundial AS etc. It is interesting to note that the winner would receive £8, equivalent to around £360 today, and there were 6 section prizes for those not in the main prize list.

That's not including the 8 gold centre medals on offer. Anglers in their respective sections would draw for their position in the 'race' to 'run' and pick out the best peg on their section. There was a 'NO Overtaking' rule.

The rest of the rules you can read from the photo. Also many adverts for the top tackle shops of that era, Church's, Young's of Harrow, Peeks of Grays Inn Road and the celebrated Homers of Woodgrange Road.

The Homers advert highlights the top carp catches from Dagenham Lake and the Becon-tree Angling Society with carp topping the 25 lbs mark. I don't have any of the stuffed fish by Homers brilliant Taxidermy department but as I posted previously I do have an illuminated address awarded to John Lenton for his carp catches in the early 1960's, once again from Dagenham.

It show some that anglers were in pursuit of big carp even in 1948. Lastly the advert of T H Sowerbutts of Commercial Street, probably the top suppliers of the London roach pole for 60 years, though the Sowerbutts family probably manufactured poles as early as the 1850's. But sadly we only see adverts for Fixed Spool reels which were just beginning to make their mark in the angling world as supplies became available following the tackle trades meagre output during the war years.

Perhaps the most collectible of those today would be the Leighton. But just look at the prices. The best Ambidex at £8 8 shillings cost more than the winner of the match would take away!! It would appear that the era of the London pole expert had had its day only to go through a huge revival some 30 years later when Team England began to adopt 'continental' tactics in their attempt to win the World Angling Championships.

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IN AID OF THE
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General Secretary:
R. S. DAVISON, 50, Elfindale Road, Herne Hill, S.E.24.

N^o 075

PRICE THREEPENCE

Simon Willsmore -

Last Sunday i fished the Grand Union canal at Tring on the Angling trust canal pairs qualifier with Phil Speakman, it was a last minute match but nice and local. Phil drew peg 20 at Ivinghoe which was an end peg and i was on B7 at the Red lion section. Knowing that Phil had a great chance of good points, i needed to get my head down to back him up with good points. Pre match talk was of bags of big fish from my section but after 30 minutes it was obvious they were not showing and i went for bites, i caught at 4m approx 300 small roach and gudgeon for 3kg130g and 5th in my 20 peg section. I hadnt heard from Phil but it turned out he smashed the match with 4 carp and some bits for 25kg! His biggest fish was 24lb, not bad going on the pole. We therefore scored a total of 6 point which put us 2nd and a place in Octobers big money final.

Well done to the winners Sam Fung and Steve Crawley who won with 4 points.

Well done Simon and Phil qualifying for the Angling Trust Pairs Final in October!

www.spottedfin.com



We are a friendly angling club based in Hertfordshire, committed to promoting fishing for all ages.

Membership provides access to a wide variety of fisheries. With over 14 miles of canal, reservoirs, 2 stretches of the River Thames, along with lakes and ponds all year round fishing is possible.



Our club is currently open and welcoming to new members. You can join or renew online or by post. See Memberships for more detail.
<https://tringanglers.org.uk/>

Action replay ►►

An Angling Mail Feature Archive

► **READY FOR BATTLE** – the two teams of ten pitched against each other in the West Midlands included two *Mail* aces. In the carp corner we had Colin “Davo” Davidson (left), fighting out of Hampshire while in the match corner, fighting out of Worcestershire, we had Steve “Comet” Collett.



CARP vs MATCH!

THIS WEEK: A GRUDGE MATCH TOOK PLACE LAST WEEK BETWEEN CARP SPECIALISTS AND MATCHMEN. WE WENT ALONG TO WATCH - AND LEARN!

DEDICATED carp fishing is the fastest growing side of our sport, but are carp anglers capable of beating dedicated match anglers in a head-to-head competition on a lake full of carp?

Working in the same Leeda office from day to day, the lads from Wychwood and MAP constantly rib each other about their fish catching prowess, (or lack of it?) until one day it all just boiled over and a grudge match was arranged to finally settle the debate once and for all.

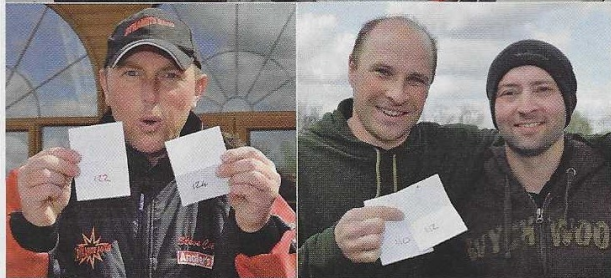
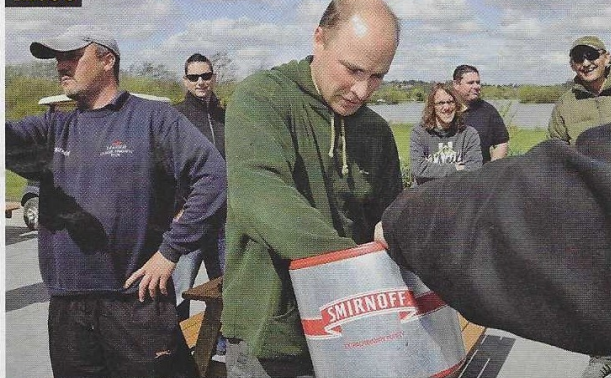
Angler's Mail sent reporter and cameraman Ian Chapman down to Barston Lakes in the West Midlands to see which of the ten match or ten carp fanatics would rule the roost.

Could the carpers haul themselves to victory with their boilies, bags and buzzers, or would the match anglers mash them up with their poles, pellets and perseverance?

Let battle commence!

Angler's Mail **RATING:** it's all about the final weight, so tactics will be vital. Will the specimen carp show? Or will the silver fish plus bonus carp approach win the day? We'll know in six hours!

12:00



12:00 The draw is made and with *Angler's Mail's* Steve Collett and Colin Davidson stars of the show, it's time to see if they have fallen foul of the golden hand of fate at the draw, or not?

'I am in no way a competitive person. Merely I like to pit my wits against the fish, and by not being able to choose my swim I feel like I am at a disadvantage today, but Steve Barton my angling partner and I have drawn swims on the windy bank, and since I have never even seen the venue before I will have to think on all my experience to make the most of what carp may be in front of me. There is a large island opposite the swims, so that could be useful,' Colin divulges as he sets off to his swim.

Meanwhile, Steve Collett and match partner Matt Maginnis seem delighted

with their draw. 'I've asked Steve to do the honours and fish the flier '124' which is an end peg. He knows the venue well enough and since I am recovering from a recent illness I think he is the man to take control on a top peg. I hope it lives up to expectations,' Matt grins excitedly.

There's no time for a parting comment from the man they call Steve 'the Comet' Collett, as he is off like a rocket to unload his gear on one of the best swims on Barston's main lake.

13:20 With the 'grudge' match due to commence in ten minutes, there is an urgency to set up and get bait and rigs all set for the event, but Colin is not rushing.

'It's going to be six hours on the bank, and I will be looking for some

13:20



14:00



large carp if I am to make any inroads into the overall leaderboard,' he explains.

'I am going to give myself plenty of options, but the main focus will be to use boilies near the island, and to bait up an area closer in with a view to seeing the carp move onto that spot later in the match with small PVA bags.

'I am not so certain that the margins will produce because the temperature is low, and I don't think the enhanced bankside activity will encourage the fish to come so close either, but you never know,' explains Colin, as he gathers himself together, quietly confident of a tempting a good number of Barston's carp.

13:25

Meanwhile, up the bank, Steve Collett has a few secrets up his matchman's sleeve too it seems, certainly from the look of an un-named bag of green stuff which he quickly tries to hide when the cameras are turned upon it!

'Although I come from a match angling background, I love to be an all-rounder and I like to borrow the best ideas and baits from all sectors of angling, especially the bait aspect which carp anglers have developed so well over the last 20 years. I have my own secret mix, which may or may not work, let's just wait and see,' he coyly divulges.

13:25



14:00

The match anglers are off to a flying start it seems, Steve Collett included! He catches an F1 on his first cast, landing the Method feeder up the side of the near margin area.

Steve revealed: 'If you look at this swim, there is no angling access to the area to my right because it is a golf tee, the carp know this and stay around that area. I am merely taking advantage of my local knowledge and casting to where the carp live naturally, and any carp angler would, or at least should, do

continued over >>

Action replay

continued
from page 13

14:20



the same if they had drawn here.

'Success in angling has a lot to do with reading the swim and giving the fish what they want, where they want it, no matter what species they are. I wonder if the carpers are adaptive enough sometimes though?' Steve offers, as he slips another small carp into his net.

14:20 Steve Collett's magic ingredient seems to be really reaping rewards, or is it his angling skills? Whatever it is, he scraps hard and wins against a mid double-figure common carp before finally netting it, much to his and his team-mates' delight. Shouts of: 'Go on Steve!' ring around the lake, as he starts to turn on the style.

15:10 Is the fightback on from the carp anglers? Over on the far bank it's much



16:05

calmer (and a damn sight warmer too!) and Leeda boss Richard Taylor proudly displays an immaculate double-figure common, and the accumulative total for the carp anglers on this bank is steadily growing, but they are under pressure.

15:40 The pressure is on down the same far bank from the likes of match angler James Dent, who is putting together a substantial haul of decent-sized bream to 3 lb, which are coming every cast at times on pole fished pellet, plus a small cage feeder cast over the top of the long pole line. The speed at which he is topping up his bag of bream is certainly worrying the carp anglers, that's for sure. Can they claw back the weight with a run of big carp?

16:05 It's also a pairs match, and Steve Collett's match partner is Matt Maginnis, and he is fishing just two pegs away, and doing quite well himself. 'I'm not ripping it up like Mr Collett there, but I am landing a steady supply of skimmers and F1s like this sample,' Matt divulges as he struggles at times against the strong wind. 'Maybe there's something to be said for sitting zipped up behind the doors of a bivy!' he jokes.

16:30



16:30 Steve Collett decides to try baiting a swim right under where he is sitting... oh no, sorry, he is actually searching for his baiting needle which he has accidentally dropped into the margin!

16:50 Colin Davidson looks like he has a few secret ingredients too, what's in that bucket Colin?

'It's only a simple plug,' he notes. 'I am a big believer in enhancing the hook bait with things like corn steep liquor or other such sweet-tasting syrups. I hope it can make all the difference, because things have been slow thus far.'

'But I will always take a lead from the match anglers who are constantly looking to make changes if things aren't going right for them. I'd urge all carp anglers to follow that sensible advice!' Colin suggests as he casts out.

17:05 Colin's 'trick' pays off, but it's not quite what he is after, as he lands diminutive

15:10



15:40



though very attractive little carp.

'Hmmm!' he moans, and for once the popular chirpy carper is lost for words, but he still smiles on as he poses for a snap shot.

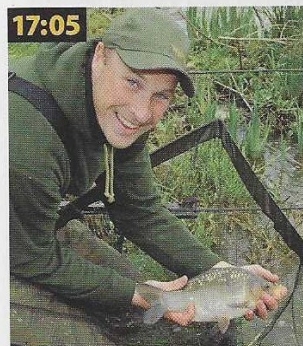
'Big or small, I love them all!' he adds, as he carefully slips the little fellow to grow larger, possibly on all those boilies Colin introduced at the start?

17:10 Steve Collett is a candidate for winning the whole match now, as he lands yet another hefty carp, this time a lovely mirror.

'It's a good peg, but like any other, you have to know how to get the best from it. I am fishing a popped-up bait and they are having it, and I make no apology from borrowing it from the carping fraternity. At the end of the day, we are all pursuing the same fish,' Steve declares.

17:50 Steve Barton is doing his best to bolster the weight of the carp anglers too, but at just shy of 3 lb, his little boilie-caught

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carp is hardly going to trouble Steve Collett's rapidly increasing weight of fish, is it?

'It's not going too well,' Steve Barton admits. 'We may be on bad swims, but perhaps our expectations were too high and we may have plastered into too much bait for the conditions. But then again, the evening feeding spell will soon be here and everything could turn on its head,' he humbly declares. Funny how the fish have been feeding all day in Steve Collett's peg though!

18:45 Time is running out, and the expected big fish rush is failing to materialise for the carp lads. The match boys are finding them though, so what's made the difference?

Steve Collett may have the answer, as he lands yet another low double-figure mirror.

'I think carp anglers need to learn more about how to create a more productive strategy for shorter sessions, such as matches like this. Their feeding does not seem to make sense for a short session. It seems an all or nothing approach with

17:10



big baits and in my experience that approach can often fall flat on its face, certainly more often than it may win such a short event as this. Also, dismissing other species in a match scenario is suicidal!

19:30 The 'all out' is shouted and it comes as blessed relief for those ten anglers on the windy bank, who are freezing cold by now. The weigh-in is only for the match anglers at the end, because the carpers have elected to have a running total as the day unfolded, returning fish directly after capture. The match anglers have 286 lb to beat. Can they do it?

19:40 Steve Collett weighs in a colossal 151 lb of mainly large carp, and puts himself out in front. Only James Dent on the far bank troubles him with his second-placed 121 lb of bream on the pole. These weights, combined with the totals from the other match anglers, prove too hot to handle for the carpers, and the match anglers' combined total of 639 lb 7oz ensures a crushing victory.

21:00 Back at the "do" after the match in the golf club... sacrifices must be made to the gods of match angling, and Colin Davidson and his carper pals are put to the sword in humorous (and fitting) style!

TICKET information

Barston Lake has 124 pegs and catering for all kinds of anglers. It is at West Midlands Golf Club in Solihull, between Coventry, Birmingham, Leamington and Warwick.

Day tickets £7.95. £5 evenings (after 3pm) or juniors. Members-only night fishing £11 or 24 hours for £15. All tickets two rods, third rod costs an extra £2. The address is Marsh House Farm Lane, Barston, Solihull, West Midlands. Sat Nav: B92 0LB. Tel: 01675 444890. www.barstonlakes.co.uk



THE END RESULT MATCH 639 lb 7 oz. CARP 286 lb.

DOES this prove match anglers are better than carp anglers? Well, what it does show is that being open-minded with your angling will usually bring you more fish, but being dedicated may well bring you bigger individual fish, and thereby hangs a tale!

Enjoy your angling passion, whatever it may be, because ultimately it is all about being out there, having fun catching fish alongside your fellow anglers that really matters most...

ON SALE TUESDAY anglersmail.com 15

BIG BARBEL TRICKS



Lots of barbel are caught during the hours of daylight. All you need to do is be on the river and in a swim before anyone else, then look for cover and lower a bait in the swim in a stealthy manner.



Slice into barbel

Big barbel love areas that provide cover and shade, yet getting a bait to them without making a disturbing noise can be tricky, almost impossible at times.

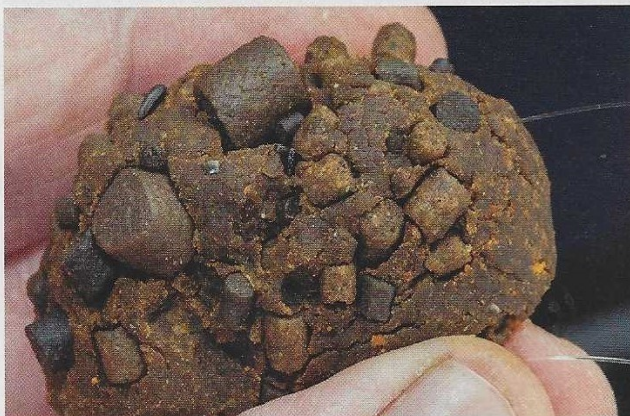
A neat solution is to place a baited rig on a slice of bread and push it out into the current, allowing it to float downstream before tightening up and pulling it off when it reaches the right spot.

No missed casts, and no fish scaring splash - perfect!



Bin PVA for the pellet lead

I have never been a lover of PVA when fishing flowing water. I feel that even if one is tied onto the lead it will take time to dissolve, prolonging a take due to the free offerings settling below the hook bait. To solve this problem try using 'the pellet lead' which is great for massive barbel. All you need is varying sizes of scalded pellets dosed in loads of Corn Steep Liquor, then mould it around the lead. The pellets break up in the water, leaving an irresistible scent trail.



Irresistible Ferrero Rocher

Pressing paste around the hook bait has been around for years and is a very effective method, yet some big fish have wised up to this. When using the pellet lead you can, on occasions, get lots of knocks as fish home in on the ball of scalded pellets.

When this happens make a secondary cast, but this time with no pellets around the lead, just a big ball of paste around the hook bait which has been made from the same scalded pellet mix. Then press different sized pellets into this so it resembles a Ferrero Rocher and mimics what they have become used to getting away with when feeding on the pellet lead.



Move to find monsters

Sitting in one swim, using two rods and waiting for fish, such as barbel or chub, to arrive isn't the best strategy.

If you can, try roving around a river, stealthily dropping into swims for maybe 30 minutes before moving.

If you go home after a daylight session without catching, then at least you know that you will have passed, and placed a bait, very close to a number of big fish, instead of sitting in one spot in which you could have been half a mile from a big fish!

Go to find them - don't wait for them to find you!



The perfect match

Match hook baits with loose feed. If barbel, and in many cases carp, are feeding on pellets, then pellet needs to be on the hook. Try not to use one size of pellet when barbel fishing as fish can get preoccupied on these, and getting the same size hook bait to act like all the others is virtually impossible. Use lots of sizes to confuse fish so they drop their guard and readily eat everything.

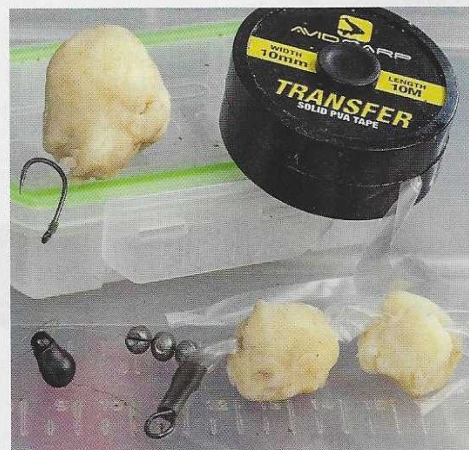


On your own

Just because most barbel reported to the press are caught after dark, doesn't mean this is the best time to fish. It's not.

The best time to catch a big clever barbel is when no one else is around. Getting to a swim before others, a period when the fish have had time to settle, will give you the best chances of a result, so set that alarm early!

BIG CHUB TRICKS



Cheesy tightrope for chub

A great trick for chub is to tie a small length of PVA tape to your weight and add small free offerings of cheese paste to it. This gets a few free offerings right next to the hook bait - a small area of attractants that rarely goes unnoticed if chub are around.



Smaller is better

Reducing any resistance when chub fishing will catch you not only more chub but the bigger, wiser ones too.

Try and hold bottom with the lightest amount of weight needed, and, when bread fishing, use small cage feeders.

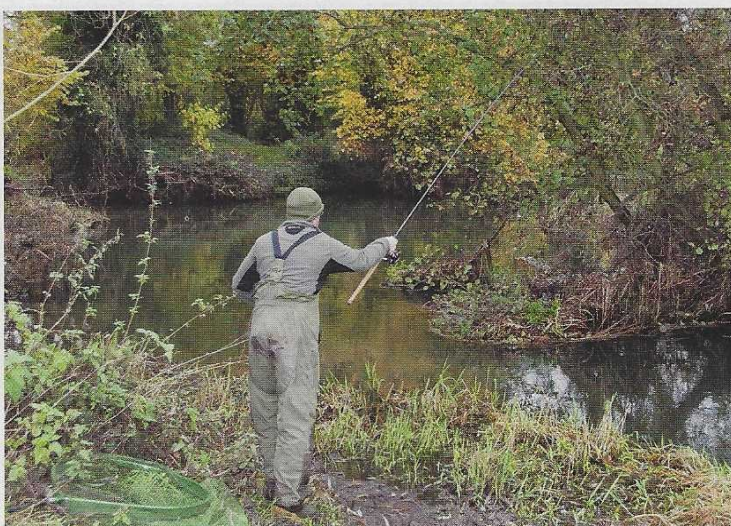


Reduced resistance

Chub hate resistance, especially big ones that have wised up to this. They test a bait before letting go if things don't feel right.

Creating a right-angle from rod tip to bait when barbel fishing may well be commonplace, yet chub are better at detecting the resistance of the rod in this position and will often let go of the hook bait.

Reduce this angle by pointing the rod straight to where you have cast, hold the rod and feel for the bites by holding a few inches of line in your fingers.



Masters of trickery

Chub are the masters of avoiding capture. If you are getting plucks but no positive bites, a change of direction can make all the difference. I remember one occasion when I was experience plucks, so I moved below the swim so I could make an upstream cast. The change made a big difference. The slight taps were replaced with a positive pull round which resulted in my personal best chub of over 7 lb.

BIG ROACH & RUDD TRICKS



Rotator for roach and rudd

A lot of anglers will think that rudd are a summer fish but, as I have found out, loads can be caught during the coldest months of the year. Targeting rudd can be tricky as bites come in small flurries, so using the right rig is paramount. Without a doubt the helicopter rig is the best, as it's self-hooking and gives very little room for a fish to test a bait without getting hooked. When fishing two rods for rudd and/or roach, it's worth trying a popped-up double maggot hook bait on one, and two maggots on the bottom on the other as different lakes will definitely see the fish having a preference.



Feeding times

For rudd and roach I pre-bait with hemp and dead maggots - around a kilo of hemp and half a pint of maggots every other day and an hour before dusk. Rudd feed best a couple of hours into darkness all year round, but roach will change, so if you stop catching at dusk, you may have to start fishing later or even during the daytime.



Stack 'em up for bream

One species that's rarely clever enough to get preoccupied on one size of bait is bream. They can be like Hoovers, mopping everything in front of them, yet they do take time to move over bait and are often found at distance.

For this reason you need to use a bait that's robust enough to cast to where they are, as well as resisting the attention of small fish.

Boilies are the obvious answer, yet these are expensive. The best bait for big bream is a corn stack wafer, which is simply two real grains of corn protected and lifted off the bottom with a plastic buoyant grain.



Changing the angle of attack will catch big chub - and barbel too.

Kevin Ashurst Legend

My Hero

Kevin Ashurst in my opinion was the greatest match angler England ever produced, Kevin had a huge influence in my match fishing career, especially my international career.

For some, Kevin was the ultimate tactician and master angler. Top match anglers in his time would seek his advice at the highest level. Even two English Team managers would seek his audience and advise when

discussing tactics. What Kevin lacked in etiquette he made up with his friendly grin and banter, when you got to understand his northern accent. He would always greet me with a deep northern slang saying "Thee all reet"

I first met Kevin when as a young man fishing an open match on my home river Taff in Cardiff. In those days, the river run black with coaldust and roach and possibly one of the best roach rivers at the time in the 60s. Attracting anglers from wide and afar.

At the time there was a roach disease going through the country and most venues were affected the disease was called Columnaris. Thankfully, the river escaped that disaster. At that young tender age, I was in awe as he spoke, and I was full of questions to this great man. He did go on and win that match too. It was not until later in my angling life that I met up again with Kevin. I was in my mid-twenties, travelling to the Irish festivals I drew the same section as the great man. And it was during the evening socialising I struck a friendship.

During my years of traveling to the Irish Festivals in the 1980s 1990s I would always meet up with Kevin where we would have a drink or two and some banter, that friendship followed through to the International scene too.

This is where I would learn from this great man whilst in his company, drawing the same section as Kevin on many occasions and the highlight for me was when I beat Kevin by a very short margin when I won the World Championships in Portugal 1987 It was a bitter sweet win for me as I knew Kevin would have wanted to win the Championships for the 2nd time It was a shame Kevin never kept a record of his match fishing wins over the years. However, after a little research I have come across some of his successes.

In 1965, he set the Trent six-hour match record with 41-11-0 in the Nottingham AA annual open at Shelford. Not a big weight by today's commercial standards, but a phenomenal weight at that time. Kevin also held the four-hour Trent match record with 28 lbs. In the 1968, NFA Knockout Competition Final at Coombe Abbey, Kevin thrashed the opposition and netted £2,000 in prize money to boot. He won the Gladding Masters on the Warwickshire Avon against the top anglers in the country and was quoted as saying 'It was nowt but a little sweep'.



He was very successful in the Benson and Hedges Classic in Ireland, where he now lives for six months of the year, with a stunning 331lbs of roach taken over three days.

Kevin fished for Leicester AS in the Angling Times Winter Leagues, winning the 1964 Final on the River Suck with 56lbs. In the National Championships he has fished for Warrington, Stoke City, the mighty Birmingham AA - where he accumulated a vast array of team and individual medals - and finally Stockport. Like his father, Kevin dearly wanted to win the National Championship. He had two section wins with an individual fourth place on the Trent in 1969 where he was also a member of the winning Stoke team. In the same match his father Benny was eighth. Kevin went on to secure a further individual fourth and a ninth place in the National Championships.

Nominated by Stoke, 'Big Kev' fished for England in the 1970 Holland World Championships under the guidance of Bernard Donovan. It's no wonder that from 1972, when Stan Smith handpicked his team to compete in the World Championships, Kevin became an automatic choice. He made 23 appearances for England and can be credited with bringing 'world match tactics' back to the UK, educating the English anglers to abandon their rods and reels in favour of the pole. He showed the way by winning the four hundred pegger Liverpool Echo competition, on the Leeds & Liverpool Canal - thought to be the first match on that canal to be won with the pole.

The highlight for Kevin was his 1982 World Angling Championship triumph on the Newry Canal, becoming the first British angler to win the World Title on the pole. He went on to win individual silver medals in 1987, 1990 and 1991 plus numerous gold and silver team medals including England's first ever 1985 team gold in Florence.

Kevin was a true legend in every sense, and I was privileged to have him as a friend. It was 1986 after winning a silver medal in the World Championships France that my local match fishing group Cardiff Nomads held a surprise party to honour my achievement. My Friend Kevin was the surprise guest.

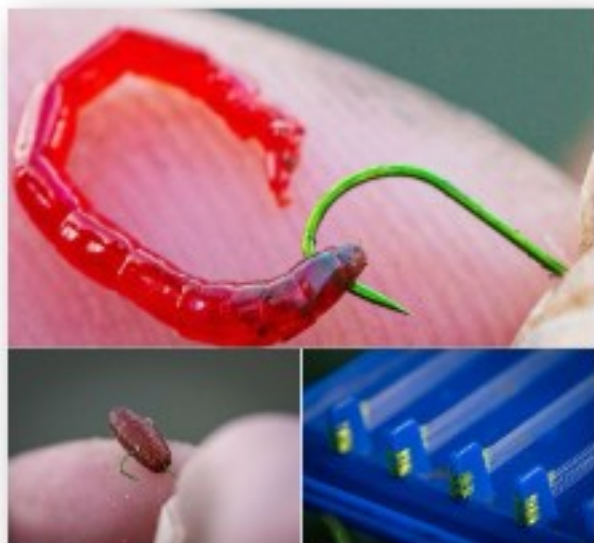
It was many years before I met Kevin again and in 2016, I was to revisit my old stamping grounds of Northern Ireland after an absence of 25 years again to fish the Classic festival at Enniskillen. it was a huge pleasure to catch up with my old friend and boyhood hero Kevin Ashurst, and we spent a wonderful evening reminiscing about days gone by. I could not help but feel a little sad that such a great angler is now afflicted by health issues, but he remains hugely admired not just by myself but all his fellow anglers.



Tom Scholey Reports

1 February

Brilliant day at the awesome Oaks Fishery Sessay shooting some videos for Fjuka Fishing Bait with my old pal Ben Fisk Fishing. After so much silver bashing greatly it's been nice to hook a few that pull back



When finesse is required, I've not found a better commercial silverfish hook than the Gamakatsu Green Gamma.

I tend to step up to an F1 Pellet for something more robust when bagging, but for 90% of my winter fishing this is all I use. Who else is a fan?

P.S. I probably should also mention my old mate Dean Foster who ties them up for me

4 February

Mint day at Hallcroft for the fourth round of the Teams Of Four.

Peg 46 on Bridge Outer was my home for the day, and I've had a great match on the short pole. Lots of small skimmers and roach with three bigger bream putting in an appearance too.

I finished with 24lb which was enough for second in the nine peg section, so great points for the team. The others have done brilliant too, with James Dent Fishing coming second, Rob Swan Angling coming second, and my old mate Andy Geldart blitzing his section on Bridge Island. This meant we were joint WINNERS on the day along with Team NuFish/ Wickersley Angling. Roll on round five.



Decided to do something a bit different this year and do a few days one-to-one coaching alongside my work with Catch More Media and Fjuka Fishing Bait.

It's not something that I have ever pushed in the past, but I've really enjoyed my last couple of times out doing it, so I figured a day a month doing something different and enjoyable might be a great way to mix things up.

I've got about a dozen dates free through the year, so if you fancy one, drop me a message.



7 February

Made up to QUALIFY for the £10,000 Halkon Hunt Winter Classic Final today!

Lovely day at Moorlands Farm Fishery, a bite a chuck on pinkies early followed by a few larger portions on casters later made for a great days fishing. I managed just over 20lb to win my zone and a place in the final at Meadowlands.

Thanks to Grant Albutt for some top advice this morning, and a brilliantly run match.



11 February

Always enjoy a campaign at Decoy Lakes this time of practicing for the Angling Trust Winter League Final.

I've drawn a lake that I've never fished before today - Damson.

Had an incredible first hour, around 15 nice F1s before my area of the lake seemed to shut down. It was one of those days when changing lines or doing something different brought a bite - but then you would have to move or change again to catch another fish. Finished with around 30 fish for just under 70lb and a section win.

A few beers in March tonight before Decoy again tomorrow for some work



Fantastic day at Hallcroft for the teams of four. Lovely peg in 26 on Bridge Outer, and a decent draw for the team.

Loads of bites on the short pole. Some nice roach, and good skimmers in the last couple of hours to finish with 33lb for a section WIN.

The team have done great, we managed to win the day with 10pts, and extend our lead in the league.

Curry now, then off to Meadowlands for the On the flyer TV Festival. Can't wait



Mega proud of my mate Gary Rodgers, for what he's created in the Halkon Hunt Winter Classic.

I fished the final of the event on Sunday, and it had such a buzz to it, I couldn't wait to get fishing.

I had two great runs of fish on pellets, but sadly needed a third really to make the frame - as my 27lb was only good enough for a second in section by default. Unreal fishing at Meadowlands!

Being super honest and self critical, I haven't got this venue quite right yet, but the more I'm going the more I'm learning, and enjoying it.

Huge well done to the most popular of champions, Andy May.

Looking forward to next year already.

MATCH RESULTS

Canals

Erewash Valley Winter League, Final Round (5), Erewash Canal, Ilkeston, Derbys. Sat 17th Feb (56 fished). Darren Massey (Cadence Superteam/Bait-Tech) 11-14-0 (a 5lb 7oz bream, two lobby perch plus roach to 6oz); John Moroz (Matlock AC) 7-8-8; Chris Wright (Long Eaton Fed.) 6-12-8; James South (Cadence Superteam/Bait-Tech) 6-6-0; Mark Parker (Team 1779) 5-4-0; Dave Clark (Matlock AC) 5-1-0. Teams: Cadence Superteam/Bait-Tech 21; 3 Counties 26; Matlock AC 30; Matchman Supplies 30. Final league:

Cadence Superteam/Bait-Tech 11; Matchman Supplies 14; Long Eaton Fed. 19; Team 1779 19. Individual league winner: Steve Posiak (Long Eaton Fed.) 11 (four section wins).

Goodyear AC, Staffordshire & Worcestershire Canal, Slade Heath Basin & Boats Section, Coven, Staffs. Sun (10 fished). Tommy Cross (Goodyear AC) 2-7-0 (mainly one bream); Dave Smith (Goodyear AC) 0-2-0; Charlie Smith (Goodyear AC) 0-1-0; (Joint 4th) Mark Wyton (Goodyear AC) 0-0-8; John Hunter (Goodyear AC) 0-0-8; Steve Thomson (Goodyear AC) 0-0-8.

HanKat Superteam AS Open, Dudley No. 1 Canal, Waterfront Section, Brierley Hill, W. Mids. & Stourbridge Canal, Boats on the Tank Section, Brierley Hill, W. Mids. Sat (29 fished). Gavin Cook (HanKat Superteam AS) 6-9-9; Stu Cutter (HanKat Superteam AS) 5-10-4; Gary Owen (Canal Kings/Storey's) 4-13-13; Steve 'Minty' Jones (HanKat Superteam AS) 4-9-5; Lee Woodhouse (HanKat Superteam AS) 3-10-4; Owen Westwood (Wolverhampton AA) 2-13-3.

Luton AC, Grand Union Canal, Power Lines back to Leighton Lock Section, Leighton Buzzard, Beds. Wed (11 fished). Dudley Frankland 4-1-0 (a 4lb 1oz bream on the short pole with worm on the hook over groundbait, worm, caster and dead reds); Sean Leatherland 2-0-0 (one large skimmers plus bits); Colin Holmes 1-10-0 (two skimmers and one hybrid); Steve Lathwell 1-1-8; Simon Faulkes 0-11-0; Terry Vickers 0-9-0.

Luton AC Winter League, Round 2, Grand Union Canal, Three Three Locks PH Section, Stoke Hammond, Milton Keynes, Bucks. Sun 18th Feb (18 fished). Simon Foulkes 5-8-8 (one big skimmer plus five smaller skimmers and 2lb of silvers on pole-fished pinkie over groundbait and liquidised bread); Adam Smith 4-14-8 (a 2lb bream, a large perch, then a smaller perch plus skimmers); Peter Deppe 4-9-0 (mostly good skimmers); Ian Orbell 4-4-8 (a large bream plus small fish). League: Peter Deppe 11; Keith Ward 11; Ian Orbell 11; Steve Lathwell 9; Simon Foulkes 9; Adrian Smith 9.

Port Sunlight AC, Shropshire Union Canal, Stoak, Ellesmore Port, Ches. Sun. Brian Allen OK 310g; Paul Simpkins OK 220g; (Joint 3rd) Pete Bernard OK 180g; Pete Henery OK 180g.



Rugeley Individual Winter League, Round 4, Trent & Mersey Canal, Rugeley, Staffs. Sun (32 fished). Dave Hughes (Bag'em/Maver Midlands) 9-15-6 (one 2lb bream, then mostly perch with a few roach on poled caster); Darren Barrett (B'ham) 8-5-10 (mainly perch on poled maggot); Steve Askey (Stafford) 7-6-6 (mixed bag); Mick Hatchard (Cadence Superteam/Bait-Tech) 6-15-4 (a 2lb perch, a 1lb 8oz skimmer plus smaller perch on poled caster); Glyn Bagley (Goodyear AC) 6-12-7 (two bream; one 3lb plus a smaller sample on bread punch plus a few perch on poled caster); Dave Holbrook (Team Eclipse) 6-10-10 (three decent skimmers plus a few perch). League: Simon Nickless (Sensas Black Country) 11; Dave Berrow 12; Jason Cunningham (Cadence Superteam/Bait-Tech) 15; Dave Hughes (Bag'em/Maver Midlands) 16; (Joint 5th) Darren Massey (Cadence Superteam/Bait-Tech) 17; Darren Barrett (B'ham) 17.

Sportsman AA Open, Walsall Canal (BCN), Moors Mill Lane Section, Tipton, W. Mids. Sat. Dave Arnold (Sportsman AA) 2-0-0 (80 small roach); Dave Anderson (Sportsman AA) 1-9-8; Chris Taylor (Sportsman AA) 0-3-8.

Stoke City DAA Individual Winter League, Round 4, Norbury Junction, Stafford, Staffs. Sat (20 fished). Kevin Perry (Cadence Superteam/Bait-Tech) 4-10-4 (one 12oz perch plus roach); Dave Richards (Sensas Lifestyle MG) 4-2-4 (a 2lb 6oz perch plus little roach); John Hanna (Milo/Bait-Tech West Midlands) 3-9-8 (all small perch); Paul Turner (Colmic UK) 3-2-2 (guesting for Richard Guest); Les Olszewski (Team Les 'O') 2-7-12 (gudgeon and little roach); Fred 'the Bread' Cheetham (Sensas Lifestyle MG) 2-7-1 (all roach on poled bread punch). League: Kevin Perry (Cadence Superteam/Bait-Tech) 6 (three section wins); Dave Richards (Sensas Lifestyle MG) 6 (two section wins); (Joint 3rd) Dave McCall (Cadence Superteam/Bait-Tech) 10 (one section win); Fred 'the Bread' Cheetham (Sensas Lifestyle MG) 10 (one section win); (Joint 5th) Dean Williams (Sensas Lifestyle MG) 10; Lee Richards (Wolverhampton AA) 10.

Taunton AA Knock-Up, Bridgwater & Taunton Canal, Creech, Taunton, Somerset. Sun 18th Feb. Dan Baldwin 11-3-0 (roach, bleak and small rudd on poled bread punch); Ian Burton 9-8-0 (bleak and roach on poled pinkie); Andy Ankers 7-11-0 (bleak and roach on poled pinkie).

Wigan DAA Members Flyers, Leeds & Liverpool Canal, Appleby Bridge Section, Wigan, Gtr. Manchester. Wed (24 fished). Steve Wilson (Sensas NW) 10-6-8; Mark Battersby (Bolton) 6-12-8; (Joint 3rd) Roger Gardom (Colmic Dynamite Trentmen) 6-6-8; Kev Clarke (Wigan MG) 6-6-8; Ant Lloyd (Liverpool AS) 6-2-0; Alan Crook (Drennan NW) 5-9-0; Dave McGuinn (Hindley MG) 5-2-0. Sat., Leeds & Liverpool Canal, Slipway Section, Burscough, W. Lancs. Paul Robinson (Wigan MG) 9-12-0; Ian Wilson (Cadence NW) 5-14-0; (Joint 3rd) Dave Trafford (Matrix LTB) 5-10-0; Ant Lloyd (Liverpool AS) 5-10-0. Sun.,



Leeds & Liverpool Canal, Rawlinson Lane Section, Chorley, Lancs. Steve Simpkin (Liverpool AS) 5-5-8; (Joint 2nd) Brian Meadows (Hindley MG) 3-0-8; Tony Richardson (Hindley MG) 3-0-8.

Wolverhampton AA Open, Shropshire Union Canal, Wheaton Aston, Staffs. Wed (16 fished). Arthur Shaw (Wolverhampton AA/Rough Hay AC) 7-6-8; Steve Dudley (Bag'em/Maver Midlands) 3-15-2; Barry Williams (Fatty's Baits & Tackle) 3-0-0; Paul Norledge (Likely Lads) 2-11-5; Kevin Jones (Wolverhampton) 2-10-4; Johnny Benness (Goodyear AC) 2-9-7.

Rivers

Northwich AA Mini League, Round 4, River Weaver, Dredger, Newbridge & Boats Section, Northwich, Ches. Sat (36 fished). Simon Wilkinson (A.S.K.) 30-4-0; Pete Watson (The Good, The Bad & The Ugly) 13-8-0; D. Taylor (Wigan MG) 12-1-0. Teams: A.S.K. 10; Matrix LTB 13; The Good, The Bad & The Ugly 16; Wigan MG 17; Busby Babes 18; Team Skimmers 19. League: A.S.K. 59; Wigan MG 69; B.M.R. 70; Vale Royal Juniors 75; The Good, The Bad & The Ugly 77; B.M.R. 79.

Rotherham UAF Open, River Don, Sprotbrough/Cadeby, Doncaster, S. Yorks. Sun. Mark Wilson (Bait-Tech) 8-7-0; James Cameron (Spotted Fin/Team Normanton) 6-5-0; Ian Turner (Spotted Fin/Team Normanton) 5-0-0; (Joint 4th) Terry Moroz (Mill Tackle) 4-9-0; Nick Atkins (Mill Tackle) 4-9-0.

Rotherham UAF Open/Northern Rivermasters Practice Match, River Don, Sprotbrough, Doncaster, S. Yorks. Wed (13 fished). Glyn Brown (Tackle Traders) 5-11-0; Mick Lightfoot (Leeds) 3-12-0. Section winners: Jack Evason (Jack's Lads) 3-5-0; Mick Cook (Leeds) 2-11-0.

Rotherham UAF Winter League, Final Round (7), River Don, Sprotbrough/Cadeby, Doncaster, S. Yorks. Sun 18th Feb. Bri Hague (Rotherham Tippers) 17-6-0; Steve Lowther (Nufish Ossett) 10-8-0; James Cameron (Spotted Fin/Team Normanton) 9-3-0; John Deakin (Daiwa Dons) 8-3-0. Teams: Nufish Ossett 12; Daiwa Dons 16; Spotted Fin/Team Normanton 17. Final league: Nufish Ossett 11; (Joint 2nd) Spotted Fin/Team Normanton 29; Mill Tackle 29; Daiwa Dons 34; Bait-Tech 35.

Canal & River Trust Stillwaters

Kiveton Waters Winter League, Round 6, Sheffield, S. Yorks. Sun 18th Feb. Ryan Wilson 65-6-0; Graham Ball 58-8-0; Sean Sheldon 57-1-0; Carl Brown 46-4-0; Nigel Shipman 44-9-0; Jay Cawthorn 18-7-0. League leader: Ryan Wilson.



Peter Caton's Blustery Boddington Open, Boddington Reservoir, nr. Byfield, Northants. Tues. Pegs 2-12: N. Franklin 137-0-0; G. Miles 96-8-0; Wayne Sharman 50-0-0. Pegs 69-80: A. Parker 64-0-0; A. Ashington 40-0-0; S. Pal 36-4-0. Pegs 82-92: Stu Palser 91-0-0; T. Winstone 58-0-0; D. Sanders 41-0-0.

Towcester Vets, Stockton Reservoir, nr. Rugby, Warks. Sun 18th Feb. John Harris 2-0-0; Paul Swain 1-12-0. (only two weighed in).

Stillwaters

Castle AC Silvers Matches, Canons, Northants. Wed 14th Feb. Pete Upton 21-15-0; Dave White 12-8-0; Dick Cul-
len 10-4-0. Sun 18th Feb. Dave White 12-9-0; Pete Hunt 9-8-0; Dave Gibbons 9-0-0.

Langold Lake Open, Worksop, Notts. Sun 18th Feb (17 fished). Sean Ramplin 15-3-0; Ray Marsh 11-0-0; Paul Hill
9-14-0. Section 1: Stuart Gray 6-7-0. Section 2: Dean Gillatt 6-13-0.

Nene/Towcester AC, Silver Lake, Wappenham, Northants. Sun 18th Feb. Rob Pottinger 7-4-0; Les Goodridge 6-2-
0; John Harris 5-14-0.

Wellingborough AC, Mill Cotton Fishery, Ringstead, Northants. Wed 14th Feb. Kevin Folwell 12-4-0; Jeff Rice 11-
11-0; Paul Bridgestock 11-9-0. Sun 18th Feb. Jeff Rice 10-14-0; Dave Mawby 10-5-0; Chris Howard 9-7-0.

Commercials & Drains

Angling Trust Winter League Final, Decoy Lakes, Whittlesey, Cambs. & The Fenland Drains, around March & Benwick, Cambs. Sat (300 fished). Teams: Preston Innovations Black Horse 52; Wakefield 59; Mosella Quaker 61; Daiwa Tackle & Baits 62 (on weight); Drennan Oxford 62; Nufish Ossett/Sonubaits 62; Sensas Starlets 64; Drennan Barnsley Blacks 66; Daiwa Dorking 67 (on weight); Matrix Dynamite Image 67. Decoy Lakes Individuals: Zac Wolby-Smith (Sensas Hotrods) 81K 150g; Chris Jones (Sensas Starlets) 64K 050g; Kristian Jones (Drennan NW) 62K 675g; Jon Arthur (Drennan Oxford) 58K 050g; Andy Dyson (Matrix LTB/Bait-Tech) 56K 875g; Stewart Milne (Preston Innovations/Sonubaits NW) 52K 325g. The Fenland Drains Individuals: Nicky Crooks (Drennan Barnsley Blacks) 26K 525g; Pete Vasey (Matrix Dynamite Image) 23K 525g; Colin Oakman (Sensas Hotrods) 22K 300g; Andy Dargue (Mosella Quaker) 21K 575g; Alan Donnelly (Daiwa Dorking) 20K 150g; Billy Kirk (Colmic Target Fish UK Sussex) 18K 750g.



Commercials

Bitterwell Lake Tuesday Silvers Match, Coalpit Heath, Bristol. Tues. Vic Bush 25-5-0; Mat Taynton 16-13-0; Martin McMahon 16-8-0; Ali Gibbs 14-2-0; Gary Etheridge 13-6-0; Keith Turner 11-4-0. Silvers Final Qualifier: Vic Bush.

Blundell Fishery, Rixton, Ches. Sat., Open, Trio, West & Pine Lakes. Dave Swain (Garbolino/Dynamite Baits) 60-7-0 (F1s to 4lb on poled maggot down the edge and across and pellet short); Andy Fairhurst (Angling Direct Wigan) 40-5-0 (carp to 10lb on poled corn at 17.5 metres); Andy Greaves (Elton Tackle) 39-12-0



Bradshaw Hall Fisheries, Bolton, Gtr. Manchester. Sat., Open, Lakes 8 & 9 (27 fished). Gaz Thomas 80-12-0; Luke Brennan 78-5-0; Gaz Ainscough 72-4-0.

Brookside Fisheries, Warrington, Ches. Sat., Open, Snake Lakes 1 & 2 (14 fished). Nick Butterworth 51-4-0; Steve Carrier 38-13-0; Jonathan Burns 33-10-0.

Castle Ashby Opens, Grendon, Northants. Wed 14th Feb., Grendon Lake. Gary Underwood 58-1-0; Paul Robinson 39-9-0; John Bazeley 28-6-0. Sat 17th Feb., Brickyard Pool. Frank Pizzimenti 37-4-0; Darren Coles 36-4-0; Alan West 33-0-0. Sun 18th Feb., Grendon Lake. John Pearce 50-9-0; Phil Wintle 37-11-0; Mark Davis 26-6-0. Sun 18th Feb., Scotland Pond. Barry Smith 27-5-0; Andy Bazeley 25-7-0; Keith Bishop 21-11-0; Mick Wheeler 17-6-0.

Fish South Silvers Qualifier, Viaduct Fishery, Somerton, Somerset. Sat. Stu White 43-15-0; Martin Trice 35-1-0; Ant King 32-6-0; Luke Sorekin 30-13-0; Sam Williams 29-9-0; Tommy Hillier 29-0-0. Qualifier: Stu White.

Flore & Brockhall AC Spring League, Round 3, Dog Lane Fishery, Napton-on-the-Hill, Warks. Sun 18th Feb. Gil Corn 29-9-0; Kevin Barratt 29-0-0; Steve Barratt 26-9-0. Teams: Newbold 59; The Regulars 53; (Joint 3rd) Dolphins 52; The George 52; Reliants 39.

Hawkesbury Hall Farm, Bedworth, Warks. Sat., Open, Match Pool (11 fished). John Kidd (Hawkesbury) 34-6-0 (carp to 6lb on poled corn); Dennis Lutwyche (Hawkesbury) 28-10-0 (carp to 6lb on Method feeder with dead maggots); Craig Kidd (Hawkesbury) 19-11-0 (mainly bream to 3lb plus a couple of carp to 3lb on poled pellet).

High Heyes Fishery (The Catteries) Open, Eccleston, Chorley, Lancs. Sat. Pete Schofield 54-0-0; John Dingle 51-4-0; Martin Liptrot 49-8-0.

Hilton Park Fishery Open, Shareshill, Wolverhampton, W. Mids. Sat. Gavin Wyman (Fatty's Baits & Tackle) 45-12-0; Danny Plummer (Fatty's Baits & Tackle) 36-1-0; Icky Kull (Fatty's Baits & Tackle) 24-10-0. (all F1 weights on pole tactics).

Izaak Walton Fishery, Chebsey, Stafford, Staffs. Sat., Open, Middle & Bottom Pools. R. Ratcliffe 65-3-0; L. Park 37-10-0; E. Knight 29-3-0.

Lingmere Fishery Open, Moreton, The Wirral, Merseyside. Sat. Steve Openshaw 108-2-0; T. Traynor 71-8-0; F. Moore 43-8-0.

Monkhall Fishery, Monkhopton, nr. Bridgnorth, Shrops. Sat 17th Feb., Open, Lark Pool. Andy Kyte (Middle Severn Angling) 169-10-0; Phil Launchbury (Monkhill) 83-6-0; Glen Monks (Monkhill) 82-10-0. Sun 18th Feb, Open, Hawk & Lark Pools. Ashley Poxton (Sneyd AC) 141-14-0; Chris Lane (Monkhill) 122-14-0; John Rouse (Monkhill) 114-0-0. Wed., Open, Swallow Pool. Simon Harris (Little Dawley AC) 98-4-0; Paul Gregory (Monkhill) 97-10-0; Tim Cadwallader (Monkhill) 64-8-0.



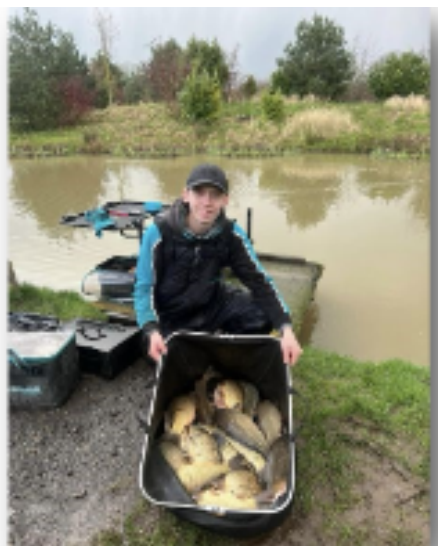
Nisa Feeders Open, Makins Fishery, Bramcote, Nuneaton, Warks. Wed., Phase 1-Lake Four (9 hardy souls fished). Matt Gaetto (Long Eaton Victoria AS) 85-5-0 (two carp on the bomb, then carp, F1s and bream plus 30lb of silvers on the pole with banded pellet); Daz Milne (Hinkley/Phoenix Floats) 58-1-0 (carp on the Method feeder with wafers); Gaz Kitch (Wykin Fishing Club) 42-11-0 (Method feeder); John Adamson (Nisa Feeders) 33-9-0 (Method feeder); Ricky Armes (Hinckley) 30-7-0 (Method feeder); Phil Hunt (Grenadier Guards) 12-7-0 (three carp on the bomb with bread).

Packington Somers Fisheries, Meriden, W. Mids. Wed., Solihull Angling Centre Open, Rover. John Burchell 74-8-0 (carp on poled pellet); Dave Roberts 73-7-0 (F1s on bomb and pole with pellet); Keith Deaner 39-1-0 (carp and F1s on poled maggots); (Joint 4th) Ian Keywood 38-8-0; Nick Jukes 38-8-0. Sat., Silvers Knock-Up, Big Geary's Pool. Martin Wood 30-6-0; John Burchell 24-15-0; Ian Keywood 22-10-0; Phil Altimas 12-14-0. Sat., Silvers Open, Gratuities & Crescent Pools. Keith Winn 21-14-0; Keith Ward 17-1-0; Wayne Ball 16-4-0; Eddie Keane 16-0-0. Sun., Open, Little Geary's & Willow Pools (24 fished). Barry Byrd 55-2-0 (carp, F1s and a few silvers on the pellet waggler); Steve Daley 45-12-0 (F1s on poled pellet); Peter Murray 43-1-0 (F1s on poled maggots); Dave Roberts 42-13-0 (carp and F1s on the pellet waggler).

Partridge Lakes Fishery, Warrington, Ches. Sat., Open, Covey Lakes 1, 2, 3 & 5 (48 fished). Adam Tollitt 59-11-0; Gareth Gibbons 53-8-0; Ian McManus 47-13-0; John Gabbittas 45-0-0.

Port Sunlight AC, The Fireman's Pond (Club Water), Hooton, Ches. Sat. John Mills 17-14-0; Nick Dawes 11-13-0; Steve 'Roxy' Roxborough 10-6-0. Wooden Spoon – Gary Knevil Wells 0-11-0.

Preston Innovations Boldings Pools, Bridgnorth, Shrops. Mon., Over 60's Open, Sycamore Pool. Steve Owen (Monkhall) 109-9-0; Bill Hill (Preston Innovations Boldings) 104-2-0; Clive Wright (Preston Innovations Boldings) 67-8-0; Mick Jamieson (Preston Innovations Boldings) 55-1-0; Bob Clarke (Preston Innovations Boldings) 53-9-0. Wed., Open, Sycamore & Chestnut Pools. Steve Lovell (Maver Midlands) 143-12-0; Rich Pedlar (Bibby's/Stone & District AC) 113-8-0; Gaz Willey (Walsall) 69-1-0; Gareth Unwin (Big C) 58-10-0. Thurs., Over 60's Open, Sycamore Pool. Steve Owen (Monkhall) 72-11-0; Clive Wynn (Weston Pools) 61-6-0; John Benjamin (Preston Innovations Boldings) 46-15-0; Bill Hill (Preston Innovations Boldings) 43-11-0; Gary Gollins (Swan Elite) 41-3-0. Sat., Oswestrians, Beech & Ash Pools. Gary Hick 49-9-0; John Benjamin 48-9-0; Terry Edwards 48-5-0; Paul Hemming 48-1-0; Richard Davenport 46-5-0. Sun., Open, Larch & Sycamore Pools. Ian Stangroom (Bibby's/Stone & District AC) 138-0-0; Gaz Willey (Walsall) 95-15-0; Andy Bishop (Preston Innovations Boldings) 76-5-0; Les Thompson (Matrix) 71-11-0; Gaz Smith 68-1-0; Mark Rathbone (St. Francis) 67-11-0.



Sherwood Forest Fishery, Edwinstowe, Notts. Sat., Open, Holmedale Lake. Chris Graves 122-11-0 (carp to 9lb on poled corn over micros at 13 metres); Craig Radford 69-2-0; Dave Austin 60-0-0; Lee Morris 34-8-0.

Splinters AC, Peatling Pools, Peatling Parva, Lutterworth, Leics. Wed 14th Feb., Plough & Harrow Pools. Trev Griffiths 163-3-0; Tom Griffiths 150-7-0; Kevin Elliott 21-6-0. Sun 18th Feb., Plough Pool. Tom Griffiths 126-2-0; Mark Forbes 121-8-0; Trev Griffiths 87-9-0.

The Oaks Lakes, Sessay, N. Yorks. Sat., Open, Cedar Lake. John McGarrell 45-12-0; Ian Shuttleworth 37-1-0; Steve Luck 31-1-0.

The Oaks Lakes Silver Fish League, Final Round (8), Sessay, N. Yorks. Sat., Alders, Firs, Oaks & Willows Lakes. Brad Lucas 41-15-0 (ide); Rob Swan 41-0-0; Martin Holmes 35-0-0. Final league winner: Ryan Bennet

The Old Hough Coarse Fishery Golden Pot Qualifier/Open, Middlewich, Ches. Sat., Rover. Dave Pimlott 77-15-0; Kallum Oliver 71-3-0; M. Reed 59-5-0. Qualifiers: Dave Pimlott; Kallum Oliver.

Todber Manor, Sturminster Newton, Dorset. Sat., Open, Hill View Lake (11 fished). Phil Hardwick 242-12-0; Will Marchant 205-8-0; Nigel Purchase 204-6-0.

Todber Manor Silvers Open, Sturminster Newton, Dorset. Sat., Ash Lake. Lee Jan 38-8-0; Matt Skyme 25-0-0; Adrian Dew 24-8-0.

Weston Pools Claypit Winter League, Round 3, Oswestry, Shrops. Sat., Claypit Pool. Dave Evans 99-14-0; Steve Kucharski 48-8-0; Barry Minns 38-15-0. (no league placings supplied).

Weston Pools Opens, Oswestry, Shrops. Sat., Canal, Stretton, & Weir Pools. Canal Pool: Steve Parry 69-4-0; Osian Fitzjohn 43-1-0; Dave Durbin 41-10-0. Stretton Pool: Jack Williams 67-12-0; Max Beeston 39-9-0; Mark Evans 31-2-0. Weir Pool: Andy Amos 39-10-0; Paul Brandrick 36-8-0; John Power 31-13-0.

Sat., Open, Rover (21 fished). Stu Kennedy 56-5-0; Graham Carter 38-9-0; Sam Sharrock 35-10-0.



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World Freshwater Angling Champion 1987 and World Team Champion with Wales 1989

Remembering the Vincent Brothers

The late Dave Vincent, another angling icon, achieved a remarkable feat by winning the Kamasan Matchman of the Year for three consecutive years between 1994/95 and 1996/97. Alongside his late twin brother Mick, the Vincent twins were the driving force behind the Trev's Browning team during the 1980s and 1990s, dominating national divisions with their skills.



They were probably the best canal team to ever emerge from in and around the capital city. Prior to that Dave had been a key member of the Defiant Mobile team, a side that contained many future Trev's stars.

Dave won scores of big matches in and around the London and south east canal and river circuit and went on to represent England on 3 occasions during the latter years of Dick Clegg's successful reign as manager. Dave was still fishing at top level and certainly hasn't lost the ability to winkle out a few fish from challenging venues as illustrated from the catch in the photo taken in the Olympic Park at the time of the London Olympics.

Dave recently suffered a serious life-threatening illness and was in a coma for six weeks. He even had to learn to walk again and the good news, ever the determined single-minded fighter, is that he taken up fishing again at local league level.

Angling match results for week ending 3 March 2024

Canals

Bateman Vine AC, Staffordshire & Worcestershire Canal, Hinksford Bridges 38/39 Section, Kingswinford, Dudley, W. Mids. Sun. M. Holmes 3-0-0 (one pike); D. Whiley 1-14-0; Roger Ashmore 1-12-0; P. Doyle 1-6-0.

Dave's of Middlewich Individual League, Round 5, Trent & Mersey Canal, Rode Heath, Sandbach, Ches. Sun (48 fished). Mark Grimshaw (Wigan MG) 24-6-8 (caster-roach to 10oz); Stu Phipps (Cadence Bait-Tech NW) 21-1-0 (roach to 10oz and perch to 10oz on poled caster); Steve Ashworth (Preston NW) 13-1-0 (roach to 10oz on poled hemp and caster); Dennis Hill (Wythenshawe) 10-1-0 (roach and gudgeon); Brian Meadows (Hindley MG) 8-13-12 (roach on poled bread and caster); Gordon Griffiths (Oswestry) 8-0-0 (mainly gudgeon). League: (Joint 1st) Brian Meadows (Hindley MG) 5; Steve Fogel (Drennan NW) 5; (Joint 3rd) Dave Trafford (Matrix LTB 9; Jan Verbruggen (Saints) 9; Steve Wilson (Sensas NW) 9; Chris Harvey (Drennan NW) 9; Alan Round (Sensas Lifestyle MG) 10.

Erewash Canal Spring League, Round 1, Cotmanhay, Derbys. Sat. Nigel Ellis (Matlock) 5-15-0 (four perch on poled worm); Dave Clayton (Drennan Leics. MVDE) 5-8-8; Ian Sharratt (Loughborough Soar MG) 3-12-0; Graham Sheffield (Mill Tackle) 3-10-0; John Lock (Loughborough Soar MG) 3-8-0; Derek Jackson (3 Counties) 3-7-0.

Goodyear AC, Staffordshire & Worcestershire Canal, Shawhall Lane Boats Section, Coven, Staffs. Sun (9 fished). Steve Thomson (Goodyear AC) 0-14-0 (one skimmer plus seven gudgeon); Mark Wyton (Goodyear AC) 0-3-0 (perch); Johnny Benness (Goodyear AC) 0-1-8 (perch); (Joint 4th) Malcolm Bethell (Goodyear AC) 0-0-8 (one gudgeon); Glenn Law (Goodyear AC) 0-0-8 (one gudgeon).

Izaak Walton (Stafford) AA Mini Series, Match 2, Trent & Mersey Canal, Hoo Mill, Great Haywood, Staffs. Sat (8 fished). Glenn Law (Sensas Black Country) 3-5-4 (two perch); John Hanna (Milo/Bait-Tech West Midlands) 2-10-4; Dave Berrow 1-7-0; Fred 'the Bread' Cheetham (Sensas Lifestyle MG) 1-6-8; Keith Hulland (Sensas Lifestyle MG) 1-5-8; Dave Richards (Sensas Lifestyle MG) 0-8-6.

Liverpool DAA, Leeds & Liverpool Canal, Shop Lane Legion Section, Maghull, Merseyside. Sun 25th Feb. Kevin Clarke 7-8-0; Jeff Stirratt 7-0-0; Ant Lloyd 5-2-14; Mark Rimmer 5-2-12; Shaun Patton 4-8-8; John Easton 3-12-0. Wed., Leeds & Liverpool Canal, Eager Lane Left Side Section, Lydiate, Sefton, Merseyside. Paul Kennils 3-2-0; Jeff Stirratt 2-15-0; Steve Ball 2-0-0.

Nene/Towcester AC, Grand Union Canal (Northampton Branch), Banbury Lane Section, Northampton, Northants. Sun 25th Feb. Rob Pottinger 8-7-0; Dave Gibbins 7-9-0; Graham Martin 7-5-0.

NuFish Teams of Three League, Round 7, Selby Canal, Selby, Yorks. Sun. T. Galton (Selby NuFish) 8-0-0; C. Riley (Brookies) 4-1-0; Josh Duffy (Brookies) 3-11-0; Arran Wheelhouse (Tri-Cast) 3-3-0. Teams: Selby NuFish 19; Jewson's 18; (Joint 3rd) Brookies 13; Tri-Cast 13; NuFish Selby 9; Team NuFish 7. [no league placings supplied].

Taunton AA, Bridgwater & Taunton Canal, O'Bridge to Bathpool, Taunton, Somerset. Sun 25th Feb. Dan Baldwin 3-14-0 (137 small bleak); Jason Fearn 3-4-0; Andy Ankers 3-0-0; (Joint 4th) Stan Hall 2-8-0; James Hall 2-8-0.

Taunton AA Vs. Chard, Bridgwater & Taunton Canal, Creech, Taunton, Somerset. Sun. Kevin Williams (Taunton AA) 9-4-0; Andy Ankers (Taunton AA) 8-9-0; Matt Dunster (Taunton AA) 7-4-0; Darren Duffield (Taunton AA) 6-2-0; Simon Garbutt (Taunton AA) 5-12-0; Dan Baldwin (Taunton AA) 5-10-0; Duncan Arnold (Chard) 5-5-0; Steve Bishop (Chard) 5-1-0. Winners: Taunton AA.

Wellingborough's Barker Winter League, Round 3, Grand Union Canal, Foxton, Leics. Sun 25th Feb. Wayne Nixon (Colmic Blue) 6-11-8; Carl Smith (Nitro Stark) 3-0-4; Dave Rose (Colmic Blue) 0-13-8. Teams: (Joint 1st) Colmic Blue 18; Nitro Stark 18. League leaders: Nitro Stark 3.

Rivers

Bridgnorth AS Members Match, River Severn, Linley Bank Stretch, Bridgnorth, Shrops. Sun. Mal Hallows (Stratford-upon-Avon AA) 11-7-0 (one 11lb 6oz late barbel plus two small gudgeon); Pete Bate (Bridgnorth AS) 10-9-0 (two barbel on ledgered meat); Steve Hindmore (Durham) 10-5-0 (two barbel); John Gill (Wolverhampton) 6-7-0; Joe Holloway (Milo) 5-12-0. Section winners: A – Phil Hancox 5-9-0; B – Ian Checketts 1-11-0; C – Gary Farmer 5-4-0.

Northwich AA Mini League, Round 5, River Weaver, Dredger, Newbridge & Boats Sections, Northwich, Ches. Sat (36 fished). Reg Evans (Busby Babes) 15-6-0; Kev Bell (A.S.K.) 13-13-0; Graham Evans (Busby Babes) 12-5-4. (all bream weights). Teams: (Joint 1st) Busby Babes 14; Old Rockers 14; Wigan MG 14; A.S.K. 15; B.M.R. 16; The Good, The Bad & The Ugly 18. League: A.S.K. 74; Wigan MG 83; Vale Royal Juniors 94; The Good, The Bad & The Ugly 95; B.M.R. 96.

River Severn 'All Method' League, Round 1, River Severn (KDAA Waters), Bewdley, Worcs. Sat (28 fished). Steve Jackson 20-12-0; Andy Price 20-0-0; Steve Slade 18-2-0; Gary Farmer 11-11-0; Billy Neath 10-6-0; Pete Bate 8-13-0. League: Steve Jackson 7 (on weight); Steve Slade 7; Gary Farmer 7; Billy Neath 7; Andy Price 6 (on weight); Pete Bate 6.

Spilsby AA, River Steeping, Wainfleet, Lincs. Wed. Dave Ashmore 5-0-0; Derek Skinner 4-3-0; Don Green 3-12-0.

Canal & River Trust Stillwaters

Blackfords Progressive Association Match, Calf Heath Reservoir, nr. Gailey, Staffs. Sat (24 fished). John Burns (Blackfords) 18-14-0 (skimmers on the feeder); Mick Tonks (Coven) 17-9-0 (bream and skimmers); Shane Hodgkinson (JCB) 13-12-0 (bream and skimmers); Gary Johnson (Sensas) 13-3-0 (skimmers).

Embryo Kiveton Waters, Sheffield, S. Yorks. Sat., Eve's Lake. Kayleigh Dowd 176-4-0; Ricky Darby 91-14-0; Nigel Shipman 64-10-0.

Peter Caton's Blustery and Cold Boddington Open, Boddington Reservoir, nr. Byfield, Northants. Tues. Pegs 2-12: N. Franklin 27-0-0; Wayne Sharman 15-10-0; J. Eades 9-8-0. Pegs 69-77: N. Russell 18-9-0; T. Winstone 14-14-0; P. Cooke 7-11-0. Pegs 82-92: D. Sanders 82-8-0; G. Hawley 66-8-0; S. Gent 49-1-0.

Stillwaters

Castle AC Opens, Canons, Northants. Wed 21st Feb. Dave Gibbons 7-14-0; Roger Adkins 7-12-0; John Broughton 7-9-0. Sun 25th Feb. Roger Adkins 5-3-0; Ron Snaith 5-2-0; John Lewis 4-12-0.

Wellingborough AC, Mill Cotton Fishery, Ringstead, Northants. Sun 25th Feb. Nick Antonacci 10-4-0; Jeff Rice 9-3-0; Graham Prince 8-15-0.



Alders Farm Fishery, Gt. Brickhill, Bucks. Sun 25th Feb., Open, Ash Lake. A. Adrian 100-0-0; Richard Ives 50-0-0; Mark Newbold 46-0-0. Silvers winner: Glenn Coburn 14-0-0.

Aston Park Fisheries, Sheffield, S. Yorks. Sat., Open, Butts Lake. Steve Forster 93-6-0; Danny Bennett 78-12-0; Jay Broughton 53-0-0.

Bitterwell Lake Silvers Match, Coalpit Heath, Bristol. Tues (23 fished). Mat Taynton 19-12-0 (quality skimmers); Gary Etheridge 16-7-0; Ricky Mills 16-6-0; Tony Price 13-2-0; Paul Isaacs 11-3-0; Matt Challenger 10-11-0. Silvers Final qualifier: Tony Price

Blake Hall Fishery Silvers Open, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffs. Sat., Blake & Hall Lakes. David Pickering 22-5-0; Nelly Edwards 20-6-0; Anthony Burt 18-7-0.



Blundell Fishery, Rixton, Ches. Sat., Open, Trio Lake. Dave Swain (Garbolino/Dynamite Baits) 43-12-0 (carp to 6lb on the bomb with bread to the island); Antony King (Maver Gold Dynamite) 38-2-0 (F1s to 4lb and 19lb of skimmers on poled maggot at 5 metres); Andy Pickles (Izaak Walton) 31-2-0.

Brookside Fisheries, Warrington, Ches. Sat., Open, Snake Lakes 1 & 2 (11 fished). Nick Butterworth 46-6-0; Stuart Conroy 38-11-0; Steve Conroy 36-2-0.

Castle Ashby Opens, Grendon, Northants. Wed 21st Feb., Grendon Lake. Gary Underwood 37-1-0; Ian Pretty 34-8-0; Mike Wadham 21-2-0. Sat 24th Feb., Brickyard Pool. Courtney Hewlett 27-6-0; Alan West 23-14-0; Tim Joyce 9-9-0. Sun 25th Feb., Grendon Lake. Mark Davis 27-2-0; Courtney Hewlett 24-15-0; Gary Underwood 18-3-0. Sun 25th Feb., Scotland Lake. Mick Wheeler 23-12-0; Dan Diment 15-4-0; Roy Woodward 12-13-0.

Chris Hill's Feeder and Silvers Only Winter League, Final Round (6), Barston Lakes, Solihull, W. Mids. Sun. Matt Heyes 22-4-0; Steve Wroe 21-2-0; Michael 'Bud' Buchwalder 19-13-0; Graham West 16-10-0; Chris Hill 16-4-0; Jim Parrish 13-2-0. Final league: Michael 'Bud' Buchwalder 9 (100-9-0); Graham West 9 (82-10-0); Simon Willsmore 9 (79-4-0); Steve Wroe 10; Mac Stephens 11 (91-15-0); Chris Hill 11 (81-4-0).

Hawkesbury Hall Farm, Bedworth, Warks. Sun., Open, Match Pool (15 fished). Craig Kidd (Hawkesbury) 57-6-0 (carp to 8lb and bream to 3lb on poled pellet); Ian Shirley (Hawkesbury) 47-2-0 (carp to 4lb and 20lb of bream to 4lb on poled soft pellet); Jamie Galloway (Hawkesbury) 38-3-0 (four carp on the tip with corn).

High Heyes Farm Fishery (The Catteries) Open, Ecclestone, Chorley, Lancs. Sat (11 fished). Dave Bolton 41-4-0; Pete Schofield 32-8-0; Kev Allen 27-4-0.

Izaak Walton Fishery Silver Fish League, Round 4, Chebsey, Stafford, Staffs. Sun., Middle, Bottom & Canal Pools (27 fished). Les Thompson (Matrix) 26-5-0 (skimmers and roach on poled caster and worm); Kevin Williams (Wizzo) 23-9-0 (skimmers and roach); Malc Appleby (Drennan) 18-5-0 (skimmers and roach); Steve Dudley (Maver Dudley) 17-6-0 (skimmers and roach). Teams: Matrix 5; Wizzo 10; (Joint 3rd) Maver Midlands 14; Maver Dudley 14; Sticky's 14. League: Maver Midlands 39; (Joint 2nd) Maver Dudley 42; Matrix 42; Wizzo 50.

Meriden, W. Mids. Sun., Molands Mere, Big Geary's, Little Geary's & Siblings A & B Pools. (57 fished). Jon Arthur 73-10-0 (carp, F1s and skimmers on poled pellet, maggot and corn); Peter Murray 69-15-0 (carp and F1s on poled caster); Jack Shirley 69-9-0 (carp and F1s on the Method feeder); John Burchell 64-12-0 (carp and F1s on the pellet waggler); Fraser Terry 60-0-0 (carp and F1s on the Method feeder); Dave Roberts 56-14-0 (carp and F1s on the pellet waggler). Final league: Paul Truman 16; Steven Pearce 17; Stephen Bellion 19; Lee Richards 20; James Geddes 21; Jack Shirley 21 (429-14-0); Phil Canning 22 (401-6-0); Katheryn Davies 25; Andy Christie 26; Dave Elliott 28.

Meadowlands Teams of Three League, Round 4, Meadowlands Fishery, Ryton-on-Dunsmore, Warks. Sun., Lambsdown Lake & Warren Pool (42 fished). Wayne Sharman (Sicarios) 69-4-0; Peter Caton (Captain Crooks) 67-0-0; Ian Pretty (Stibby's Slayers) 60-10-0; Kev Wright 54-4-0; M. Bull (Sicarios) 50-2-0; N. Franklin (Foxes)

47-2-0. Teams: Sicarios 4; Captain Crooks 11; Casemore Baits 18; Guru/Daiwa 19; Oddballs 20; Drawbags 21. League: Guru/Daiwa 59; Captain Crooks 60; Casemore Baits 62; Sicarios 78; Ginger Ninjas 81; Oddballs 87.

Monkhal Fishery Opens, Monkthopton, nr. Bridgnorth, Shrops. Sat 24th Feb., Hawk Pool. Dylan Taylor (Drennan NW) 95-14-0; Andy Welding (Matrix Phil's Tackle) 89-12-0; Paul Holland (Guru) 85-2-0. Sun 25th Feb., Lark Pool. Andy Kyte (Middle Severn Angling) 60-3-0; Mark Rundle (Monkhal) 55-10-0; John Rouse (Monkhal) 49-6-0. Wed., Owl Pool. James Woodfine (Maver Midlands) 83-6-0; Simon Harris (Little Dawley AC) 81-0-0; Rory Blease (Monkhal) 61-0-0.

Nisa Feeders Open, Makins Fishery, Bramcote, Nuneaton, Warks. Wed., Phase One-Lake Four. Matt Gaetto (Long Eaton Victoria AS) 105-9-0 (six carp on the pellet feeder, then poled pellet at 14 metres in 4½ ft. of water for carp and F1s); Clive Oliver (Mallory) 63-14-0 (carp and bream); Gaz Kitch (Wykin Fishing Club) 49-10-0; John Lack (Northampton) 44-4-0; Ricky Arms (Hinckley) 40-12-0; Peter Stockwin (Northampton) 25-7-0.

Osprey AC, Castle Ashby, Grendon, Northants. Sun 25th Feb., Brickyard Pool. Andrew Bazeley 32-7-0; John Bazeley 21-10-0; Andy Knell 13-3-0.

Packington Somers Fisheries, Meriden, W. Mids. Wed., Solihull Angling Centre Open, Rover. Steve Atkins 68-7-0 (carp and F1s on poled pellet); Dave Roberts 63-8-0 (carp on pole and bomb with pellet); Mark Jaques 54-2-0 (F1s on poled pellet and maggot); Mark Sumners 51-9-0 (carp and F1s on the pellet waggler). Sat., Silvers Only Open, Big Geary's Pool. Martin Wood 37-14-0 (skimmers and one roach); Ian Keywood 31-15-0; Darren Milne 21-7-0; Ron Savage 16-11-0.

Partridge Lakes Fishery, Warrington, Ches. Sat., Open, Covey Lakes 1-4 (35 fished). Mike Senior 60-13-0; Francis Cooke 49-9-0; Neil Machin 43-3-0; Steve Parker 34-7-0; Shaun Linton 33-6-0; Ian McManus 28-11-





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